

Thousand Friends of Martinez

October 13, 2018 – Thousand Friends of Martinez announces the endorsement of Measure Q – The Martinez School Bond Measure. “We believe that the renewal of this bond is the right way to continue the excellent work that is happening in the Martinez Unified School District”, says Mark Thomson, Co-Facilitator of Thousand Friends of Martinez.

Here’s some more information about the Measure:

It's time to renew the parcel tax first passed in 2008. Martinez schools have relied on locally-controlled funding through a Parcel Tax to protect outstanding core academic programs. This funding helps provide strong reading, writing, math and science instruction, as well as protect art and music programs. At a time when state funding for our schools is unreliable and insufficient, local funding has helped protect the fundamentals of a quality education.

Our local funding measure is set to expire in June 2019. If this funding expires, our schools would lose \$500,000 per year, which may trigger cuts to teachers, staff and programs. To protect the quality of education in our schools, the Martinez Unified School District Board of Education voted to place a renewal measure on the November 2018 ballot. This measure would maintain our current rate of \$50 per year and add an additional \$25 per parcel per year.

If approved by voters, funds from the renewal measure may:

- Attract and retain highly-qualified teachers
- Provide hands-on science labs
- Maintain reading and writing programs
- Keep school libraries open
- Protect art and music programs
- Maintain core academics, including science, technology and engineering

To ensure funds are spent as promised, the following mandatory fiscal accountability safeguards would be required:

- All money raised by the measure would be controlled locally, go to our Martinez schools and could not be taken by the State
- Independent citizen oversight and annual audits of expenditures would be required
- None of the funds raised by a local measure could be used for administrators' salaries
- Seniors would continue to be eligible for an exemption from the cost.

The Mission of Thousand Friends of Martinez is to provide a stable organization which will work with residents to elect informed, conscientious representatives; promote open government; enhance our quality of life by creating a livable city; defend our parks and open spaces, and; conserve natural areas and historic elements in the greater Martinez region.