



## Local Ballot Measure: M

Arguments and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors. We print them exactly as submitted.

### Argument Against Measure M

#### PLEASE VOTE “NO” ON MEASURE M

We urge you to **Vote “NO”** on Measure M, costing \$315,000,000 **“Million”** requiring payments of approx. **\$556,452,817 (Million) until 2053**. Measure M would be a **4th Bond Tax on our property taxes already** lasting for 30 years on **ALL** commercial and residential properties. The cost is \$60 per \$100,000 per assessed value of taxable properties.

These taxes cause increases for all homeowners as well as renters and business owners, further reducing affordability in our community and hurting those in need the most.

With Santa Cruz County being the most expensive county to live in the U.S. we do not need more taxes. How can residents on fixed incomes continue to squeeze their budgets any further and make ends meet?

Measure M does not exempt seniors or the disabled.

Pajaro Valley Unified School District enrollment numbers are flat and declining every year, possibly causing some schools be forced to close in the future.

There is no “Project List” to give us confidence that the District has a strategic plan for prioritizing work equally across the many schools in all areas. Who would decide what is fair?

This bond would spend monies primarily on buildings, which we agree is necessary, but we feel the District leaders should practice setting money aside annually within their budget and plan for repairs, using the monies they already get from the State and lottery money.

Perhaps the District could consider reducing top heavy administrative costs instead?

Why are property owners always the solution to fixing the budget problems?

In these uncertain economic times, we do not feel it is wise to burden future generations with additional debt lasting up to 32 years and adding to the past debt of other bonds that we are still paying for.

Please **“Vote No”** on Measure M.

s/ Angela Powell, Business Owner

s/ Rebecca Steinbruner, Community Member

s/ Kris A. Kirby, Business Owner and Community Member

### Rebuttal To Argument Against Measure M

We understand that the idea of increasing taxes can be challenging, especially for working families. However, ensuring that our schools are safe, secure and fully operational is an essential investment in our children’s future and the well-being of our community.

Measure M projects are detailed on the school district website and designed with both the current needs of our schools and the financial realities of our community in mind.

Measure M will address:

- Critical infrastructure repairs and modernization updates, including plumbing, heating and air-conditioning systems
- Renovating classrooms to expand career and technical education programs
- Developing technical, robotics, coding and construction courses
- Upgrading emergency communication and security systems
- Enhancing the district’s competitiveness in attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers and staff by building below-market rental housing

At the same time, state law guarantees that Measure M funds **cannot be taken by the state and spent elsewhere**. Full public disclosure of all spending is required. Measure M is crucial to ensuring our district qualifies for additional state matching funds.

By voting YES on Measure M, you invest in our community’s success and ensure our children have a safe, functional learning environment. Your support will make a real difference in our schools and across our community. Let’s invest in our future together by voting **YES on Measure M!**

/s/ Robert H. Allen, Resident, Attorney, PVUSD alumni, PVUSD Parent

/s/ Consuelo Alba, Resident and Executive Director of local non-profit

/s/ Francisco Estrada, PVUSD Graduate & Former Mayor

/s/ Russell Bryan Love, SCCOE Teacher of the Year, PVUSD Teacher

/s/ Jasmine Najera, Resident, PVUSD Parent, CEO of Youth Serving non-profit