

# Recommendations for the May 5, 2009 Election

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*The Cupertino Union School District is about to do something bizarre: it will hold two elections in two weeks. Almost always, elections are consolidated so that voters need not return to the polls (or vote by mail as with this all-absentee-ballot election) too often. However, with the economy staggering, various levels of government have called emergency elections to gather voter approval for deficit-closing efforts.*

*Here locally, the school board had called a special election for May 5 to vote on Measure B, but shortly thereafter the State Legislature called a statewide May 19 election to handle various issues with California's own problems. However, the May 5 election was not consolidated into it, and as a result there will be substantial voter confusion plus additional workload and expense for the Registrar of Voters. Some citizens, logically thinking that they had fulfilled their civic duty on May 5, may stop paying attention and tune out May 19. Likewise, we should not be surprised if some voters turn in their May 5 ballots on May 19 when it is too late.*

*Perhaps the school board thought that it could drive a higher Yes vote in an extremely low-turnout, stand-alone election, and perhaps it was correct in thinking so. Still, no municipality should have had power to do this. As a side note, the City of Cupertino holds its regularly-scheduled municipal quarter-term elections in six months. That will end a marathon six elections in twenty-one months.*

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## Summary of Recommendations

<b>Vote for</b>	<b>Office or Referendum</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Candidate / Vote</b>
1	Measure B	Cupertino Union School District	Yes

# Recommendations

<b>Measure B</b>		
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><u>Jurisdiction</u> Cupertino Union School District</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><u>Vote for</u> 1</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;"><b>Yes</b></p>
<p>Votes like this are tough. As the economy slows, a given tax structure brings in less revenue, and it must be expanded if expenses are to remain the same. In our current climate, we need to decide how much we want to cut. The Cupertino Union School District’s board wants to raise property taxes by \$125/parcel/year starting on July 1 and running for six years, and they put Measure B on the ballot to do so. This would ameliorate decreases in state-level education funding.</p> <p>Tax increases are not fun, nor are obligations only geared toward a certain slice of our population, in this case the landed class. Nevertheless, we as a society must remain committed to education. A critically-thinking population is vitally important for all of us, and we cannot let a generation slip away. Are we getting all that we already pay for from our schools? Possibly not, and it is true that more funding is not in and of itself an answer. Still, I err on the side of schools. We run too great of a risk when we expose our youth to major budget cuts.</p> <p>Also, very importantly, there is no real organized opposition to this plan, and no one even came forward to write an official No statement on the sample ballot. I defer to this consensus.</p>		

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