



JUNE 05, 2019 | RANDYL DRUMMER

# Los Angeles Voters Shoot Down Parcel Tax Proposal to Fund Schools

Measure EE, Opposed By Commercial Landlords and Other Businesses, Falls Far Short of Required Two-Thirds Approval



Hollywood High School, at the intersection of North Highland Avenue and West Sunset Boulevard, in Los Angeles. Mural "Portrait of Hollywood," by artist Eloy Torrez. Photography: iStock

Los Angeles voters soundly rejected a parcel tax, which was opposed by the real estate owners, anti-tax advocates and businesses groups that could have paid the largest share of the \$500 million the tax aimed to raise annually for the country's

second-largest school district behind New York City.

With all 1,038 precincts reporting results, less than 46% of voters living within the boundaries of the Los Angeles Unified School District approved Measure EE on Tuesday, far short of the two-thirds majority required to pass, while more than 54% said no to the proposal.

Measure EE would have raised about \$750 per student a year over 12 years by instituting a new 16 cents-per-square-foot parcel tax on residential and commercial property within the boundaries of the the school district.

The defeat deals a political blow to Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and LAUSD superintendent Austin Beutner, [who agreed to draft and place the measure on the June 4 ballot for a special election after teachers led a six-day strike in January calling for limits on class sizes, reducing the number of new charter schools, and hiring more school nurses and librarians](#) .

A range of labor, community and civic leaders, including United Teachers Los Angeles, SEIU Local 99 and the Los Angeles City Council, also endorsed Measure EE. Garcetti appeared to acknowledge the possibility of Measure EE's failure during a rally in the Boyle Heights neighborhood near downtown Los Angeles.

“We’re not going anywhere. Pass or not, tomorrow we roll up

our sleeves and continue that work," Garcetti told Measure EE supporters, according to the Los Angeles Times and other news outlets.

The Building Owners and Managers of Greater Los Angeles and other real estate groups, the California Business Roundtable and Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Group, among many others, opposed the measure as primarily as a way to go around Proposition 13, the state's historic property tax-freezing ballot measure passed in 1978.

Measure EE would have been the second property tax increase proposal in just two years for Los Angeles Unified School District residents already burdened with some of the highest housing costs in California, the Business Roundtable said.

