

**November 5, 2002
General Election**

Total Yes Votes: 3,681 68.57%
Total No Votes: 1,687 31.43%

PORTERVILLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
(required to pass: 55% of votes cast)

BOND MEASURE A

In order to improve the quality of education, shall the Porterville Unified School Facilities Improvement District be authorized to construct middle and elementary schools to relieve student overcrowding, modernize and renovate existing elementary schools, upgrade electrical systems to provide access to modern technology, make health and safety improvements, and qualify the District to receive \$14,200,000 in State matching funds by issuing \$23,000,000 in bonds at interest rates within legal limits, subject to a citizens' oversight committee and independent audits?

FULL TEXT OF MEASURE A

This proposition may be known and referred to as the Porterville Unified School Facilities Improvement District Bond of 2002.

BOND AUTHORIZATION

By approval of this proposition by at least 55 percent of the registered voters voting on the proposition, the District shall be authorized to issue and sell bonds of up to \$23 million in aggregated principal at interest rates below the legal limit, to provide finance for the specific school facilities projects listed in the Bond Project List attached hereto as Exhibit A-1, subject to all the accountability requirements specified below.

BOND PROJECT LIST

The Bond Project List attached to this resolution as Exhibit A-1 shall be considered a part of the ballot proposition and shall be reproduced in any official document required to contain the full statement of the bond proposition.

Approval of this Bond Measure (the "Measure") does not guarantee that the proposed project or projects in the District that are the subject of bonds under the Measure will be funded beyond the local revenues generated by the Measure. If state matching funds become available, they will be used for and applied to the Bond Project List as per Exhibit A-1. The District's proposal for the project or projects does not assume the receipt of matching state funds, which could be subject to appropriation by the Legislature or approval of a statewide bond measure. The proposed projects include all related and incidental costs, including costs of design, engineering, architect and other professional services, site preparation, utilities, landscaping, incidental costs, and construction management (including construction management by District personnel).

ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS

The provisions in this section are specifically included in this proposition in order that the voters and taxpayers in the District may be assured that their money will be spent wisely to address specific facilities needs of the District all in compliance with the requirements of Article XIII A, Section 1(b)(3), of the State Constitution and the Strict Accountability in Local School Construction Bonds Act of 2000 (codified at Education Code Sections 15264 and following.)

Evaluation of Needs. The Board, after a year long process involving staff members, parents, students, and community members at each school site throughout district, has prepared an updated facilities plan in order to evaluate and address all of the facilities needs of the District and determine which projects to finance from a local bond at this time. The Board hereby certifies that it has evaluated safety, class size reduction enrollment growth, and information technology needs in developing the Bond Project List contained in Exhibit A-1.

Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee. The Board shall establish an Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee pursuant to Education Code Section 15278 and following to ensure bond proceeds are expended only on the school facilities projects listed in Exhibit A-1. The committee shall be established within 60 days of the date when the results of the election appear in the minutes of the Board.

Performance Audits. The Board shall conduct an annual, independent performance audit to ensure that the bond proceeds have been expended only on the school facilities projects listed in Exhibit A-1.

Financial Audits. The Board shall conduct an annual, independent financial audit of the bond proceeds until all of those proceeds have been spent for the school facilities projects listed in Exhibit A-1.

Special Bond Proceeds Account: Annual Report to Board. Upon approval of this proposition and the sale of any bonds approved, the Board shall take actions necessary to establish an account in which proceeds of the sale of bonds will be deposited. As long as any proceeds of the bonds remain unexpended, the Superintendent of the District shall cause a report to be filed with the Board no later than January 1 of each year, commencing January 1, 2004, stating (1) the amount of bond proceeds received and expended in that year, and (2) the status of any project funded or to be funded from bond proceeds. The report may relate to the calendar year, fiscal year, or other appropriate annual period as the Superintendent shall determine and may be incorporated in the annual budget, audit, or another appropriate routine report to the Board.

FURTHER SPECIFICATIONS

No Administrator Salaries. Proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized by this proposition shall be used only for the construction, reconstruction and/or rehabilitation of school facilities, including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities or acquisition or lease of real property for school facilities, and not for any other purpose, including teacher and administrator salaries and other school-operation expenses.

The proceeds of the bonds will be deposited into a Building Fund to be held by the Tulare County Treasurer, as required by the California Education Code.

EXHIBIT A-1 BOND PROJECT LIST

- Construction of new middle school to reduce significant student overcrowding.
- Construction of elementary schools to reduce significant student overcrowding and maintain small class size.
- Modernize and renovate Pioneer Middle School and West Putnam, Westfield, John J. Doyle, Olive Street, Vandalia and Roche Avenue Elementary Schools and make health and safety improvements throughout the Porterville Unified School Facilities Improvement District.

- Upgrade technological/electrical systems to provide better access to classroom computers and modern technology.
- Construct a central kitchen to provide nutritious meals and to reduce the cost of meal preparation for the District.
- Expand cafeteria/multi-purpose rooms to accommodate student needs.
- Furnish and equip schools to the extent permitted by law.

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL BOND MEASURE A

If at least 55 percent of the qualified electors voting on the measure vote in favor, the Porterville Unified School Facilities Improvement District (the "District") will be authorized to issue and sell bonds up to the amount of \$23,000,000 (\$23 million) to provide financing for the specific school facilities projects listed in the Bond Project List.

Proceeds from the sale of bonds shall be used only for the purposes set forth in the Bond Project List and not for any other purpose, including teacher and administrator salaries, nor other school operating expenses.

Approval of this bond measure does not guarantee that State matching funds in the amount of \$14.20 million will be received. Funding of all (rather than a portion of) the school facility projects listed on the Bond Project List assumes the receipt of matching State funds.

If the measure passes, the District Board is required by law to: conduct an annual, independent performance audit; conduct an annual, independent financial audit; appoint members to an independent Citizen's Oversight Committee; apply the bond proceeds only to the specific purposes stated in the ballot measure; cause creation of accounts into which bond proceeds shall be deposited; and cause the preparation of an annual report.

The bonds will bear interest at the lowest rate possible but at a rate not exceeding the legal limit. The interest rate will be established at the time of the sale of the bonds and will depend on market rates at that time. Principal and interest on the bonds will be payable from the proceeds of tax levies made on

the taxable property in the District. The exact effect on tax rates cannot be determined until after the bonds are sold.

KATHLEEN BALES-LANGE
Tulare County Counsel

By: Lawrence A. Perkes
Deputy County Counsel

TAX RATE STATEMENT BOND MEASURE A

An election will be held in the Porterville Unified School District on November 5, 2002 to authorize the sale of up to \$23,000,000 in general obligation bonds of the District to finance the acquisition and improvement of real property for school purposes. If such bonds are authorized and sold, the principal thereof and interest thereon will be payable from the proceeds of tax levies made upon the taxable property in the District. The following information is provided in compliance with sections 9400-9404 of the Election Code of the State of California.

1. The best estimate of the tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund the bond issue during the first fiscal year after the first sale of bonds based on a projection of future assessed valuations is \$0.05771 per \$100 of assessed valuation in Fiscal Year 2003-2004.
2. The best estimate of the tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund the bond issue during the first fiscal year after the last sale of bonds if the bonds are sold in series, and an estimate of the fiscal year in which that rate will apply, based on a projection of future assessed valuations is \$0.05771 per \$100 of assessed valuation in Fiscal Year 2012-13.
3. The best estimate of the highest tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund the bond issue and an estimate of the fiscal year in which that rate will apply, based on a projection of future assessed valuations, is again \$0.05771 per \$100 of assessed valuation, which is projected to be the same in every fiscal year.

Attention of all voters is directed to the fact that the foregoing is based upon projections and estimates only, which are not binding upon the District. The actual tax rates and years in which they will apply may vary from those presently estimated, due to variations from these estimates in the timing of bond sales, the amount of bonds sold at any given sale, and the actual assessed valuation over the term of the repayment of the bonds. The actual time of sales of said bonds and the amount sold at any given time will be governed by the needs of the District and other factors (including market rate variations in the interest rate on general obligation bonds). Actual future assessed valuation will depend upon the amount and value of taxable property within the District as determined in the assessment and equalization process.

Dated July 11, 2002

s/ John Snavely, Ed.D
Superintendent
Porterville Unified School District

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE A

Your YES vote on Measure A will have a lasting, positive impact on our children's schools and on our community.

Children in Porterville have received a good education for over 140 years. But as our community has aged and grown, so have our schools. Originally designed to accommodate 4,375 students, our current enrollment is over 7,000. We need to build new schools to reduce overcrowding.

Also, the average age of the schools in the District is over 40 years. We need to repair and renovate outdated classrooms and facilities. Modernized schools and reduced student overcrowding contribute to well-educated students.

MEASURE A WILL IMPROVE OUR SCHOOLS BY:

- Making health and safety improvements,
- Constructing new schools (middle and elementary) to reduce significant student overcrowding,
- Modernizing classroom electrical and data wiring systems to accommodate computers and modern technology, and

- Completing the modernization of six District elementary schools.

As taxpayers, we all agree in the importance of our children's education and the value of quality schools. Quality schools spur business development, attract professionals to the community, and improve local property values.

MEASURE A MAKES FINANCIAL SENSE BY:

- Making the District eligible for approximately \$14.2 million in State-matching funds,
- Making repairs now instead of later when they will only cost more, and
- Being used only to improve our children's schools – not to pay teacher or administrator salaries.

BY LAW, TAXPAYER SAFEGUARDS ARE IN PLACE. MEASURE A WILL:

- Establish a citizens' oversight committee to protect taxpayer funds, and
- Require annual independent audits on all Measure A expenditures.

Measure A will improve our schools, allow for the continued quality education of our children, and add to the value of our homes and community.

Invest in our community's future. **VOTE YES ON MEASURE A!**

s/ Richard Morris, Governing Board President

s/ Joe Z. Ruiz, Jr., Porterville Education Foundation President

s/ John S. Corkins, Businessman

s/ Ted Ensslin, Former Mayor-City of Porterville

s/ Barbara J. Sue, Businesswoman

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST THIS MEASURE WAS SUBMITTED