

MDUSD BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION NO. 19/20 –36
In Support of the Schools and Communities First Funding Act

WHEREAS since the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, school funding in California has experienced severe limitations in what was once the main source of funding for schools, the property tax;

WHEREAS while the intent of Proposition 13 is to help homeowners, a loophole in the system permits major commercial and industrial properties to avoid regular reassessment, providing a windfall to commercial property owners at the expense of vital school funding;

WHEREAS the share of the property tax burden has shifted away from commercial property and toward residential property throughout the state and in virtually every county;

WHEREAS per-pupil support, which relies on state funding, has declined from the top 10 in the nation to the bottom quarter;

WHEREAS school funding in California is \$2,400 per pupil less than the national average and \$10,000 below the top-funded states, while California's cost of living is among the highest in the nation;

WHEREAS staffing ratios for teachers, guidance counselors, librarians, and administrators in California rank at the bottom in the nation;

WHEREAS public schools in California face challenges in providing an equitable and fair education for a student population with vast differences in language, income, parental education level, and other social, educational, and economic factors;

WHEREAS research has proven that investments in high needs students raises achievement levels, lowers poverty, and increases the productivity of the workforce;

WHEREAS estimates by academic researchers at the University of Southern California (USC) have identified that reassessing commercial property will raise \$12 billion in property tax revenue every year for local schools, cities and counties;

WHEREAS USC has identified that nearly 80 percent of the revenue will come from just 8 percent of large properties;

WHEREAS USC research shows that a majority of commercial property owners already are assessed at close to market value, making the current system inequitable among businesses, benefitting a relatively small number of properties owned by the largest corporations and wealthy owners who have held land for a long period of time;

WHEREAS the current failure to close the commercial property loophole has led to poor land use and inflated land values, particularly limiting the ability to provide adequate high-density housing and land use;

WHEREAS the Schools and Local Communities Funding Act is on the November 2020 ballot;

WHEREAS the measure provides about \$4.5 billion annually for K-14 schools;

WHEREAS the measure will provide funding to all school districts, over and above Proposition 98 funding, and following the local control funding formula to all students in need in all districts;

WHEREAS the Schools and Local Communities Funding Act will also provide billions in funding yearly for cities, counties, and special districts in locally controlled revenues for affordable housing, parks, libraries, emergency responders, health and human services, libraries, and public infrastructure;

WHEREAS the Schools and Local Communities Funding Act will improve land use, provide a direct tax break to small businesses, and level the playing field between neighboring commercial property owners; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mt. Diablo Unified School District endorses the Schools and Communities First Funding Act for a ballot measure in November 2020.

Brian Lawrence, Board President

Debra Mason, Board Vice President

Cherise Khaund, Board Member

Joanne Durkee, Board Member

02/03/2020

Linda Mayo, Board Member

Date Signed

Adopted by the Governing Board on 02/03/2020.

Robert A. Martinez

Secretary to the Board