

Rebuttal to Argument Against Measure A

Don't believe the misinformation. Here are the FACTS:

FACT: Senior citizens are eligible for a full exemption from the tax. Consistent with State law, seniors only need to file once and the exemption continues for the duration of the measure.

FACT: By law, Measure A funds may ONLY be used for specified purposes listed in the measure, including protecting quality academic programs, attracting/retaining high-quality teachers and maintaining manageable class sizes.

FACT: Mandatory fiscal accountability requirements – including independent citizens' oversight, annual audits and public spending disclosure – ensure funds are only spent for the purposes in the measure.

FACT: \$1095 is not arbitrary, but the amount required – as defined by the State – to bring adequate per- student funding to Manhattan Beach classrooms. Over 100 California school districts utilize locally controlled parcel taxes to offset inadequate state funding, with amounts of \$3,000+. Manhattan Beach citizens seek a fraction of that to keep our schools among the best and solve a decades-old State funding problem with a sustainable, local solution. Exemptions for seniors and low-income residents ensure the cost is not a burden.

FACT: Increases are capped at the rate of inflation. Per Municipal Code, standard practice is the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Claims of an uncapped rate that “could double” are untrue.

For too long Manhattan Beach schools have ranked among the lowest funded. That's why over 4,000 local residents signed petitions to put Measure A on the ballot. Strong schools mean a strong community and strong property values for everyone.

Vote Yes on A.

Please list authors in this order:

1. **Hildy Stern**, Mayor and 27-year resident
2. **Steve Napolitano**, Mayor Pro Tem and lifelong resident
3. **Mike Simms**, Local Business Owner of Simms Restaurant Group and private school parent
4. **Linda McLoughlin Figel**, Local Small Business Owner of Pages: a Bookstore, former President of Downtown MB Business and Professional Association, and 37-year resident
5. **Tracey Windes**, Former MBEF President, former MBUSD School Board Member, Co-Founder PTA Capitol Convoy and 36-year resident