

## **Parcel Tax for San Francisco Unified School District\***

**Digest** by the Ballot Simplification Committee

**Status:** Draft for Consideration  
**On:** Monday, July 27, 2020  
**Members:** Packard, Anderson, Girardin, Patterson

**Deadline to Request Reconsideration:** TBD

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**The Way It Is Now:** San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) educates about 54,000 students a year and employs about 6,900 teachers.

In June 2018, San Francisco voters approved an annual parcel tax to provide funding to SFUSD (2018 School Parcel Tax). As of July 1, 2021, this tax is \$320 per parcel of taxable property, with an adjustment for inflation each year. The 2018 School Parcel Tax expires on June 30, 2038.

SFUSD can use the money collected through this tax to:

- Increase salaries and benefits for teachers and other SFUSD employees;
- Increase staffing and funding at high-needs schools and community schools;
- Provide professional development;
- Invest in technology, including digital learning; and
- Fund public charter schools.

People age 65 or older before July 1 of the tax year are exempt from this tax if they own an interest in the property being taxed and if the property is where they live most of the time. Property designated as a parking space is also exempt if the parking space and residential parcel are owned by the same people.

 The 2018 School Parcel Tax has been challenged in court. The tax is being collected, but SFUSD cannot spend this money until the courts make a final ruling.

**The Proposal:** Proposition \_\_ would replace the 2018 School Parcel Tax [that was approved  by a majority of voters] with a new parcel tax [that needs the approval of two-thirds of voters to pass]. Beginning on July 1, 2021, Proposition \_\_ would change the tax to \$288 per parcel of taxable property. This tax would be adjusted for inflation each year and would expire on June 30, 2038.

 People age 65 or older before July 1 of the tax year would be exempt from this tax if they own an interest in the property being taxed and if the property is where they live most of the time.

SFUSD could use the money collected through this tax for the same purposes as the 2018 School Parcel Tax.

**A "YES" Vote Means:** If you vote "yes," beginning on July 1, 2021, you want the City to replace the 2018 School Parcel Tax and decrease the annual tax rate from \$320 per parcel to \$288 per parcel, adjusted for inflation each year and with an exemption for people age 65 or older.

**A "NO" Vote Means:** If you vote "no," you do not want to make these changes.

*\*Working title, for identification only. The Director of Elections determines the title of each local ballot measure; measure titles are not considered during Ballot Simplification Committee meetings.*