IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE N

Under the California Constitution and various state laws, school districts may issue bonds if approved by at least 55 percent of voters within the boundaries of that district. These bonds are sold to the public and constitute a debt of the district. The principal and interest on the bonds are repaid by an annual property tax levied on all taxable real property within the jurisdiction of the school district. This is known as an "*ad valorem* tax" and is calculated based on the current assessed value of each property.

Measure N was placed on the ballot by the Board of Trustees ("the Board") of the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District (the "District"). The Board asks voters to approve the sale of up to $321,000,000 in general obligation bonds. These bonds would generate approximately $23,000,000 annually for the District.

As required by law, the District has submitted a Project List, which may include, but is not limited to:

- Replacing and/or repairing aging school roofs, windows, plumbing, HVAC, and energy systems;
- Upgrading electrical, technology systems and wiring;
- Improving school safety and campus security systems, including fencing, cameras, and emergency communications systems;
- Improving and/or upgrading school restrooms, pick up and drop off areas, and athletic facilities;
- Updating, repairing, and equipping classrooms and labs to support high quality instruction and hands-on learning.

Voters are referred to the full text of the measure for complete information.

School districts are only allowed to use bonds funds for specific legal purposes. The law does not allow these bond funds to be used for teacher and administrator salaries or other school operational expenses.

If the measure passes, the District will be required to follow certain accountability provisions. These include establishing an Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee and annually completing independent performance and financial audits. Additionally, an annual report must be filed every year which includes information about the amount of funds collected and expended, and the status of any funded projects.

The District has submitted a Tax Rate Statement and estimates the annual tax rate to be levied at $30 per $100,000 of assessed property value per year. It is expected the tax will be collected through fiscal year 2056-57. If all bonds are issued and sold, the best estimate of the total debt service to be repaid will be approximately $690 million, including principal and interest.

A “yes” vote on Measure N is a vote to allow the District to issue and sell up to $321,000,000 in general obligation bonds and financed by an annual property tax.

A “no” vote on Measure N is a vote against the issuance of the proposed bonds.

Date: August 11, 2026

JASON M. HEATH, COUNTY COUNSEL
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