By Amy Sylvestri

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At the last minute – and by a very narrow margin – it appears Measure L has passed.

Measure L is a $2.4 million annual parcel tax for the school district's general fund which will be assessed at a rate of $39 per single family home, with exemptions for senior citizens. It is the first parcel tax to have been successfully passed by the schools, though two bond measures totaling over $150 million have passed in recent years.

Nearly two weeks after election night, Measure L has met the two-thirds majority it needs to pass – current results show it has 66.75 percent of the vote (14,556 votes).

Last week, the measure appeared defeated, with 65.93 percent of the vote (13,392 votes) but additional ballots were still being verified and counted.

The votes that came in last week were provisional and mail-in ballots. A ballot may become provisional for a variety of reasons, said Dave Macdonald, the Alameda County Registrar of Voters.

Provisional ballots happen if a someone voted at the wrong precinct, their name wasn't on the list at their polling place, or if a person had a friend drop off a mail-in ballot at a polling place without an authorizing signature.

County-wide, there were over 42,000 provisional ballots that needed to be verified, Macdonald said.

Macdonald believes the election results will be certified by the beginning of next week at the latest.

In a close race like Measure L, it is not unusual for the provisional and mail-in ballots to make the difference in the outcome, Macdonald said. He added that he doesn't believe the results will change again before certification.

"Absolutely, the provisional ballots can make a difference," said Macdonald. "Every vote counts and you can see that."