

Peralta Community College Board Resolution on the “Millionaires’ Tax to Restore Funding for Education and Essential Services Act of 2012”

Whereas approximately seventy per cent of the funding for classrooms in the Peralta Community College District originates with the state of California, and

Whereas over twenty billion dollars has been slashed from the statewide public education budget in the past three budget years, and more cuts are scheduled to come, and

Whereas the Peralta Community College District has been forced to implement severe program cuts due to the state budget deficit, and

Whereas the impact includes reduced course offerings for our students, increased class sizes, and reduced student services, resulting in a loss of access for our students to the education they need and deserve, and

Whereas the state has sought to fill the gap in funding by increasing student fees, placing a burden on many families and causing many students to drop out of school,

Whereas many employees of the District have already lost their jobs, with adverse impacts on their lives, and on the local economy, and

Whereas this is not inevitable, but a matter of political choices made by our Legislature to preserve inadequate tax rates for the richest residents of the state while balancing the state budget on the backs of our students and school staff, and

Whereas the state of California is one of but a handful of states that require a two thirds legislative supermajority to pass new taxes, and each year a small minority of legislators, opposed to tax increases on ideological grounds, blocks the will of the majority and prevents a balanced approach, including increased revenues, to solving the budget crisis, and they have done so again this year, inflicting great harm on our ability to carry out our educational mission, and

Whereas the “Millionaires’ Tax to Restore Funding for Education and Essential Services Act of 2012” will raise \$6 billion in new revenues for the state of California by asking people who make \$1 million per year to pay their fair share of taxes to support education and services,

Therefore be it resolved that the Board of the Peralta Community College District will work with all interested parties in the community to advocate on behalf of the “Millionaires’ Tax to Restore Funding for Education and Essential Services Act of 2012,” to help alleviate state budgetary problems that affect the delivery of quality education in our District.