

Palo Alto Unified School District
Official Argument in Favor
Election Date: June 3, 2008

Measure A will upgrade aging public school facilities to support quality instruction and student achievement. Measure A will not increase tax rates. It simply keeps the current rate in effect.

In 1995 over 80% of voters approved bonds to fund school renovations, enabling PAUSD to receive over \$25 million in state matching funds. The bond paid to fix leaking roofs, build new libraries, add classrooms and more, but could not address all needed upgrades. Measure A leverages our local property tax base, allowing PAUSD to issue new bonds to fund additional renovations without increasing existing tax rates. Measure A will also make PAUSD eligible to apply for millions more in state matching funds.

Most PAUSD schools are at least 50 years old. Many need repairs and upgrades and some portion of new facilities. Since the last bond measure, student enrollment has grown by almost 2400 students. Additional classrooms are needed to reduce overcrowding and accommodate small class sizes.

Measure A will fund important improvements, including:

- Adding classrooms to reduce overcrowding and replacing deteriorating portables with permanent classrooms
- Renovating remaining worn-out roofs, plumbing, heating, ventilation, lighting and electrical systems
- Ensuring schools have modern science labs, computer equipment and libraries
- Upgrading fire alarms, sprinklers, fencing and security systems
- Improving insulation and windows to increase energy efficiency and save money

Every penny raised will be used locally. An independent Citizens' Oversight Committee will ensure funds are spent as promised and oversee annual audits.

We are fortunate to live in one of the best school districts in the State. Measure A will ensure that our students have safe and modern facilities with the technology needed to support student success. Great schools enhance our community and protect our property values.

Parents, civic leaders, business leaders, environmental leaders and seniors all support Measure A.

Improve Palo Alto schools without raising tax rates. Please vote YES on A.