How are our Novato schools performing?
In Novato Unified School District (NUSD), we aim to challenge students to realize their educational potential and to prepare them for future success by ensuring an innovative and effective education environment, high-quality instruction and support for academic programs. Our excellent teachers and staff are committed to meeting individual student needs so that all students possess the academic and technical knowledge required to succeed in college and future careers.

Why is NUSD renewing and adding to its existing parcel tax measure?
Since 1992 our community has supported and renewed a local education funding measure to support key academic programs, retain highly qualified teachers and protect the overall quality of our schools. The measure provides a secure and stable source of funding that the District can count on every year – money that stays local and cannot be taken away by the state. If this funding were to expire, the District would have to make drastic cuts that could include cutting academic programs, library programs and laying off teachers.

What would happen if local parcel tax funding expires?
If local parcel tax funding expires, our schools would be facing a $4 million deficit. This loss of local funding would mean the District would have to cut academic programs, lay off teachers, counselors and coaches, and cut art and library programs.

How does Novato Unified School District plan to address expiring local funding?
To ensure quality education and maintain stable local funding that cannot be taken away by the state, the NUSD Board of Education voted to place Measure A, a parcel tax renewal measure, on the March 2020 ballot to continue local funding.

What would Measure A support?
Measure A would renew funding to:
- Attract and retain highly qualified teachers
- Protect the quality of academic instruction in core subjects like math, science, reading and writing
- Protect music, art and athletic programs that provide a well-rounded education for our kids
- Expand mental health counseling services to support students that are struggling
- Provide career and technical training to prepare students for the 21st-century job market
- Minimize increases to class sizes
Can funding from Measure A be taken away by the state?
No. All funds from Measure A would benefit local elementary, middle, and high schools, and cannot be taken away by the state.

How much would Measure A cost?
The current parcel tax measure is $251 per parcel. Measure A would add $125 to the current amount and would include annual inflation adjustments. The additional $125 will generate another $2 million, raising $6 million annually to help NUSD attract and retain teachers, limit budget cuts and layoffs for 2020-2021, and add services for Novato students.

How do I know that funds from Measure A would be spent as promised?
Measure A would continue strict fiscal accountability provisions.
● All funds from Measure A would benefit local elementary, middle, and high schools, and cannot be taken away by the state
● No money from Measure A can be used for administrator salaries or administration
● Measure A would require independent citizen oversight, annual audits, and reports to the community to ensure the School District uses the funds as promised
● Senior citizens and others would continue to be exempt from paying the parcel tax

How long would Measure A be in place?
If approved by at least 66.7 percent of local voters, Measure A would be in place for 8 years. Measure A could not be renewed without voter approval.

Would any exemptions be available?
Yes. Seniors and citizens eligible for state disability (SSI and SSDI) would continue to be eligible for an exemption from the cost of Measure A.

Didn’t we just pass a bond for local schools? Why does the District need more money?
In 2016, voters approved Measure G, a bond measure for Novato Unified School District to upgrade, modernize and improve its schools. By law, bond money can only be used for facilities and cannot be used for academic programs or retain teachers. That is why the NUSD Board of Education voted to place Measure A on the March 3, 2020 ballot. Measure A would be used to maintain academic programs, attract and retain qualified teachers, and prepare students for future success.

What is the difference between a parcel tax and a bond measure?
A bond measure and parcel tax measure are used for different purposes. A bond measure can only fund facility upgrades and improvements and cannot be used for operating costs or programs. A bond requires 55% voter approval to pass. Parcel taxes differ in that funds can be spent on identified school needs, including academic programs and supporting teachers. A parcel tax requires 66.7% voter approval to pass.
When would Measure A appear on a ballot?
Measure A will appear on the March 3, 2020 ballot and it would need to be supported by 66.7% of those who vote. All registered voters in the Novato Unified School District would be eligible to vote on Measure A.

How can I receive more information or ask questions?
Please contact Leslie Benjamin, Communications Director, at (415) 897-4259 or lbenjamin@nusd.org.