



PARCEL TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

1015 Seventh Street, Novato CA 94945 • 415.897.4201

ANNUAL REPORT

**July 1, 2021
to
June 30, 2022**

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

2023-2024 Parcel Tax Oversight Committee Members

- Mary Louise Brannigan
Barbara Granicher
Alan Harris
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 \$4.04 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, 2021 - June 30, 2022.

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



**QUALITY TEACHERS
CLASS SIZE &
COUNSELORS**

Attract and retain high quality teachers and school employees. Avoid significant increases in class size in all grades. Maintain lower secondary counselor ratios.

ATHLETICS

Maintain athletics programs, including funding all athletic coaches, equipment safety refurbishment, and officials fees.

MUSIC & ARTS

Maintain music and performing arts programs for 1st through 12th grades, providing a well-rounded education for Novato students.

LIBRARIES

Provide library support, including all site library techs, software, and library programs in the district.

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Vice-President

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NUSD STAFF PARCEL TAX OVERSIGHT

Dr. Tracy Smith
Superintendent

Joshua Braff
Chief Financial Officer

Ashley Albertson
*Executive Assistant to
Chief Financial Officer*

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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2021 - 2022 Annual Report



Letter from the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee:

Thank you for your continued support through the parcel tax measure originally passed in 1992, and renewed in 1997, 2005, 2009, 2014 and most recently 2023. Your tax dollars directly benefit our students in the following areas:

- Attracting and retaining qualified teachers and staff
- Avoiding significant increases in class size
- Secondary counseling services
- Music and performing arts programs
- Library support
- Athletics programs

It is the duty of the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee to ensure that the proceeds from the parcel tax are spent as intended. We are pleased to report that NUSD is allocating funds in alignment with the ballot language to directly benefit our children. The NUSD parcel tax committee, currently seven members, oversees the \$4.04 million annual budget and provides an annual report to the NUSD Board of Trustees.

The annual report is created once unaudited 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 being delayed. The committee is dedicated to getting the annual reports up to date and will be bringing the 2022-2023 Annual Report to the Board of Trustees in Spring 2024.

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,

2023-2024 NUSD Parcel Tax Oversight Committee

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

Music & Arts Programs

With the support of the Novato Community, NUSD's music and art programs have received ongoing financial support from the Novato Parcel Tax and School Fuel, Novato's Education Foundation.

The NUSD music program begins in elementary school providing instruction to first through fifth grade students.

Students begin learning musical notes and rhythms in first grade, and are introduced to musical instruments in fourth and fifth grade.

Students have the opportunity to continue with a concentrated formal program of music instruction beginning in sixth grade and continuing through grade twelve.

Novato High School offers Marin School of the Arts (MSA), a specialized program for students who are passionate about the arts. The MSA provides traditional, strong academics combined with college-level arts training.

San Marin High School offers San Marin Arts and Technical Arts (smARTt).

This is an integrated group of approved classes which include, Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Writing Arts, and Technical Arts.

Note:

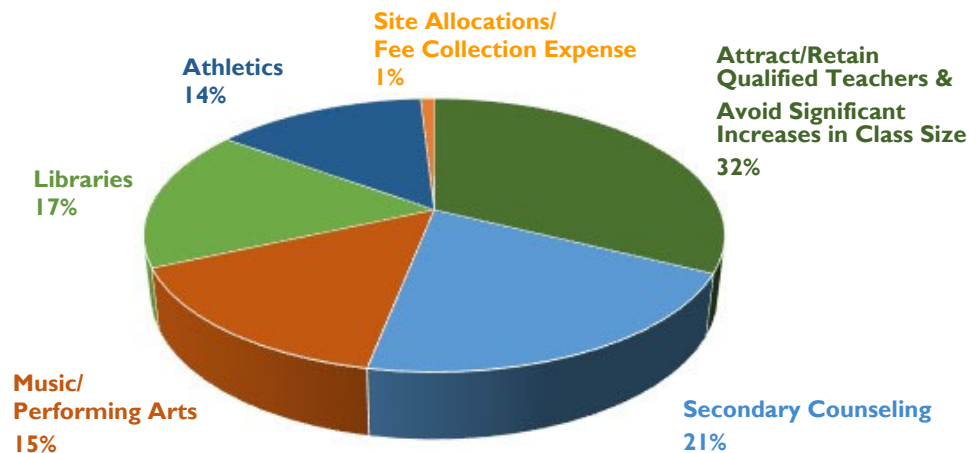
Proposition 28—Arts and Music in Schools Funding was approved by California voters in November 2022. These funds were not provided to NUSD until the 2023-2024 school year.

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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 increased from 15,979 in 2020-21 to 16,221 in 2021-22
- ⇒ In 2021-22, your parcel tax dollars funded 44.3 full-time employees and 88 Athletic coaching positions

- **2021-22 Parcel Tax Revenues = \$4,046,690**
- **2021-22 Parcel Tax Expenditures = \$4,173,844**



Parcel Tax: Use of Funds

Attracting/Retaining Qualified and Experienced Teachers & Avoiding Significant Increases in Class Size	\$1,349,569	32%
Secondary Counseling	\$865,685	21%
Music/Performing Arts	\$635,330	15%
Libraries	\$699,745	17%
Athletics	\$585,760	14%
Site Allocations/ Fee Collection Expense	\$3,050	1%
	\$34,705	1%
	\$4,173,844	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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Secondary Counseling Highlights:

- ✨ The Parcel Tax pays for seven full-time counselors for the District.
- ✨ NUSD Secondary Counselors strive to support students by providing skills in appropriate decision making, successful social interaction, and evaluating options for future learning.
- ✨ NUSD Secondary Counselors are aligned with the American School Counselor Association's (ASCA) National Model of supporting all students' academic, career, and social/emotional development.
- ✨ NUSD Secondary Counselors are available to student and parents via drop-in, appointment and email. Students may meet with their counselors on a drop-in basis before school, during break/lunch, and after school, ensuring student have easy access and support.

