

A is A-OK

Opponents of Measure A maintain the budget problems to be experienced by the San Jose Unified School District should be addressed through putting pressure on the perpetrators of this crisis in Sacramento, rather than increasing property taxes. In the long run, they are right. A favorable sign appeared Friday when Gov. Davis indicated he will support rollback of the State's electricity deregulation legislative fiasco, a well-intentioned yet ill-conceived idea even at the time of its enactment in 1996, which resulted in the fiscal disaster of the Summer of 2001, a major reason for the state's current education budget shortfall. That's a good start.

But we can't wait for Sacramento to act. SJUSD needs help now and Measure A must be approved. I happen to be over 65, so for me voting "yes" is a no-pain, no-brainer exercise, as under Measure A my property will be exempt from the additional tax. However, I also happen to have a kid in one of the district's middle schools. Should Measure A pass, I'll claim the \$98 exemption and then pledge a cash-equivalent contribution annually for the next five years directly to his school library. I urge other "seniors" in my position to first vote "yes" on A, and then make a similar-style donation to their neighborhood school or at least refuse to take the exemption.

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