

Argument in Favor of Measure C

Deep state budget cuts brought on by California's precarious financial situation and burgeoning enrollment in the Menlo Park City School District threaten the high quality education our children receive at Laurel, Encinal, Oak Knoll and Hillview Schools.

Measure C will raise the local funds necessary to preserve our essential educational programs and retain teachers during these challenging times.

The facts:

- Our schools will lose a projected \$1.4 million in state revenue next year and further cuts are anticipated.
- Since 2000, enrollment has grown by over 30%—610 students—and is projected to increase steadily over the next 7 years. And, our schools do not receive any additional funds for each new student.
- The District has already reduced programs and increased class sizes. This year, 124 new students enrolled and only one teacher was hired.

If Measure C fails:

- Classroom teachers will be laid off;
- Class sizes will further increase;
- Core educational programs—hands-on science, music, art, foreign language, library and services to struggling students—will be reduced or eliminated.

The District has already tightened its belt. Now we need Measure C to minimize the impact to students as we face the challenges of state revenue reduction and growing enrollment. At \$178/parcel annually, the cost is under 50¢ per day. Every dollar goes directly to our schools and cannot be taken by the state. Measure C expires in 7 years and offers an exemption for those 65 and older. All funds will be audited annually.

Our schools have achieved national recognition and student test scores in the top 5% of California. Excellent teachers, outstanding academic programs and ongoing community support have been the cornerstones of our success. Yet, today we need your help to Keep Our Schools Strong.

Vote YES on Measure C.

For more information, please visit www.KeepOurSchoolsStrong.org.

John Sobrato February 10, 2010
Chairman, Sobrato Organization

Brad Wentz February 8, 2010
Local Business Owner

Kristy Roos-Taylor February 9, 2010
Director, Menlo Atherton Co-operative Nursery School

Chris Thomsen February 9, 2010
Sequoia Union High School District Trustee

Linda R. Meier February 8, 2010
Former Member, Stanford Hospital Board