



**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH CITY HALL**

1400 Highland Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

**WEBSITE:** [www.manhattanbeach.gov](http://www.manhattanbeach.gov) • **PHONE:** (310) 802-5000

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**FROM:** Liza Tamura, City Clerk  
Quinn Barrow, City Attorney  
Martha Alvarez, Assistant City Clerk  
Patricia Matson, Deputy City Clerk

**MEETING:** City Council Adjourned Regular Meeting, March 8, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No.1 – Consideration of Actions Regarding the “MB Citizens for Schools” Measure (Parcel Tax Initiative).

**DATE:** March 7, 2022

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## **SUPPLEMENTAL STAFF REPORT AND ATTACHMENTS**

Attached to this supplemental report are the resolutions mentioned in the staff report for City Council consideration, pending the signature verification results from the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk’s Office for the Parcel Tax Initiative.

It is anticipated that the City Clerk’s Office will receive the Certificate of Sufficiency from the Los Angeles County Registrar Recorder/County Clerk’s Office prior to the March 8, 2022 Adjourned Regular Meeting. **However, as of 5:00 PM on March 7, 2022, staff has not received the results.**

### RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 22-0030: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Manhattan Beach, California, Accepting the Certification of the Registrar of Voters as to the Sufficiency of the Initiative Petition Entitled “MB Citizens for Schools Measure.”

Resolution No. 22-0031: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Manhattan Beach, California, Calling for the Holding of a Special Election to be Held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, as Required by the Provisions of the Laws of the State of California Relating to General Law Cities and to Submit to the Voters a Question Relating to an Initiative Ordinance to Provide Supplemental Funding for Manhattan Beach Unified School District, and Directing the City Attorney to Prepare an Impartial Analysis.

Resolution No. 22-0032: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Manhattan Beach, California, Requesting the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles to Consolidate a Special Municipal Election to be Held on June 7, 2022, with the Statewide Primary Election to be Held on the Date Pursuant to §10403 of the Elections Code.

Resolution No. 22-0034: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Manhattan Beach, California, Providing for the Filing of Rebuttal Arguments for City Measures Submitted at Municipal Elections.

The following Resolutions, previously mentioned in the staff report, will not be considered at the March 8, 2022 meeting:

For June 7, 2022, Special Election:

- Resolution No. 22-0033 regarding written arguments and impartial analysis was combined into Resolution No. 22-0031.

For November 8, 2022, Regular (General Municipal) Election:

- Resolution No. 22-0035 - Calling Election November 8, 2022
- Resolution No. 22-0036 - Consolidation/County to Conduct the Election
- Resolution No. 22-0037 - Written Arguments & Impartial Analysis
- Resolution No. 22-0038 - Allowing Rebuttal Arguments (Optional)

If the Council decides to place the initiative on the ballot at the City's next regular election (November 8, 2022), this item will be continued to March 15, 2022, with the resolutions for the November 8, 2022 election attached to that meeting's agenda.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Resolution No. 22-0030
2. Resolution No. 22-0031
3. Resolution No. 22-0032
4. Resolution No. 22-0034

RESOLUTION NO. 22-0030

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, ACCEPTING THE  
CERTIFICATION OF THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS AS TO  
THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE INITIATIVE PETITION  
ENTITLED “MB CITIZENS FOR SCHOOLS MEASURE”

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2022, proponents of an initiative measure entitled “MB Citizens for Schools Measure” (“Parcel Tax Initiative”) submitted a Notice of Intention and written text of the measure and requested that a title and summary be prepared by the City Attorney for the measure in order to circulate the petition; and

WHEREAS, on February 2, 2022 the City Attorney prepared and provided an official ballot title and summary for the proposed Initiative for use by the proponents for publication and circulation of the petition; and

WHEREAS, the City Clerk contacted the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder’s Office to determine the number of registered voters in the City of Manhattan Beach, as of its last report to the Secretary of State pursuant to Elections Code Section 2187, effective January 4, 2022, and the City Clerk determined that the number of registered voters in the City was 26,912; and

WHEREAS, the initiative petition would require at least 2,691 (10%) valid signatures to be sufficient to qualify for a regular or special election; and

WHEREAS, the petitions regarding the initiative were filed with the City Clerk on February 14, 2022 and were then submitted to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder on February 15, 2022 for signature verification; and

WHEREAS, the results of the signature verification conducted by the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder established that [REDACTED] of the 4,087 signatures on the petition were examined of which [REDACTED] were found to be sufficient; and

WHEREAS, the number of signatures qualified, [REDACTED], is in excess of the minimum number of signatures required for a regular or special election pursuant to Election Code Section 9215 and 1405; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder has prepared the Certificate of Sufficiency of the Initiative Petition attached as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, Elections Code Section 9114 and 9211 requires that the voter initiative petitions be submitted to the City Council no later than the next regular City Council (County) meeting following the certification;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Manhattan Beach hereby accepts the Certificate of Sufficiency regarding the initiative petition.

ADOPTED on March 8, 2022.

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
HILDY STERN  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
LIZA TAMURA  
City Clerk

**EXHIBIT "A"**

**CERTIFICATE OF SUFFICIENCY OF THE INITIATIVE PETITION**



RESOLUTION NO. 22-0031

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, CALLING FOR THE HOLDING OF A SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022, AS REQUIRED BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA RELATING TO GENERAL LAW CITIES AND TO SUBMIT TO THE VOTERS A QUESTION RELATING TO AN INITIATIVE ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO PREPARE AN IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS

WHEREAS, under the provisions of the laws relating to general law cities in the State of California, a Special Municipal Election shall be held on June 7, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to submit to the voters at the election a question relating to an initiative ordinance to provide supplemental funding for Manhattan Beach Unified School District.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, DOES RESOLVE, DECLARE, DETERMINE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That pursuant to the requirements of the laws of the State of California relating to General Law Cities, there is called and ordered to be held in the City of Manhattan Beach, California, on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, a Special Municipal Election.

SECTION 2. That the City Council, pursuant to its right and authority, does order submitted to the voters at the Special Municipal Election the following question:

<b>INITIATIVE ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.</b> Shall a measure imposing an annual flat tax of \$1,095.00 on each real property parcel within the City of Manhattan Beach, and adjusted annually for inflation, for a period of twelve years, thereby generating an estimated \$11,000,000 to \$13,000,000 annually for investment in education, with an oversight committee and exemptions for (1) low-income individuals and (2) seniors who use their property as a principal residence, be adopted?	<b>YES</b>
	<b>NO</b>

SECTION 3. That the proposed complete text of the measure submitted to the voters is attached as Exhibit A.

SECTION 4. That the vote requirement for the measure to pass is a majority (50%+1) of the votes cast.

SECTION 5. That the ballots to be used at the election shall be in form and content as required by law.

SECTION 6. That the City Clerk is authorized, instructed and directed to coordinate with the County of Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to procure and furnish any and all official ballots, notices, printed matter and all supplies, equipment and paraphernalia that may be necessary in order to properly and lawfully conduct the election.

SECTION 7. That the vote centers for the election shall be open as required during the identified voting period pursuant to Elections Code Sections 4007 and 14401.

SECTION 8. That in all particulars not recited in this resolution, the election shall be held and conducted as provided by law for holding municipal elections.

SECTION 9. That notice of the time and place of holding the election is given and the City Clerk is authorized, instructed and directed to give further or additional notice of the election, in time, form and manner as required by law.

SECTION 10. That the City Attorney's Impartial Analysis of the ballot measure and the arguments in favor or against the ballot measure shall proceed in accordance with the following:

- A) The City Council directs the City Clerk to transmit a copy of the above referenced measure to the City Attorney. The City Attorney shall prepare an impartial analysis of the measure not exceeding 500 words showing the effect of the measure on the existing law and the operation of the measure in accordance with Article 4, Chapter 3, Division 9 of the California Elections Code, including Section 9280. The impartial analysis shall be filed by the date set by the City Clerk for the filing of primary arguments.
- B) The City Council authorizes any and all members of the City Council to file a written argument in favor or against the above referenced measure in accordance with Article 4, Chapter 3, Division 9 of the California Elections Code, including Section 9282(b), and to change the arguments until and including the date fixed by the City Clerk after which no arguments for or against the measure may be submitted to the City Clerk. Any voter eligible to vote on the measure, bona fide association of citizens, or any combination of voters and associations may also file a written argument in favor or against the above referenced measure with the City Clerk in accordance with Article 4,



Chapter 3, Division 9 of the California Elections Code, including Sections 9282 through 9287.

SECTION 11. That the City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this Resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

ADOPTED on March 8, 2022.

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

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HILDY STERN  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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LIZA TAMURA  
City Clerk

**EXHIBIT "A"**  
**INITIATIVE ORDINANCE**

To the City Council of the City of Manhattan Beach: We, the undersigned, registered, qualified voters and residents of the City of Manhattan Beach, California, hereby propose amendments to the Manhattan Beach Municipal Code relating to a parcel tax for education, and petition the City Council to submit the same to the voters of the City of Manhattan Beach for their adoption or rejection at the next general election or as otherwise provided by law. The proposed amendments are set forth below and on the subsequent pages and read as follows:

THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1. Title.** This measure shall be known and may be cited as the MB Citizens For Schools Measure (the "Measure").

**SECTION 2. Purpose and Intent.** Public schools in the State of California (the "State") have suffered from consistent underfunding and the City of Manhattan Beach (the "City") has one of the lowest funded school districts in the State. The purpose and intent of this Measure is for the People of the City to counter ongoing and severe State funding shortfalls with local control and stability by supporting a local parcel tax needed to maintain and protect quality education in the Manhattan Beach Unified School District (the "School District"), manageable class sizes, safe environments and the programs and learning tools needed to help prepare City students for college and 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs. Great teachers are at the center of student achievement, and it is a further purpose and intent of this Measure to provide the School District with the resources needed to compete with other school districts in attracting and retaining high-quality teachers, so every City student has the opportunity to thrive. Further, all revenue from this Measure will stay local, be spent right here in the School District and cannot be taken away by the State. A mandatory independent citizens' oversight committee will review all expenditures to ensure that the revenue is used only for the purposes set forth in the Measure.

**SECTION 3. Legal Authority.** This Measure and the special tax authorized herein are adopted pursuant to the provisions and authority contained in the California Constitution, statutory law and California case law interpreting the People's initiative power.

**SECTION 4.** Title 8 (Finance, Revenue and Taxation) of the City Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding Chapter 8.40 (Parcel Tax for Manhattan Beach Unified School District), to read as follows:

#### **Chapter 8.40 – PARCEL TAX FOR MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

##### **8.40.010. Title**

This Chapter shall be known and may be cited as "Parcel Tax for Manhattan Beach Unified School District."

##### **Section 8.40.020. Necessity and Authority**

- A. The People of the City of Manhattan Beach (hereinafter "the City") have determined that:
  1. Public schools in the State of California (the "State") have suffered from consistent underfunding and the City has one of the lowest funded school districts in the State. The People of the City can counter ongoing and severe State funding shortfalls with local control and stability by adding a local parcel tax needed to maintain and protect quality education in School District, manageable class sizes, safe environments and the programs and learning tools needed to help prepare City students for college and 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs. All revenue from a local parcel tax will stay local, be spent right here in the School District and cannot be taken away by the State.
  2. Great teachers are at the center of student achievement. The School District needs resources to employ qualified and prepared teachers, so every student has the opportunity to thrive.
  3. A parcel tax is necessary to attract and retain high-quality teachers and staff within the Manhattan Beach Unified School District (hereinafter the "School District").

- B. This Chapter 8.40 and the special tax authorized herein are adopted pursuant to the provisions and authority contained in the California Constitution, statutory law and California case law interpreting the People's initiative power.

**Section 8.40.030. Imposition**

- A. A special *non-ad valorem* parcel tax (hereinafter the "Parcel Tax") is hereby established and shall be levied annually on the owner of each parcel of taxable real property within the City, unless the owner is by law exempt from taxation, in which case, the Parcel Tax shall be assessed to the holder of the possessory interest in such parcel, unless such holder is also by law exempt from taxation. The Parcel Tax is an excise tax on the use of property within the City.
- B. The Parcel Tax shall hereby be established and levied each year, commencing July 1st, on each parcel of taxable real property, improved or unimproved, within the boundaries of the City at the rate of one thousand ninety-five dollars (\$1,095.00) per year per parcel, and adjusting for inflation each year thereafter.
- C. For the purposes of this Chapter 8.40, a "parcel of taxable real property" shall be defined as any unit of real property in the City which receives a separate tax bill for *ad valorem* property taxes from the Los Angeles County Assessor/Tax Collector, as applicable (hereinafter the "Tax Collector").
- D. The collection of the Parcel Tax shall commence on July 1<sup>st</sup> after the Effective Date and expire twelve (12) years thereafter.
- E. All property that the Tax Collector has determined to be otherwise exempt from property taxes, or on which no *ad valorem* property taxes have been levied, in any year shall also be exempt from the Parcel Tax in such year. The Tax Collector's determination of exemption or relief for any reason of any parcel from taxation, other than the Senior Citizen Exemption (defined below) or SSI/SSDI Exemption (defined below), shall be final on the taxpayer for purposes of the Chapter 8.40. Taxpayers desiring to challenge the Tax Collector's determination should do so under the procedures established by the Tax Collector's Office, applicable provisions of the California Revenue and Taxation Code or other applicable law. Taxpayers seeking any refund of taxes paid pursuant to this Chapter 8.40 shall follow the procedures applicable to tax refunds pursuant to the California Revenue and Taxation Code.
- F. An optional exemption (heretofore the "Senior Citizen Exemption") from the Parcel Tax will be made available annually to each individual in the City who attains 65 years of age prior to July 1 of the tax year, and who owns a beneficial interest in the parcel, and who uses that parcel as his or her principal place of residence, and who applies to the City on or before June 1st of each tax year, or during the first year of the tax at a date to be determined by the Tax Collector. Any application for such exemption must be submitted to the Tax Collector, pursuant to any rules and regulations of the Tax Collector, and must be renewed annually.
- G. An optional exemption (heretofore the "SSI/SSDI Exemption") from the Parcel Tax will be made annually to persons receiving Supplemental Security Income for a disability, regardless of age, or receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, regardless of age, whose yearly income does not exceed 250 percent of the 2012 federal poverty guidelines issued by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and who applies to the City on or before June 1st of each tax year, or during the first year of the tax at a date to be determined by the Tax Collector. Any application for such exemption must be submitted to the Tax Collector, pursuant to any rules and regulations of the Tax Collector and must be renewed annually.

**Section 8.40.040. Levy, Collection, Purpose.**

- A. The proceeds of the Parcel Tax shall be deposited into a special fund, maintained by the City, which proceeds, together with any interest and any penalties thereon, collected each fiscal year shall be used solely for the purposes set forth in this Section 8.40.040. The proceeds from the Parcel Tax shall be expended only for these purposes.
- B. The City shall transfer all money deposited into the special fund to the School District for the purposes set forth in this Section 8.40.040, The School District shall use these proceeds only for these purposes.
- C. The proceeds collected by the levy of the Parcel Tax shall be used:
  - 1. To protect quality academic, arts and education programs including, math, science, reading, writing, social studies, language, technology, engineering, music, arts and physical education;
  - 2. To maintain manageable class sizes in the School District;
  - 3. To invest in 21<sup>st</sup> century technology, learning tools, instructional materials and supplies to support students, educators and families,
  - 4. To increase staffing and program funding in the School District;
  - 5. To increase salaries of teachers so the School District can compete with other school districts in recruiting and retaining qualified and prepared teachers to support student achievement;
  - 6. To provide additional professional development to all teachers;
  - 7. To provide more competitive compensation to other School District staff;
  - 8. To provide oversight to monitor how the School District is spending the Parcel Tax revenue and make sure the proceeds from the Parcel Tax are only spent for the purposes approved by the voters.
- D. The purposes set forth in this Section 8.40.040 shall constitute the specific purposes of this Chapter 8.40, which are specific and legally binding limitations on how the proceeds of the Parcel Tax can be spent. The proceeds of the Parcel Tax shall be used only for such purposes and shall not fund any purpose other than those set forth herein.
- E. The City shall, with every disbursement made pursuant to this Chapter 8.40, require the School District to verify in writing that it will use the funds only for the purposes set forth in this Section 8.40.040.
- F. The Parcel Tax shall be collected by the Tax Collector at the same time and in the same manner and shall be subject to the same penalties as *ad valorem* property taxes collected by the Tax Collector.

**Section 8.40.050. City Annual Report**

The City shall prepare a report on at least an annual basis which shows the amount of funds collected and expended, and the status of any project required or authorized to be funded, by the Parcel Tax. The City shall file each report with the Mayor, City Council and the oversight committee referenced in this Chapter 8.40.

**Section 8.40.060. Supplement to Existing School District Funding**

- A. The People of the City find and declare that the School District serves a student population which requires more resources than currently provided to help prepare City students for college and 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs. In adopting this Parcel Tax, the People of the City choose to provide additional City resources to complement, and not supplant, City, State, Federal and other funding for the School District.
- B. Consistent with subsection (A), the People of the City of Manhattan Beach specifically find that their contributions to and disbursements from the special fund authorized by this Chapter 8.40 are discretionary expenditures by the City for the direct benefit of the children of the City, their families, and the community at large. In the event that the State attempts, directly or indirectly, to redistribute these expenditures to other jurisdictions or to offset or reduce State or Federal funding to the School District because of the contributions to and disbursements from the special fund authorized by this Chapter 8.40, the City shall transfer said monies that would otherwise be distributed to the School District each year from the special fund to such other fund as the City Council may designate, to be spent for purposes which are substantially equivalent to the purposes set forth in this Chapter 8.40.
- C. This Parcel Tax is intended to be in addition to and not to replace any other monies provided by the City to the School District.

**Section 8.40.070. Increase in Appropriations Limit**

To the extent that the revenue from the Parcel Tax is in excess of the spending limit for the City, as provided for in applicable provisions of the California Constitution and State law, the approval of the Parcel Tax by the voters shall constitute approval to increase the City's spending limit in an amount equal to the revenue derived from the Parcel Tax for the maximum period of time as allowed by law.

**Section 8.40.080. Oversight**

Starting with the first operative year of this Chapter 8.40, the City shall establish an oversight committee to submit a report on at least an annual basis to the Mayor, City Council and School District Board of Trustees evaluating whether the proceeds from the Parcel Tax are being properly expended for the purposes set forth in this Chapter 8.40.

**Section 8.40.090. Severability**

If any provision of this Chapter 8.40, or section or part thereof, or the applicability of any provision, section or part to any person or circumstances, is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions, sections and parts shall not be affected, but shall remain in full force and effect, and to this end the provisions, sections and parts of this Chapter 8.40 are severable. The voters hereby declare that this Chapter 8.40, and each section, provision, and part, would have been adopted irrespective of whether any one or more provisions, sections or parts are found to be invalid or unconstitutional.

**SECTION 5. Effective Date.** This Measure shall become effective upon the tenth day following certification by the City Council of the election returns indicating passage of the Measure by a simple majority (50% + 1) of the voters casting votes on the Measure.

**SECTION 6. Statement of Facts.** This Measure creates a *non-ad valorem* parcel tax of \$1,095.00 on each parcel of taxable real property in the City of Manhattan Beach, the proceeds of which are specifically limited and shall be used solely as set forth in this Measure.

**SECTION 7. Severability.** If any provision, section, paragraph, sentence, phrase, or word of the Measure is rendered or declared invalid, illegal, or unconstitutional by any final action in a court of competent jurisdiction or by reason or any preemptive legislation, such unconstitutionality illegality or invalidity shall only affect such provision, section, paragraph, sentence, phrase, or word and shall not affect or impair any remaining provisions, sections, paragraphs, sentences, phrases, or words, or the application of the Measure to any other person or

circumstance, and to that end, the provisions hereof are severable. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the People of the City that the Measure would have been adopted had such unconstitutional illegal or invalid provision, section, paragraph, sentence, phrase, or word not been included herein.

**SECTION 8. Liberal Construction.** This Measure is an exercise of the initiative power of the People of the City of Manhattan Beach to implement a special tax to fund the purposes set forth in the Measure and shall be liberally construed to effectuate these purposes.

**SECTION 9. Municipal Affairs.** The People of the City hereby declare that providing funding to the School District through a parcel tax for the purposes set forth in this Measure constitutes a municipal affair. The People of the City hereby further declare their desire for this Measure to coexist with any similar tax measures adopted at the city, county or state levels.

**SECTION 10. Conflicting Measures.** The People of the City find and declare that the provisions of the Measure relating to a parcel tax for education may conflict with one or more provisions of other initiative measures. It is the intent of the People that if the Measure receives a greater number of affirmative votes than a conflicting measure at the same election, this Measure shall prevail in its entirety over a conflicting measure.

**SECTION 11. Legal Defense.** If approved by a simple majority of voters, and thereafter challenged in court of competent jurisdiction, the City shall defend the Measure in such court of competent jurisdiction. The People of the City by approving this Measure by a simple majority of voters hereby declare that the proponent(s) of the Measure have a direct and personal stake in defending the Measure from constitutional or statutory challenges to the Measure's validity or implementation. In the event the City fails to defend the Measure, or the City fails to appeal an adverse judgment against this Measure, in whole or in part, in any court of competent jurisdiction, the Measure's proponent(s) shall be entitled to assert his, her, or their direct personal stake by defending the Measure's validity and implementation in any court of competent jurisdiction and shall be empowered by the People through this Measure to act as agents of the People of the City, and the City shall indemnify the proponent(s) for reasonable attorneys' fees.

\*End of Full Ballot Text of Measure\*





RESOLUTION NO. 22-0032

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TO CONSOLIDATE A SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON JUNE 7, 2022, WITH THE STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE DATE PURSUANT TO § 10403 OF THE ELECTIONS CODE

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Manhattan Beach called a Special Municipal Election to be held on June 7, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is submitting to the voters the questions relating to an initiative ordinance to provide supplemental funding for Manhattan Beach Unified School District; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable that the Special Municipal Election be consolidated with the Statewide Primary Election to be held on the same date and that within the city the vote centers and election officers of the two elections be the same, and that the county election department of the County of Los Angeles canvass the returns of the Special Municipal Election and that the election be held in all respects as if there were only one election.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH DOES RESOLVE, DECLARE, DETERMINE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That pursuant to the requirements of § 10403 of the Elections Code, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles is hereby requested to consent and agree to the consolidation of a Special Municipal Election with the Statewide Primary Election on Tuesday, June 7, 2022.

SECTION 2. That a measure is to appear on the ballot as follows:

<p><b>INITIATIVE ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.</b> Shall a measure imposing an annual flat tax of \$1,095.00 on each real property parcel within the City of Manhattan Beach, and adjusted annually for inflation, for a period of twelve years, thereby generating an estimated \$11,000,000 to \$13,000,000 annually for investment in education, with an oversight committee and exemptions for (1) low-income individuals and (2) seniors who use their property as a principal residence, be adopted?</p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>
	<p><b>NO</b></p>

SECTION 3. That the proposed complete text of the measure submitted to the voters is attached as Exhibit A.

SECTION 4. That the vote requirement for the measure to pass is a majority (50%+1) of the votes cast.

SECTION 5. That the county election department is authorized to canvass the returns of the Special Municipal Election. The election shall be held in all respects as if there were only one election, and only one form of ballot shall be used. The election will be held and conducted in accordance with the provisions of law regulating the statewide or special election.

SECTION 6. That the Board of Supervisors is requested to issue instructions to the county election department to take any and all steps necessary for the holding of the consolidated election.

SECTION 7. That the City of Manhattan Beach recognizes that additional costs will be incurred by the County by reason of this consolidation and agrees to reimburse the County for any costs.

SECTION 8. That the City Clerk is hereby directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Board of Supervisors and the county election department of the County of Los Angeles.

SECTION 9. That the City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

ADOPTED on March 8, 2022.

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

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HILDY STERN  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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LIZA TAMURA  
City Clerk

**EXHIBIT "A"**  
**INITIATIVE ORDINANCE**

To the City Council of the City of Manhattan Beach: We, the undersigned, registered, qualified voters and residents of the City of Manhattan Beach, California, hereby propose amendments to the Manhattan Beach Municipal Code relating to a parcel tax for education, and petition the City Council to submit the same to the voters of the City of Manhattan Beach for their adoption or rejection at the next general election or as otherwise provided by law. The proposed amendments are set forth below and on the subsequent pages and read as follows:

THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1. Title.** This measure shall be known and may be cited as the MB Citizens For Schools Measure (the “Measure”).

**SECTION 2. Purpose and Intent.** Public schools in the State of California (the “State”) have suffered from consistent underfunding and the City of Manhattan Beach (the “City”) has one of the lowest funded school districts in the State. The purpose and intent of this Measure is for the People of the City to counter ongoing and severe State funding shortfalls with local control and stability by supporting a local parcel tax needed to maintain and protect quality education in the Manhattan Beach Unified School District (the “School District”), manageable class sizes, safe environments and the programs and learning tools needed to help prepare City students for college and 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs. Great teachers are at the center of student achievement, and it is a further purpose and intent of this Measure to provide the School District with the resources needed to compete with other school districts in attracting and retaining high-quality teachers, so every City student has the opportunity to thrive. Further, all revenue from this Measure will stay local, be spent right here in the School District and cannot be taken away by the State. A mandatory independent citizens’ oversight committee will review all expenditures to ensure that the revenue is used only for the purposes set forth in the Measure.

**SECTION 3. Legal Authority.** This Measure and the special tax authorized herein are adopted pursuant to the provisions and authority contained in the California Constitution, statutory law and California case law interpreting the People’s initiative power.

**SECTION 4.** Title 8 (Finance, Revenue and Taxation) of the City Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding Chapter 8.40 (Parcel Tax for Manhattan Beach Unified School District), to read as follows:

#### **Chapter 8.40 – PARCEL TAX FOR MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

##### **8.40.010. Title**

This Chapter shall be known and may be cited as “Parcel Tax for Manhattan Beach Unified School District.”

##### **Section 8.40.020. Necessity and Authority**

- A. The People of the City of Manhattan Beach (hereinafter “the City”) have determined that:
  1. Public schools in the State of California (the “State”) have suffered from consistent underfunding and the City has one of the lowest funded school districts in the State. The People of the City can counter ongoing and severe State funding shortfalls with local control and stability by adding a local parcel tax needed to maintain and protect quality education in School District, manageable class sizes, safe environments and the programs and learning tools needed to help prepare City students for college and 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs. All revenue from a local parcel tax will stay local, be spent right here in the School District and cannot be taken away by the State.
  2. Great teachers are at the center of student achievement. The School District needs resources to employ qualified and prepared teachers, so every student has the opportunity to thrive.
  3. A parcel tax is necessary to attract and retain high-quality teachers and staff within the Manhattan Beach Unified School District (hereinafter the “School District”).

- B. This Chapter 8.40 and the special tax authorized herein are adopted pursuant to the provisions and authority contained in the California Constitution, statutory law and California case law interpreting the People's initiative power.

**Section 8.40.030. Imposition**

- A. A special *non-ad valorem* parcel tax (hereinafter the "Parcel Tax") is hereby established and shall be levied annually on the owner of each parcel of taxable real property within the City, unless the owner is by law exempt from taxation, in which case, the Parcel Tax shall be assessed to the holder of the possessory interest in such parcel, unless such holder is also by law exempt from taxation. The Parcel Tax is an excise tax on the use of property within the City.
- B. The Parcel Tax shall hereby be established and levied each year, commencing July 1st, on each parcel of taxable real property, improved or unimproved, within the boundaries of the City at the rate of one thousand ninety-five dollars (\$1,095.00) per year per parcel, and adjusting for inflation each year thereafter.
- C. For the purposes of this Chapter 8.40, a "parcel of taxable real property" shall be defined as any unit of real property in the City which receives a separate tax bill for *ad valorem* property taxes from the Los Angeles County Assessor/Tax Collector, as applicable (hereinafter the "Tax Collector").
- D. The collection of the Parcel Tax shall commence on July 1<sup>st</sup> after the Effective Date and expire twelve (12) years thereafter.
- E. All property that the Tax Collector has determined to be otherwise exempt from property taxes, or on which no *ad valorem* property taxes have been levied, in any year shall also be exempt from the Parcel Tax in such year. The Tax Collector's determination of exemption or relief for any reason of any parcel from taxation, other than the Senior Citizen Exemption (defined below) or SSI/SSDI Exemption (defined below), shall be final on the taxpayer for purposes of the Chapter 8.40. Taxpayers desiring to challenge the Tax Collector's determination should do so under the procedures established by the Tax Collector's Office, applicable provisions of the California Revenue and Taxation Code or other applicable law. Taxpayers seeking any refund of taxes paid pursuant to this Chapter 8.40 shall follow the procedures applicable to tax refunds pursuant to the California Revenue and Taxation Code.
- F. An optional exemption (heretofore the "Senior Citizen Exemption") from the Parcel Tax will be made available annually to each individual in the City who attains 65 years of age prior to July 1 of the tax year, and who owns a beneficial interest in the parcel, and who uses that parcel as his or her principal place of residence, and who applies to the City on or before June 1st of each tax year, or during the first year of the tax at a date to be determined by the Tax Collector. Any application for such exemption must be submitted to the Tax Collector, pursuant to any rules and regulations of the Tax Collector, and must be renewed annually.
- G. An optional exemption (heretofore the "SSI/SSDI Exemption") from the Parcel Tax will be made annually to persons receiving Supplemental Security Income for a disability, regardless of age, or receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, regardless of age, whose yearly income does not exceed 250 percent of the 2012 federal poverty guidelines issued by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and who applies to the City on or before June 1st of each tax year, or during the first year of the tax at a date to be determined by the Tax Collector. Any application for such exemption must be submitted to the Tax Collector, pursuant to any rules and regulations of the Tax Collector and must be renewed annually.

**Section 8.40.040. Levy, Collection, Purpose.**

- A. The proceeds of the Parcel Tax shall be deposited into a special fund, maintained by the City, which proceeds, together with any interest and any penalties thereon, collected each fiscal year shall be used solely for the purposes set forth in this Section 8.40.040. The proceeds from the Parcel Tax shall be expended only for these purposes.
- B. The City shall transfer all money deposited into the special fund to the School District for the purposes set forth in this Section 8.40.040, The School District shall use these proceeds only for these purposes.
- C. The proceeds collected by the levy of the Parcel Tax shall be used:
  - 1. To protect quality academic, arts and education programs including, math, science, reading, writing, social studies, language, technology, engineering, music, arts and physical education;
  - 2. To maintain manageable class sizes in the School District;
  - 3. To invest in 21<sup>st</sup> century technology, learning tools, instructional materials and supplies to support students, educators and families,
  - 4. To increase staffing and program funding in the School District;
  - 5. To increase salaries of teachers so the School District can compete with other school districts in recruiting and retaining qualified and prepared teachers to support student achievement;
  - 6. To provide additional professional development to all teachers;
  - 7. To provide more competitive compensation to other School District staff;
  - 8. To provide oversight to monitor how the School District is spending the Parcel Tax revenue and make sure the proceeds from the Parcel Tax are only spent for the purposes approved by the voters.
- D. The purposes set forth in this Section 8.40.040 shall constitute the specific purposes of this Chapter 8.40, which are specific and legally binding limitations on how the proceeds of the Parcel Tax can be spent. The proceeds of the Parcel Tax shall be used only for such purposes and shall not fund any purpose other than those set forth herein.
- E. The City shall, with every disbursement made pursuant to this Chapter 8.40, require the School District to verify in writing that it will use the funds only for the purposes set forth in this Section 8.40.040.
- F. The Parcel Tax shall be collected by the Tax Collector at the same time and in the same manner and shall be subject to the same penalties as *ad valorem* property taxes collected by the Tax Collector.

**Section 8.40.050. City Annual Report**

The City shall prepare a report on at least an annual basis which shows the amount of funds collected and expended, and the status of any project required or authorized to be funded, by the Parcel Tax. The City shall file each report with the Mayor, City Council and the oversight committee referenced in this Chapter 8.40.

**Section 8.40.060. Supplement to Existing School District Funding**

- A. The People of the City find and declare that the School District serves a student population which requires more resources than currently provided to help prepare City students for college and 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs. In adopting this Parcel Tax, the People of the City choose to provide additional City resources to complement, and not supplant, City, State, Federal and other funding for the School District.
- B. Consistent with subsection (A), the People of the City of Manhattan Beach specifically find that their contributions to and disbursements from the special fund authorized by this Chapter 8.40 are discretionary expenditures by the City for the direct benefit of the children of the City, their families, and the community at large. In the event that the State attempts, directly or indirectly, to redistribute these expenditures to other jurisdictions or to offset or reduce State or Federal funding to the School District because of the contributions to and disbursements from the special fund authorized by this Chapter 8.40, the City shall transfer said monies that would otherwise be distributed to the School District each year from the special fund to such other fund as the City Council may designate, to be spent for purposes which are substantially equivalent to the purposes set forth in this Chapter 8.40.
- C. This Parcel Tax is intended to be in addition to and not to replace any other monies provided by the City to the School District.

**Section 8.40.070. Increase in Appropriations Limit**

To the extent that the revenue from the Parcel Tax is in excess of the spending limit for the City, as provided for in applicable provisions of the California Constitution and State law, the approval of the Parcel Tax by the voters shall constitute approval to increase the City's spending limit in an amount equal to the revenue derived from the Parcel Tax for the maximum period of time as allowed by law.

**Section 8.40.080. Oversight**

Starting with the first operative year of this Chapter 8.40, the City shall establish an oversight committee to submit a report on at least an annual basis to the Mayor, City Council and School District Board of Trustees evaluating whether the proceeds from the Parcel Tax are being properly expended for the purposes set forth in this Chapter 8.40.

**Section 8.40.090. Severability**

If any provision of this Chapter 8.40, or section or part thereof, or the applicability of any provision, section or part to any person or circumstances, is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions, sections and parts shall not be affected, but shall remain in full force and effect, and to this end the provisions, sections and parts of this Chapter 8.40 are severable. The voters hereby declare that this Chapter 8.40, and each section, provision, and part, would have been adopted irrespective of whether any one or more provisions, sections or parts are found to be invalid or unconstitutional.

**SECTION 5. Effective Date.** This Measure shall become effective upon the tenth day following certification by the City Council of the election returns indicating passage of the Measure by a simple majority (50% + 1) of the voters casting votes on the Measure.

**SECTION 6. Statement of Facts.** This Measure creates a *non-ad valorem* parcel tax of \$1,095.00 on each parcel of taxable real property in the City of Manhattan Beach, the proceeds of which are specifically limited and shall be used solely as set forth in this Measure.

**SECTION 7. Severability.** If any provision, section, paragraph, sentence, phrase, or word of the Measure is rendered or declared invalid, illegal, or unconstitutional by any final action in a court of competent jurisdiction or by reason or any preemptive legislation, such unconstitutionality illegality or invalidity shall only affect such provision, section, paragraph, sentence, phrase, or word and shall not affect or impair any remaining provisions, sections, paragraphs, sentences, phrases, or words, or the application of the Measure to any other person or



circumstance, and to that end, the provisions hereof are severable. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the People of the City that the Measure would have been adopted had such unconstitutional illegal or invalid provision, section, paragraph, sentence, phrase, or word not been included herein.

**SECTION 8. Liberal Construction.** This Measure is an exercise of the initiative power of the People of the City of Manhattan Beach to implement a special tax to fund the purposes set forth in the Measure and shall be liberally construed to effectuate these purposes.

**SECTION 9. Municipal Affairs.** The People of the City hereby declare that providing funding to the School District through a parcel tax for the purposes set forth in this Measure constitutes a municipal affair. The People of the City hereby further declare their desire for this Measure to coexist with any similar tax measures adopted at the city, county or state levels.

**SECTION 10. Conflicting Measures.** The People of the City find and declare that the provisions of the Measure relating to a parcel tax for education may conflict with one or more provisions of other initiative measures. It is the intent of the People that if the Measure receives a greater number of affirmative votes than a conflicting measure at the same election, this Measure shall prevail in its entirety over a conflicting measure.

**SECTION 11. Legal Defense.** If approved by a simple majority of voters, and thereafter challenged in court of competent jurisdiction, the City shall defend the Measure in such court of competent jurisdiction. The People of the City by approving this Measure by a simple majority of voters hereby declare that the proponent(s) of the Measure have a direct and personal stake in defending the Measure from constitutional or statutory challenges to the Measure's validity or implementation. In the event the City fails to defend the Measure, or the City fails to appeal an adverse judgment against this Measure, in whole or in part, in any court of competent jurisdiction, the Measure's proponent(s) shall be entitled to assert his, her, or their direct personal stake by defending the Measure's validity and implementation in any court of competent jurisdiction and shall be empowered by the People through this Measure to act as agents of the People of the City, and the City shall indemnify the proponent(s) for reasonable attorneys' fees.

\*End of Full Ballot Text of Measure\*



RESOLUTION NO. 22-0034

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, PROVIDING FOR THE FILING OF REBUTTAL ARGUMENTS FOR CITY MEASURES SUBMITTED AT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, § 9282 of the Elections Code of the State of California provides for written arguments to be filed in favor of or against city measures not to exceed 300 words in length; and

WHEREAS, § 9285 of the Elections Code of the State of California authorizes the City Council, by majority vote, to adopt provisions to provide for the filing of rebuttal arguments for city measures submitted at municipal elections.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, DOES RESOLVE, DECLARE, DETERMINE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That pursuant to Section 9285 of the Elections Code of the State of California, when the elections official has selected the arguments for and against the measure (not exceeding 300 words each) which will be printed and distributed to the voters, the elections official shall send a copy of an argument in favor of the proposition to the authors of any argument against the measure and a copy of an argument against the measure to the authors of any argument in favor of the measure immediately upon receiving the arguments.

The author or a majority of the authors of an argument relating to a city measure may prepare and submit a rebuttal argument not exceeding 250 words or may authorize in writing any other person or persons to prepare, submit, or sign the rebuttal argument.

A rebuttal argument shall not be signed by more than five authors.

The rebuttal arguments shall be filed with the City Clerk, signed, with the printed name(s) and signature(s) of the author(s) submitting it, or if submitted on behalf of an organization, the name of the organization, and the printed name and signature of at least one of its principal officers, **not more than 10 days after** the final date for filing direct arguments. The rebuttal arguments shall be accompanied by the Form of Statement To Be Filed By Author(s) of Argument (see Form F-A-1, attached hereto as Exhibit A).

Rebuttal arguments shall be printed in the same manner as the direct arguments.

Each rebuttal argument shall immediately follow the direct argument which it seeks to rebut.

SECTION 2. That all previous resolutions providing for the filing of rebuttal arguments for city measures are repealed.

SECTION 3. That the provisions of Section 1 shall apply only to the election to be held on June 7, 2022, and shall then be repealed.

SECTION 4. That the City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this Resolution and enter it into the book of original Resolutions.

ADOPTED on March 8, 2022.

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

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HILDY STERN  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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LIZA TAMURA  
City Clerk

**EXHIBIT "A"**

**Form of Statement To Be Filed By Author(s) of Argument**

**ARGUMENTS  
FORM OF STATEMENT TO BE FILED BY  
AUTHORS OF ARGUMENTS**

All arguments concerning measures filed pursuant to Division 9, Chapter 3 (beginning with § 9200) of the Elections Code shall be accompanied by the following form statement **to be signed** by each proponent, and by each author, if different, of the argument:

The undersigned proponent (s) or author(s) of the (primary/rebuttal) argument (in favor of/against) ballot proposition (name or number) at the Special Election for the City of Manhattan Beach to be held on June 7, 2022 hereby state that the argument is true and correct to the best of (his/her/their) knowledge and belief.

Print Name _____ Title _____ (If applicable):Submitted on behalf of : _____ (name of organization)	Signature _____  Date _____
Print Name _____ Title _____ (If applicable):Submitted on behalf of : _____ (name of organization)	Signature _____  Date _____
Print Name _____ Title _____ (If applicable):Submitted on behalf of : _____ (name of organization)	Signature _____  Date _____
Print Name _____ Title _____ (If applicable):Submitted on behalf of : _____ (name of organization)	Signature _____  Date _____
Print Name _____ Title _____ (If applicable):Submitted on behalf of : _____ (name of organization)	Signature _____  Date _____