

STANFORD  
UNIVERSITY



JOHN L. HENNESSY  
*President*

May 11, 2005

Mr. John Barton  
President of the Board  
Palo Alto Unified School District  
25 Churchill Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94306-1099

Dear Mr. Barton:

Stanford University supports Measure A, the Palo Alto Unified School District's proposal to increase and extend the special parcel tax first adopted in 2001. Stanford's commitment to our public schools was shown in the results of the 2004 parcel tax election, which although it fell just a few hundred votes short of the two-thirds majority required to pass, received 80% support from Stanford precincts.

Budget problems at the state level present serious challenges to the commitment to provide our children with an exceptional public education. Voters in the District have responded to these challenges by generating a source of local funding through the parcel tax. Measure A, if passed, will allow the District to avoid deeper cuts in classroom instruction, preserve smaller class sizes, attract the best teachers, and maintain important academic programs including science, reading, mathematics, music and art.

Stanford's strong relationship with schools in Palo Alto dates back to the University's earliest years. Many Stanford families have benefited from the outstanding education offered in the District's schools at all grade levels. We join with the District and the many citizens who are working hard for Measure A in support of its passage on June 7.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John L. Hennessy".

John L. Hennessy

Office of the President

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