

Portola Valley School District Frequently Asked Questions

How would Measure O protect quality education in Ormondale and Corte Madera?

Thanks to outstanding academic programs, highly qualified teachers and a community that values education, Ormondale and Corte Madera are award-winning schools and student test scores continue to be in the top percentile of all school districts in California.

Since 1985, our community has generously supported our local elementary and middle schools by voting in favor of local parcel tax measures. This local funding provides nearly \$1 million per year (or nearly 10% of our district budget) to help maintain the exceptionally high level of reading, writing, math and science instruction our schools provide. Measure O would renew and enhance this local funding, which has helped make our schools less dependent on the State to protect Portola Valley schools.

Specifically, how will funds from Measure O be used if renewed?

If renewed, Measure O will be used to maintain:

- Advanced academic programs in math, science and technology
- Quality reading and writing programs in our elementary school
- Art and music programs
- Manageable class sizes
- Retaining qualified, experienced teachers

What protections ensure future fiscal accountability?

Measure O will continue strict taxpayer protections:

- By law, all Measure O funds must stay in our community and can't be taken by the State
- No money can be used for administrators' salaries or benefits
- Independent audits and annual reports ensure funds are spent as promised
- Senior citizen homeowners, aged 65 or older, can continue to receive an exemption

What level of support is required for Measure O to pass?

We need at least 66.7% of voters to vote YES on Measure O in order for it to pass.

What will happen if Measure O does not pass?

Without Measure O, critical local funding for our schools will expire in 2014, triggering cuts that would directly impact the quality of our outstanding local schools. Measure O will renew and enhance locally controlled funding for our schools that the State cannot take away.

How much will Measure O cost?

If approved by 66,7% of voters, Measure O will take effect July 1, 2013 and replace our current parcel tax measures, last for 8 years and increase the rate by \$123 per year.

Can Measure O funds be used for administrator salaries or benefits?

No. Measure O funds are specifically prohibited from being spent on administrator salaries or benefits. This will ensure that funds are allocated towards teaching and classroom instruction.

If passed, how long will Measure O be in place?

Measure O will automatically expire in eight years and could not be extended without voter approval by two-thirds of voters.

I don't have children in school, how will Measure O benefit me?

Great schools are a reason many families choose to live here, and they help contribute to our community. Quality schools make Portola Valley a desirable place to live and will help keep property values strong.

Can senior citizens receive an exemption from Measure O?

Yes. Through a simple application process, senior citizen homeowners, aged 65 and older, may receive an exemption for their primary residence by filling out a form and providing proof of age and residency. If you already receive a senior exemption, you do not need to reapply. If Measure O passes, the exemption will carry through. To find out more about the exemption process, please call (650) 851-1777.

Who is eligible to vote on Measure O?

All registered voters within the boundaries of Portola Valley School District would be eligible to vote on Measure O.

Can't I vote at the polls?

No. There will be no polling locations for this special all-mail election. Your Measure O ballot will arrive by mail the week of April 8th. Completed ballots must be received by the San Mateo County Registrar of Voters no later than May 7, 2013. Postmarks will not count, so it is important to mail your ballot back right away.