

Prop G - The Living Wage for Educators Act

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. How have San Francisco's rising rents and housing prices affected our teachers?
2. How does the cost of living for teachers affect our schools and our students?
3. How can increasing teachers' salaries help students?
4. What would Prop G do?
5. Who will provide oversight of Prop G funds?

1. How have San Francisco's rising rents and housing prices affected our teachers?

An annual survey conducted by Stanford University and SFUSD recently revealed that 64% of teachers spend more than 30% of their income towards rent. Of those teachers, 14.7% spend more than 50% of their income towards rent. Skyrocketing rents and the cost of housing have made it difficult for San Francisco educators to make ends meet.

2. How does the cost of living for teachers affect our schools and our students?

When teachers leave San Francisco, it leads to high turnover in our classrooms. Over the last few years, turnover has been approximately 12%. This means that the SFUSD has had to hire an average of 400 new teachers every year. Teacher turnover can have a detrimental impact on SFUSD schools, particularly those serving students who have the greatest need for stability and consistency. Compounding the problem is a nationwide and statewide teacher shortage. In addition, teachers with science, math and special education credentials are particularly difficult to recruit and retain.

3. How can increasing teachers' salaries help students?

Stanford Graduate School of Education did an evaluation of the 2008 Quality Teacher and Education Act (QTEA) parcel tax initiative which focused on the challenges of teacher compensation. They found that increases in teacher salary offers led to improvements in the size and average qualifications of the applicants, which led to an increase in the quality of newly hired teachers.



4. What would Prop G do?

Prop G would generate \$50 million annually through a \$298 parcel tax that will adjust with inflation each year. The large majority of funds would be used to further raise teacher salaries; specifically, an across the board 7% raise for every teacher in the SFUSD. San Francisco Charter Schools will also receive funds directly from Prop G.

In addition to teacher salary increases, proceeds from Prop G will be used to:

- Raise the salaries of other critical educators, especially para-educators.
- Support recruitment and induction of teachers.
- Support professional development for all staff.
- Provide innovative programs at schools with the greatest challenges.

5. Who will provide oversight of Prop G funds?

If passed, SFUSD would create an independent Oversight Committee to ensure all funds will be spent appropriately. The Oversight Committee will submit annual reports to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors.

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