



NOVATO
UNIFIED
SCHOOL
DISTRICT

PARCEL TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

THE COVID YEAR

1015 Seventh Street, Novato CA 94945 • 415.897.4201

ANNUAL REPORT

**July 1, 2020
to
June 30, 2021**

Parcel Tax Funds Highlights

- Attract/retain high quality teachers
- Avoid significant increases in class sizes
- Protect music, arts and athletics programs
- Maintain school library staff and operating hours
- Lower secondary school counselor ratios

2022-2023 Parcel Tax Oversight Committee Members

- Mary Louise Brannigan
- Barbara Granicher
- Alan Harris
- Scott Keen
- Katey McAuley
- Tina McMillan
- Barbara Roddie
- Tenesa Vuilleminot
- Diane Gasson-Trustee (non-voting)

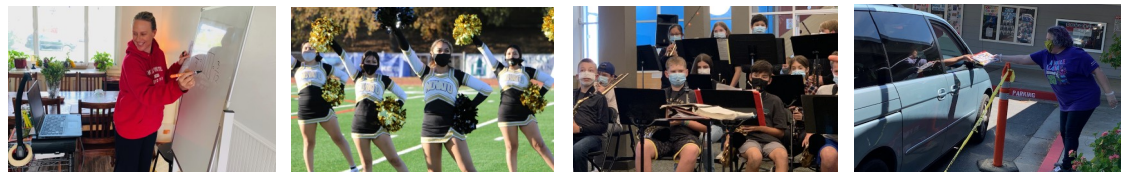
NUSD Parcel Tax: To Preserve Quality Education in Novato Schools

About the Parcel Tax: Since 1992, voter-approved local funding has been crucial to maintaining high-quality academic programs and retaining highly qualified teachers for our students. In 2014, voters renewed Measure A, a \$251 per parcel tax. This Parcel Tax renewal began July 1, 2015, continues for a period of eight (8) years, and includes a Senior Citizen Exemption, Supplemental Security Income Exemption, and a Social Security Disability Insurance Exemption.



NUSD's Parcel Tax provides \$4.01 million per year and calls for independent oversight to monitor the expenditures of the taxes collected. All Parcel Tax funds stay in Novato schools under local control. Nothing can be taken by the State, and no funds can be used for administrative salaries. This Report provides an overview of how the funds were spent from, July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021.

The purpose of the Parcel Tax is to fund the following specific types of programs and services:



QUALITY TEACHERS CLASS SIZE & COUNSELORS	ATHLETICS	MUSIC	LIBRARIES
Attract and retain high quality teachers and school employees. Avoid significant increases in class size in all grades. Maintain lower secondary counselor ratios.	Maintain athletics programs, including funding all athletic coaches, equipment safety refurbishment, and officials fees.	Maintain music and performing arts programs for 1st through 12th grades, providing a well-rounded education for Novato students.	Provide library support, including all site library techs, software, and library programs in the district.

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Ed.D.**
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*Asst Superintendent,
Business and
Operations*

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*Executive Assistant to
Asst Superintendent,
Business and
Operations*

Questions?

Email us at:

ParcelTax@nUSD.org

Find us on the web at
[www.nUSD.org/
parcel-tax-
oversight-
committee](http://www.nUSD.org/parcel-tax-oversight-committee)

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2020 - 2021 Annual Report



Letter from the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee:

At the end of the 2020-2021 school year, the NUSD Parcel Tax Oversight Committee had all but two members term out. The annual report is generated the following year once audited actuals are made available by the District and the committee has had a chance to review and approve. The District was unable to find members to join this committee during the 2021-2022 school year, resulting in the annual report not being generated.

New members were approved by the Board on September 20, 2022. The committee met on October 3, 2022 for an initial informational meeting. The committee met again on December 5, 2022 to review the detailed expenditure report for 2020-2021 as well as approve the 2020-2021 annual report.

It is the duty of the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee to ensure that the proceeds from the parcel tax are spent as intended. The committee is pleased to report that NUSD is allocating funds in alignment with the ballot language to directly benefit the children of NUSD.

During the pandemic, your tax dollars directly benefited NUSD students in the following areas:

- NUSD teachers were fully paid throughout the school year
- Class sizes remained the same even while using Zoom
- Secondary counseling services including registration continued via Zoom
- Music/performing arts programs continued through Zoom and outdoors
- Library support continued through curbside book pick-up, custom book delivery to classrooms, and small group library visits
- Athletics programs resumed in March 2021 and Coach salaries remained intact for the school year

The Parcel Tax Oversight Committee meetings are conducted under The Brown Act. All meetings are open to the public and we welcome observers. Past and future meeting information is available at www.nUSD.org/parcel-tax-oversight-committee.

Thank you for supporting the children of Novato.

Sincerely,

2022-2023 NUSD Parcel Tax Oversight Committee

Mary Louise Brannigan, Barbara Granicher, Alan Harris, Scott Keen, Katey McAuley, Tina McMillan, Barbara Roddie, Tenesa Vuilleminot

**Library Highlight
In COVID Times**

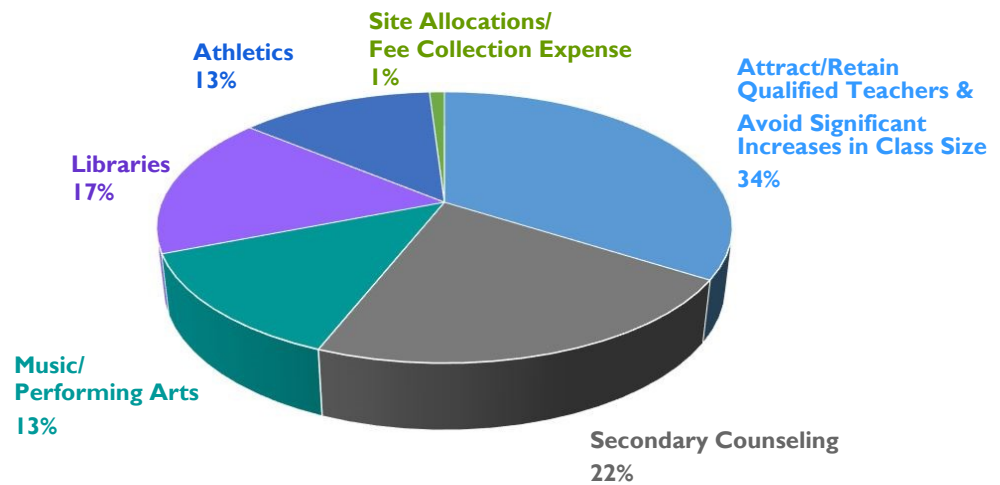
The parcel tax provides the vast majority of the District funding for library support. COVID times proved to be difficult even for the NUSD libraries. The NUSD Library staff managed to keep the libraries going in 2020-2021 in various innovative ways.

Library staff read books to the younger students over Zoom and held lunch-time Book Club Zooms. Some library staff created a Google Form that upper elementary students were able to utilize for ordering and pick-up in front of school. To get books home to the younger elementary grades a Book Menu was created and sent home in homework packets, the following week the requested book would come home for the student to enjoy.

Students were able to enjoy library books during COVID due to the hard work of the NUSD library staff. The logistics were challenging but staff pushed through using creativity and innovation.

An Accounting of Your Parcel Tax Dollars

- ⇒ The current parcel tax is \$251, and has not increased since 2009
- ⇒ The number of paid parcels has decreased from 16,549 in 2019-20 to 15,979 in 2020-21
- ⇒ In 2020-21, your parcel tax dollars funded 43.5 full-time employees and 88 Athletic coaching positions
 - **2020-21 Parcel Tax Revenues = \$4,010,623**
 - **2020-21 Parcel Tax Expenditures = \$4,010,624**



Parcel Tax: Use of Funds

Attracting/Retaining Qualified and Experienced Teachers & Avoiding Significant Increases in Class Size	\$1,372,014	34%
Secondary Counseling	\$873,804	22%
Music/Performing Arts	\$503,455	13%
Libraries	\$670,615	17%
Athletics	\$536,824	13%
Site Allocations/ Fee Collection Expense	\$23,756	
	\$30,156	1%
	\$4,010,624	100%

ATHLETICS SPOTLIGHT

“...Without the help of the parcel tax we would not be able to provide the required needs for each sport as it helps cover the costs for the coaches and Athletic Director positions, replacing worn out equipment, recertifying required safety equipment, and everyday upkeep of the fields that must be maintained. All of these components are crucial for the wellbeing and safety of our student-athletes.”

-Michele Smith (Athletic Director at NHS)



Novato Unified School District
1015 Seventh Street
Novato, CA 94945

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NUSD Parcel Tax Oversight Committee 2020-2021 Annual Report

What do you remember about the school library during COVID?



“I was happy when the school library opened and I got new books because I was bored of my books at home.”

-Conrad L. (NUSD Student)



“I liked when Mrs. Roddie read to us on Zoom. All the Zoom stressed me out but when she would read to us it was relaxing. I really liked that during COVID and it was helpful.”

-Bradley A. (NUSD Student)



“I really liked when our librarian would read to my class on Zoom and when I got to pickup books I asked for from the library I was excited because my books were getting boring.”

-Jianna H. (NUSD Student)