



# Stronger Together.

The Manhattan Beach Education Foundation was founded to ensure that all Manhattan Beach children have access to an excellent public-school education. Since its start four decades ago, MBEF has provided supplemental funding to ensure that our schools are filled with programs and opportunities that would not otherwise be possible.

When education funding was restructured with the passage of Proposition 13, legislation limited the percentage of property tax dollars allotted for education spending. Because of this, and subsequent challenges in state funding, Manhattan Beach Unified School District (MBUSD) remains among the lowest funded districts in the entire state, and California schools are among the lowest funded in the country.

This structural deficit creates numerous challenges for our schools — growing class sizes, outdated textbooks, deferred facilities maintenance, loss of professional development and collaboration time, and a cycle of annual layoff notices that undermines the value of our greatest resource, excellent teachers.

Despite these challenges, our schools have continued to thrive because we are a community filled with intelligent, generous, and resourceful individuals who value education. To combat the district's financial pressures, MBEF has done everything it can to increase its fundraising. But despite this community support of MBEF every year, it is harder and harder to make the formula work.

To maintain our high-quality schools, we must create a robust and recurring source of local funding. Measure A promises to do this by introducing a parcel tax that will strengthen MBUSD's financial foundation and support the enriched education that we expect for our children.

With Measure A, we have before us the opportunity to finally free our schools from the continuous cycle of budgetary stress and uncertainty. This will allow MBUSD to invest in the resources and programs that will sustain the quality of Manhattan Beach schools. In turn, MBEF will be able to refocus on its original mission of funding true enrichment programs rather than providing stop-gap funding to prevent layoffs.

We are optimistic about the possibilities ahead — and hope that our community will continue to prioritize education as it always has. We ask all Manhattan Beach residents to stand up for our schools and empower them to remain among the best in the state.

**Vote Yes on Measure A for strong schools and strong community.**

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Hilary Mahan

