WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT CLASSROOM MODERNIZATION AND SAFETY UPDATE MEASURE

BALLOT TEXT

To repair, upgrade neighborhood schools, shall West Contra Costa Unified School District modernize core classrooms; provide safe, secure school environments, including updated technology and air conditioning, that improve academic achievement and provide relevant career pathways for all students, by issuing \$575 million of bonds, at legal rates, averaging \$34.48 million annually while bonds are outstanding, at 6¢ per \$100 assessed value, with strict citizens' oversight, annual audits and all money for local schools?

THE FULL BALLOT LANGUAGE IS LOCATED AFTER THE ARGUMENTS FOR/AGAINST AND REBUTTALS BELOW.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE R

Measure R represents an historic opportunity for us to provide locally-controlled funding that, by law, must be spent only on West Contra Costa schools. Vote YES on Measure R to support our local students and protect quality education and repair, update, and modernize West Contra Costa Unified schools to meet today's academic and safety standards and provide equitable school facilities for all of our students.

Vote YES on Measure R if we want our children to succeed in college and careers they must have upgraded facilities that support science, math, engineering and technology instruction.

However, many West Contra Costa Unified schools were built more than 50 years ago and need upgrades and critical repairs to meet today's academic and safety standards. Our students deserve the same educational opportunities as other students in the region. Measure R will upgrade our schools, provide AC/ HVAC to most facilities and provide classroom technology to keep pace with newer schools in other top-performing districts.

Vote YES on Measure R to:

- Improve student safety and campus security, emergency communications and fire safety systems

- Repair and upgrade aging classrooms and school facilities including deteriorating roofs, plumbing, bathrooms and electrical systems

- Provide the classrooms, labs and technology needed to support high-quality instruction in math, science, engineering and technology

- Ensure that West Contra Costa Unified can access State matching facility funds and keep our taxpayer dollars within the District

- Remove hazardous materials like asbestos and lead paint from older school sites



2) Failing to control spending.

If the District had managed its finances better, it would have had more than enough money to -rebuild-every District school.

As its top priority, the District must first solve its financial crisis.

Until the District shows that it can execute its fiduciary responsibility with taxpayer money and until it has a specific construction plan, including safeguards, Vote NO on Measure R.

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE R

We support public schools and we expect the District to deliver excellent value proposed school construction. Measure R does not include adequate safeguards for prudent stew-ardship of public funds.

The District currently has a \$48 million budget deficit, showing that it cannot keep its own financial house in order. District management recently proposed rollbacks to some important transparency measures.

Does this sound like a District ready to manage a very complex construction program?

It's time we sent a clear message. Vote NO until the District demonstrates a commitment to delivering a specific cost-effective building program to voters.

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE R Measure R will continue to support all communities within West Contra Costa addressing equity of facilities for all of our students.

All monies spent through Measure R will be subject to annual financial audits and oversight by an independent Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee.

Without the passage of Measure R, the District will not be able to begin address more than \$1 billion in facility needs, and will not be able to access State matching Bond funds meaning that tax dollars from West Contra Costa residents would go to other communities.

The cost of construction continues to escalate in California and the region, and Measure R will allow the District to continue to support building high quality schools before costs increase even more! Yes on R is a smart investment in our schools.

Measure R will allow the District to provide schools that attract students and families to the area and ensure that our students have access to 21st Century Educational facilities. Yes on Measure R will ensure that West Contra Costa is a destination district for education in the region with modern, safe, secure, and innovative schools.

Yes on Measure R will provide equity of facilities, create local jobs, opportunity for student and parent choice, safe and inviting schools, and transparent accounting of all bond funds.

Yes on Measure R ensures our students will have the facilities they deserve and options in every neighborhood. Join parents, teachers, students, families, and local leaders and vote Yes on Measure R.



FULL BALLOT LANGUAGE

WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED **SCHOOL** DISTRICT MODERNIZATION SAFETY UPDATE CLASSROOM AND MEASURE. To repair, upgrade neighborhood schools, shall West Contra Costa Unified School District modernize core classrooms; provide safe, secure school environments, including updated technology and air conditioning, that improve academic achievement and provide relevant career pathways for all students, by issuing \$575 million of bonds, at legal rates, averaging \$34.48 million annually while bonds are outstanding, at 6¢ per \$100 assessed value, with strict citizens' oversight, annual audits and all money for local schools?

PROJECT LIST

The Board of Education of the West Contra Costa Unified School District certifies that it has evaluated the District's urgent and critical school needs, including school and student safety issues, enrollment trends, class size reduction, student capacity, energy efficiency and information technology, seismic safety requirements, and aging, outdated or deteriorating school buildings in developing

- c. No funds will be used for administrators' salaries or pensions.
- d. All funds will be subject to local control and provide improvements at all of our schools.
- e. An independent citizens' oversight committee will be appointed to ensure that all funds are spent only as authorized.
- viii) Develop a method of using proceeds of the Bonds in part to provide for a tax rate stabilization fund with the County, to insure that target tax rates for property owners within the District on this and prior Bond Measures supporting the Bond Construction Program of the District can be stabilized.

Priority School Projects

Prior to developing the Project List set forth below, the District has conducted a study, incorporated into the District's Long Range Facilities Master Plan (https://www.wccusd.net/Page/6945), to determine the most compelling capital needs among the District's schools. While any Project included on this Project List may be undertaken at any of the District's schools or sites, the District has identified 21 Priority Schools, taking factors such as facility age, years since the last improvements were made, ADA needs, student demographics, capacity and existing technology into account. The Priority Schools include the following:

Early Intervention and Elementary Schools: Cameron School, Chavez Elementary School, Collins Elementary School, Fairmont Elementary School, Grant Elementary School, Highland Elementary School, Lake Elementary School, Ohlone Elementary School, Olinda Elementary School, Riverside Elementary School, Serra/West County Mandarin School, Shannon Elementary School, Stege Elementary School, Valley View Elementary School, and Wilson Elementary School.

Middle Schools, High Schools and Adult Schools: Crespi Middle School, Hercules Middle School, Hercules High School, Kennedy High School, Richmond High School, and Alvarado Adult School.

The Board of Education intends to apply proceeds of the bonds to make improvements included on the below Project List at these Priority Schools and other schools of the District, taking into account the timing of bond issues, school



safety upgrades at all schools and the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, furnishing and equipping of school facilities at any current or future site in the event of an unforessen or catastrophic event.

The Project List includes the following types of projects:



to deter vandalism, schools and school sites will benefit from a variety of health and safety projects, such as:

Student Safety

- Install new security systems, such as security (surveillance) cameras, outdoor lighting, fencing, gates and classroom door locks.
- Remove or abate asbestos, lead paint, mold and other hazardous materials.
- Upgrade emergency communication systems.
- Upgrade fire alarm systems to automatic systems, repair and replace fire safety equipment, add sprinklers and fire safety doors.
- Upgrades to schools in order to meet handicap accessibility requirements.
- Replace/ upgrade existing signage, bells and clocks.
- Upgrade and replace playground equipment and athletic fields to meet current safety standards.

Energy Efficiency—Returning Savings to the Classrooms.

• Install energy-efficient systems, including windows, solar panels, energyefficient heating, ventilation55.6T Q q 0.-1 8.4 5924 8.4 5930-2 (I) 4-193 (s) -1 (ol) -2 (a)

- Upgrade media and audio/visual equipment.
- Expand bandwidth to allow students greater access to the Internet.
- Construct new facilities and install up-to-date learning technology and equipment to be used in job programs.

Listed building, repair and rehabilitation projects and upgrades may be completed

assume the receipt of matching state funds, which could be subject to appropriation by the Legislature or approval of a statewide bond measure. In the absence of State matching funds, which the District will aggressively pursue to reduce the District's share of the costs of the projects, the District may not be able to complete all of the projects listed above. The budget for each project is an estimate and may be affected by factors beyond the District's control.

The final cost of each project will be determined as plans are finalized, construction bids are awarded and projects are completed. Based on the final costs of each project, certain projects described above may be delayed or may not be completed. Demolition of existing facilities and reconstruction of facilities scheduled for repair and upgrade may occur, if the Board determines that such an approach would be more cost-



The District will conduct an annual, independent performance audit to ensure that the funds have been expended only on projects included in the