

# MEASURE R

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### What Is Measure R?

Measure R is a local school improvement measure that will be on the November 8, 2016 Presidential Election ballot. If approved, Measure R will renew and extend Ventura Unified School District's current parcel tax for an additional four years, providing approximately \$2.2 million annually in locally controlled funding to improve academic programs and retain highly qualified teachers throughout our school district.

### What Will Be Funded By Measure R?

Projects funded by Measure R include:

- Maintaining career and vocational training programs
- Maintaining and improving academic programs such as science, math and technology
- Maintaining and improving school music, visual and performing arts programs
- Increasing access to technology to help students learn and better prepare for the careers of tomorrow
- Recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers and staff

### Why Is Measure R Needed?

State funding alone does not meet the educational needs of our children. (A recent study by the National Education Association ranked California 40th in the nation for revenue per student.) The current parcel tax has helped the District to maintain our schools and classrooms, but it is set to expire at the end of this fiscal year. Measure R, if approved, will protect vital educational programs throughout our school district by providing a reliable source of locally controlled funding.

### What Is A Parcel Tax?

Parcel taxes are typically used to fund programs and services, support teachers and staff, and fund other operating expenses. The parcel tax is levied on all taxable property within a district's boundaries and is usually levied on a flat, per-parcel basis. Parcel taxes are generally in place for a specified number of years.

### What Is A Parcel?

A parcel is any unit of land in the District that receives a separate tax bill from the Ventura County Tax Collector.

### How Much Will Measure R Cost?

Measure R, if passed by District voters, extends the current \$59-per-year tax levied on each parcel of land in the District for four years.

### What Protections Are In Place To Ensure Measure R Funds Are Used Responsibly?

An independent Citizens' Oversight Committee must review and audit all expenditures. The measure prohibits funds from being used to pay administrator salaries, pensions or benefits. Legal safeguards prohibit the State from taking these funds and spending them elsewhere.

