

Letter to the Editor: BUSD Parent Wants No Vote on Measure QS

[Staff](#) October 20, 2018

Letter to the Editor:

VOTE NO ON MEASURE QS (Property Parcel TAX)

I'm a Parent of a Burbank High Jr and was part of the successful YES On Measure S campaign. It might surprise you to know that I am Voting NO on Measure QS, as are many other Parents, Property Owners & Measure S Supporters. Here's just a few reasons why we can't support this Property Tax increase at this time:

- 1. This Tax is not needed at this time; The BUSD Budget is Balanced for the next 3 Years.*
- 2. The Tax places an unfair burden on Burbank Property Owners & Renters who are **still paying for previous School Bonds (until 2032)**, while approx 1300 Students who live outside the district pay nothing. Businesses with larger footprints are also disproportionately hit with larger bills.*
- 3. This Tax will exist **in Perpetuity**, highly unusual for Parcel Taxes, which typically have Sunset clauses and need to be reconsidered by Voters every 4-7 years.*
- 4. The Tax **does not address future Maintenance needs** or extra Classrooms needed to accommodate anticipated demand from Planned Development requiring yet another Bond in a few years.*
- 5. Significant funds **will be used to augment Salaries/Benefits**. Having \$9M/year that can be re-assigned to any Goal "pot" will lead to more demands for Salary/benefit increases, resulting in less*

money available for Student programs over time.

6. **Obscures the real problem – mandatory Pension obligations imposed by the State.** Unlike our City, BUSD has always paid its share of Pension contributions. But because of poor management by the State, our contribution to fund Pensions is increasing to 19-26¢ per Dollar of Payroll; taking money from current students to pay past obligations. Cost-of-Living-adjustments that previously provided money for modest Salary increases are now being used entirely to Fund Pensions.

In conclusion, the proposed Parcel Tax is a band-aid approach to a STATE issue. Political pressure must be brought to bear at the STATE level to either provide More Funding or Relax the onerous Mandatory Pension payments. #NOonQS

Eric Michael Cap

Burbank Resident & BUSD Parent