

2017 Student Election - VTA Eco Pass Ballot Proposition

Should the FHDA Board of Trustees require that every enrolled De Anza College student be assessed a mandatory fee of up to \$7.75 per quarter with the fee being prorated for every part-time student for a period of time to be determined by the Governing Board of the District? Currently the FHDA Board of Trustees requires that every enrolled De Anza College student be assessed a mandatory fee of up to \$5.00 per quarter with the fee being prorated for every part-time student, however, the VTA is increasing the annual fee for the Eco Pass necessitating an increase in the quarterly fee to students. If the new fee is not approved there will no longer be a VTA Eco Pass program at De Anza College. Also note that the VTA is renaming the Eco Pass to the SmartPass effective January 1, 2018.

What is it?

A pass that will allow all enrolled De Anza College students unlimited ride service for VTA bus and light rail within Santa Clara County (excludes Express Service).

Who does it affect?

All enrolled De Anza College students for both the fee and the provided service, regardless if the student uses the service or not.

Financial Impact:

Every enrolled De Anza College student will be assessed the mandatory fees described above regardless if they use the service or not if so approved by the FHDA Board of Trustees.

Can students get a refund of this fee?

No, not even if the student drops units, except as provided by the FHDA Board of Trustees.

Are students on BOG required to pay?

Yes, except as provided by the FHDA Board of Trustees.

Are students on financial assistance provided by the State or Federal government required to pay this fee?

Yes, except as provided the FHDA Board of Trustees.

Pro Arguments:

- Provides students the opportunity for affordable transportation within the VTA bus and light rail network
- Could relieve automobile traffic and parking congestion on campus
- Regular VTA annual bus pass costs \$770 (\$880 in 2018 and \$990 starting 2019) versus the VTA Eco Pass that costs up to \$31 per student annually
- Handicap and bicycle accessible
- Promotes alternative transportation which can reduce carbon footprint

Con Arguments:

- Students that do not use the VTA bus/light rail still have to pay
- Loss of revenue from parking permit sales will decrease college funding for parking lot and structure maintenance
- If students do not utilize VTA Eco Pass, VTA may be overpaid for services
- Inconsistent accessibility to VTA bus/light rail stations
- Could decrease carpool

Choices for this Measure:

1. Yes, the Board of Trustees of the College District should take action to charge a quarterly mandatory fee of up to \$7.75 to all full-time De Anza College students and a quarterly mandatory prorated amount to all De Anza College part-time students to continue to provide a VTA Eco Pass to all students. VOTING YES WILL **RETAIN** THE ECO PASS PROGRAM FOR ALL STUDENTS.

2. No, the FHDA Board of Trustees should not take action to charge a quarterly mandatory fee of up to \$7.75 to all De Anza College full time students and a quarterly mandatory prorated amount to all De Anza College part-time students to continue to provide a VTA Eco Pass to all students. VOTING NO WILL **ELIMINATE** THE ECO PASS FOR ALL STUDENTS EFFECTIVE WINTER 2018.