

Application for Legislative Endorsements by the Democratic Party of Contra Costa (DPCCC)

Please follow all instructions for this application. We can only consider applications that follow all instructions. If you need an exception, please contact the emails listed in this application directly.

- *Make a copy of this document and add the bill number or resolution title into the document title [Example title: 2025-2026 SB 79 (Wiener) Application for Legislative Endorsements by DPCCC Issues Committee]*
- *Send applications **in google docs form** to: issues@contracostadems.com, jeremylevineucsb@gmail.com, and iredpccc@gamil.com*
- *Applications may refer to resolutions or legislation.*
- *Please submit applications at least 72 hours prior to the next scheduled Issues Committee meeting. The Committee generally meetings from 6:30pm to 8:00pm on the 4th Monday of the month. Applicants should either plan to attend the meeting to speak on behalf of their request or inform the committee chair (email above) that they will not be available.*
- *Please limit your application to 4 pages if possible. Consider how to make your application readable, such as by changing the formatting of the text you use from that of the questions (ie remove italics from your responses) so members of the committee can easily read what you write.*

Section I: Administrative Information

Name or Title of Issue: Acalanes Union High School District Measure W (parcel tax)

Date of application: August 18, 2026

Name of organization or individual submitting application: Susan Hildreth, Yes on W for High Quality Schools

Contact email or phone number: shhildreth@comcast.net, 206-619-5030

Name of person who will address the Issues Committee, as required (if different): Same.

Contact email or phone number: Same.

Section II: Background Information

What is the summary of your issues' intent and impact? Include bill number if appropriate.

Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) is one of the lowest-funded districts in the state. It consistently receives less funding than the average high school district in California. The AUHSD community has shown for decades that it values excellent public education by supporting parcel taxes and donating to educational foundations. With this local support, AUHSD was able to achieve at least average funding for many years. However, starting in 2021, the local funding for AUHSD no longer filled the gap and now, even with local support, AUHSD has below-average funding. Costs continue to rise, and the AUHSD community's expectations for district high schools has not diminished. AUHSD has cut \$4.2 million from its budget over the last two years, and no further cuts are possible without significantly impacting student programs. Measure W, if approved, is designed to fill this funding gap. This measure requires 66 2/3% approval. Measure W is a parcel tax at \$168 per year for each parcel for 8 years, with no cost of living adjustment during the 8 years.

If you are requesting a position on legislation, please answer Questions 2-5.

1. *Please summarize your issue.* See above.
2. *What legislative body is considering this legislation (Federal/House, Federal/Senate, California Assembly, California Senate, or other Local Jurisdiction?)* This ballot measure was approved by the AUHSD Board on August 5th, 2026. This measure will be on the November 3, 2026, ballot to be voted on by the residents of AUHSD, which includes some of Walnut Creek, Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda and unincorporated county areas.
3. *Please include any companion bill numbers for legislation moving through the other house.* None.
4. *What is the bill title?* Measure W.
5. *Who are the author and any co-authors of the bill?* No authors, approved by the Acalanes Union High School District Board.
6. *What position are you asking the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County to take?*

Support.
7. *How does this issue align with the California Democratic Party platform and/or values? If it does not currently align with the platform, please explain why it is a Democratic value that we seek to include in a future platform. Please include specific name/date of platform plank, previous legislation, or resolution.* Education is one of the major planks in the CADEM platform. "We believe in a universally

well-educated population. To achieve this, California students must have access to world-class pre-K – 12 public education that will prepare them to live, work, and thrive in a multicultural, multilingual, and highly connected world. We must prepare our students for post-secondary education, career technical education, and active citizenship in the 21st century. We must fully fund public education to correct years of insufficient allocations, increase funding to put California in the top states in per student spending, and equitably distribute funding to school districts most in need.”

8. *What are the expected outcomes of your issue for residents of Contra Costa County? Please include any reference sources that will help our committee understand the issue/history surrounding the legislation, including URLs and web links. The more our committee knows, the better we can review and analyze the issue.*

Measure W would provide \$5.5-6 million annually, or about \$1,000 per student in additional funding. With these funds, AUHSD would work to achieve the following goals:

- Attract and retain highly qualified teachers;
- Prepare students for college and in-demand careers;
- Maintain manageable class sizes;
- Maintain advanced academic programs, including math, science, engineering and the arts;
- Provide library services, academic counseling, and career training;
- Provide career and technical education for in-demand fields including biotech, medical and health sciences, auto mechanics, fabrication, and other skilled trades;
- Keep technology up to date to provide for modern student learning;
- Provide instructional equipment, materials and supplies to support the District's programs

9. *What is the timeline regarding your issue? Are there any deadlines or time constraints that the committee should be aware of when considering this matter, and making recommendations to the Central Committee membership? If you become aware of time constraints after submitting this application, please update the Issues Committee.* Measure W will be on the November 3, 2026, ballot. A timely endorsement by DPCCC would be useful to show support to voters for this initiative.

10. *How does your issue relate to other current or proposed legislation?* There may be other school parcel taxes on the November 3, 2026, ballot but no other measures are proposed for other school districts that fall within AUHSD.

11. *What has been the experience of your issue in previous legislative sessions and/or other states?*

AUHSD went to the community to pass a similar parcel tax last year (spring 2025), but it was narrowly defeated. The measure failed for several reasons, including a robust campaign against it and the political environment at the time of the election. W. In the June 2, 2026, primary, the Lafayette School District (TK-8) and the Moraga School District (TK-8) had parcel tax measures passed by their communities with over 70% support, where 66 2/3% was the required approval threshold.

12. What is the fiscal impact of your issue?

Measure W will cost the taxpayer \$168 per parcel for 8 years. There is no cost of living adjustment over the 8 years. There is an exemption available for homeowners who are 65 years or older and those with certain disabilities. For seniors who reside in cooperatives in Rossmoor, the per parcel cost is distributed to many residential units in their cooperative association. It usually has a minimal impact on the tax allocated to individual units.

There are two other current parcel taxes benefiting the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD): Measures G and A. Measure G costs the taxpayer \$189 per parcel, and Measure A costs the taxpayer \$112 per parcel. There has been no increase to these amounts and no new parcel taxes for AUHSD since 2010.

13. Who are the primary proponents (including legislators) of this issue, and what resources do they bring to this effort? The AUHSD Board unanimously approved this measure. Measure W has an intergenerational campaign committee of 60+ community leaders, working within and across the four cities in the district, Walnut Creek, Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda and Rossmoor to ensure that there is strong voter turn-out and community engagement.

14. Are there other elected officials or organizations that have signed on in support? Measure W Campaign team are gathering endorsement from elected officials and community leaders. I can share names at time of presentation or consideration.

15. Who are the primary opponents? (Please be Specific) What arguments are used to oppose this policy? Contra Costa Taxpayers Association. They have not submitted an argument to date, with arguments due on August 19. They note opposition on their website.

16. Are there other elected officials or organizations that have declined support? If so, why? Not at this time.

17. Have you had any contact with elected officials or organizations that support or oppose this issue? Working with local elected officials to sign ballot submittals as this request is being written.

Section III: Requested Actions in Support

If endorsed by DPCCC, how best can the DPCCC support this proposal? (The DPCCC Issues Committee will let you know how much support we can offer.)

- ☐ **X** Use DPCCC's name/logo on fact sheets, endorsee list

- ☐ **X** Post information on DPCCC website
- ☐ Written/oral testimony
- ☐ Inform Contra Costa County Elected Delegation
- ☐ **X** Inform Endorsed Democratic Local Elected Officials
- ☐ Action Alerts to members
- ☐ **X** Letters to the editor
- ☐ Send to CADEM Legislation Committee
- ☐ Other_____

Endorsements will be shared on the DPCCC website and in other advocacy venues

If you have any questions, need additional assistance, or require ADA accommodations, please let us know by email at issues@contracostadems.com. You can also reach us by phone or text at (206) 619-5030 or 510-423-1153. All information and communications are confidential.

*For more information on DPCCC's Issues Committee, visit:
<https://www.contracostadems.com/leadership>*

Revised March 2023