

**November 5, 2002
General Election**

Total Yes Votes: 2,124 51.91%
Total No Votes: 1,968 48.09%

STATE CENTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
(required to pass: 55% of votes cast)

Bond Measure E

To prepare students at Fresno City/Reedley College (Clovis, Madera, Oakhurst Centers) for transfer to four-year colleges and careers, including public safety, firefighting, healthcare technology and business, by upgrading equipment, lighting, wiring, fire safety; replacing portables; repairing plumbing, heating/ventilation; repairing/constructing/equipping classrooms, libraries, computer labs, buildings, parking, acquiring land, shall State Center Community College District issue \$161,000,000 of bonds at legal rates, with a Citizens Oversight Committee, annual financial audits and no money for administrator salaries?

FULL TEXT OF MEASURE E

The following is the full proposition presented to the voters by the State Center Community College District.

“To prepare students at Fresno City/Reedley College (Clovis, Madera, Oakhurst Centers) for transfer to four-year colleges and careers, including public safety, firefighting, healthcare technology and business, by upgrading equipment, lighting, wiring, fire safety; replacing portables; repairing plumbing, heating/ventilation; repairing/constructing/equipping classrooms, libraries, computer labs, buildings, parking, acquiring land, shall State Center Community College District issue \$161,000,000 of bonds at legal rates, with a Citizens Oversight Committee, annual financial audits and no money for administrator salaries?”

The Board of Trustees of the State Center Community College District has evaluated safety, class size reduction, and information technology needs in developing the scope of school facility projects to be funded, as outlined in the District’s Bond Implementation Plan, as shall be amended from time to time, on file with the Public Information Office, including the following projects:

PROJECTS

FRESNO CITY COLLEGE

Technology Upgrades	\$14,650,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computer systems for vocational training• Internet access in labs and classrooms• Instructional space & equipment• Local/wide area network	
Career and Technology Center	30,000,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modernize and add classrooms, labs, and Fire Academy training tower• Relocate Police Academy from 50-year-old “portables” to a modern, efficient building• Upgrade fire alarms, smoke detectors, sprinklers• Improve access for disabled	
Historic Old Administration Building (OAB)	25,000,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seismic upgrades for earthquake safety• New classrooms and labs for general education, vocational training• Remove asbestos• Improve access for disabled• Install emergency lighting, exit signage, exterior lighting, non-slip surfaces on interior and exterior stairs for health and safety• Health and safety repairs: sewer lines, restrooms, ventilation upgrade• Install new fire alarms, smoke detectors, sprinklers and safety equipment	
Student Technology Center	2,500,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upgrade Internet access for general education, vocational training classes in high-tech learning center• Improve access for disabled• Install fire alarms, smoke detectors, sprinklers, and safety equipment to meet current safety codes	

Parking 2,630,000

- Add spaces to minimize on-street parking and relieve traffic congestion in adjoining neighborhoods

Instructional Buildings Repairs 7,250,000

- Make health and safety repairs of student service buildings, including improved access for disabled students
- Renovate, modernize and equip physical education facilities
- Replace outdated heating, ventilation and cooling systems
- Improve electrical wiring for Internet access, install fire safety equipment, and provide access for disabled persons at the former Police Academy bungalows

Fresno City College: \$82,030,000

REEDLEY COLLEGE

New Classrooms \$3,750,000

- Increase instructional space and updated equipment
- Increase Internet access
- Install upgraded electrical wiring for fire safety

Renovate, Replace and Repair Existing Classrooms 11,080,000

- Repair and modernize 40-year-old classrooms
- Health and safety repairs for heating / air conditioning / ventilation, plumbing, electrical systems and air quality
- Replace deteriorated physical education classrooms and facilities
- Upgrade electrical systems for Internet access

Student Center Renovations and Repairs 1,790,000

- Health and safety repairs, including additional electrical service to avoid risks of overloaded circuits;
- Improve heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems for energy efficiency, air quality
- Improve access for disabled students

Replacement Facilities	8,370,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace bookstore to meet safety standards and improve access for disabled • Replace outdated housing to relieve pressure on neighboring community 	

Repair of Existing Residence Hall	2,990,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve sewer, plumbing, heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems • Upgrade electrical for Internet access & technology • Improve access for disabled • Upgrade fire safety, smoke detector and alarm systems 	

Reedley College: \$27,980,000

EDUCATIONAL CENTERS

Madera Vocational Training Labs	\$3,590,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased instructional space to accommodate demand for vocational training 	

Renovate Madera Student Center	600,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand bookstore, food services, and dining areas 	

Madera Health & Fitness Center	300,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade physical education classrooms 	

Oakhurst Classrooms	290,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add new classrooms for general education and occupational training 	

Willow / International Site (serving NE Fresno, Clovis, Fresno County)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase I: Build new classrooms, computer and digital art laboratories, lecture hall, library, distance learning, and instructional and student support space • Phase II. Build new chemistry, biology, and science classrooms, laboratories, lecture hall and instructional support space 	<p>23,680.000</p> <p>12,480,000</p>

Site Acquisition – Fourth Center

10,000,000

- Acquire land for establishment of a new educational center

Education Centers: \$50,940,000

Listed repairs, rehabilitation projects and upgrades will be completed as needed at a particular site. Each project is assumed to include its share of costs of the architectural, engineering, and similar planning costs, construction management, and a customary contingency for unforeseen design and construction costs. The allocation of bond proceeds will be affected by the District’s receipt of State matching funds and the final costs of each project. The District requires State matching funds to complete certain of the projects. 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.

“FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS. To ensure that funds are spent as promised to voters, a Citizens Oversight Committee will monitor expenditures and make regular reports to the public. The Committee will include, among others, bona fide representatives of taxpayer, business and senior citizens organizations. Performance and financial audits will be performed annually, and all Bond expenditures will be reviewed by the Committee to ensure that funds are spent as promised to voters.”

No Administrator Salaries. Proceeds from the sale of the bonds authorized by this proposition shall be used only for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of college facilities, including the furnishing and equipping of college facilities, and not for any other purpose, including faculty and administrator salaries and other operating expenses. By law, all funds can only be spent on repair and improvement projects.

**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL
MEASURE E**

Voter approval of this measure will authorize the governing board of the State Center Community College District to issue and sell bonds in the maximum amount of \$161 million dollars (\$161,000,000), bearing interest at legal rates. The bond proceeds will be used to upgrade equipment, lighting, wiring, and

fire safety; to replace portables; to repair plumbing and heating/ventilation systems; to repair, construct, and equip classrooms, libraries, computer labs, and buildings; to provide parking; and to acquire land.

s/ Phillip S. Cronin
County Counsel

TAX RATE STATEMENT MEASURE E

An election will be held in the State Center Community College District (the "District") on November 5, 2002, for the purpose of submitting to the electors of the District the question of incurring a bonded indebtedness of the District in an aggregate principal amount of \$161 million. 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 regarding tax rates is given to comply with Section 9401 of the California Elections Code. Such information is based upon the best estimates and projections presently available from official sources, upon experience within the District, and other demonstrable factors.

Based upon the foregoing and projections of the District's assessed valuation, and assuming the entire debt service will be paid through property taxation:

1. The best estimate of the tax which would be required to be levied to fund the bond issue during the first fiscal year after the sale of the first series of bonds, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is 1.313¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation for the year 2003-2004.

2. The best estimate from official sources of the tax rate which would be required to be levied to fund the bond issue during the first fiscal year after the last sale of the bonds and an estimate of the year in which that rate will apply, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is 1.497¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation for the year 2011-2012.

3. The best estimate of the highest tax rate which would be required to be levied to fund the bond issue and an estimate of the year in which that rate will apply, based on estimated assessed valuation available at the time of filing

of this statement, is 1 .497¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation for the year 2011-2012.

The average annual tax levy is projected to be \$13.86 per \$100,000 of real property valuation.

Attention to all voters is directed to the fact that the foregoing information is based upon projections and estimates only. The actual times 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. The actual interest rates at which the bonds will be sold, which in any event will not exceed the maximum permitted by law, will depend upon the bond market at the time of sales. The actual assessed values in the future years will depend upon the value of property within the District as determined in the assessment and the equalization process. Accordingly, the actual tax rates and the years in which such rates are applicable may vary from those presently estimated as above stated.

s/ Judith A. Redwine
Chancellor
State Center Community College District

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE E

VOTE YES ON THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOND TO REPAIR AND IMPROVE FRESNO CITY COLLEGE, REEDLEY COLLEGE, AND EDUCATION CENTERS IN CLOVIS, MADERA & OAKHURST.

State Center Colleges prepare students for jobs here in our Valley. Firefighters, police officers, nurses and thousands of students start their education and successful careers without leaving home. State Center trains more nurses than any college in the West. State Center Colleges provide an excellent education which prepares students for successful transfer to four-year universities.

Our aging classrooms and labs don't meet today's needs. We are the largest college system in the Valley. Old classrooms, decayed plumbing, electrical lines, aging equipment, heating, ventilation systems need repair and improvement. Passing a bond will allow us to compete for state funding.

State Center has the oldest building on a California community college campus. Award-winning faculty and staff are working hard to provide students with a

quality education, however, like an old house, our classrooms need repair and upgrading.

Our bond will:

- Expand job training
- Install / repair fire safety equipment
- Provide high-tech learning centers
- Improve security, electrical wiring, and parking
- Provide additional classrooms

Community colleges serve students close to home, with affordable classes at convenient times. That's why State Center is committed to locations throughout the region – Fresno, Reedley, Clovis, Madera, Oakhurst.

As universities become more expensive, our programs provide the education students wouldn't get otherwise. Classes are offered mornings, nights and weekends. Enrollment is up 31% since 1997.

The Bond is subject to strict financial accountability requirements. A citizens oversight committee will review audits and report to the public to ensure funds are spent as promised to voters. By law, no money can be spent on administrators' salaries.

VOTE YES FOR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY HERE IN OUR VALLEY.

s/ John Wallace, Chairman, YES on Measure E Committee

s/ Hal McKinney, Former Fresno County Sheriff

s/ Don Larson, Retired Faculty Member, Fresno City College

s/ Pilar De La Cruz, Registered Nurse

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE E

Proponents claim passing this \$166 Million Bond is needed to compete for state funding. That's just a rule written by the bureaucrats for the bureaucrats. It's a rule used to justify even higher taxes and more bond debt, beyond the \$2 Billion in new bonds the Community Colleges are already seeking!

That's right. Voters are being asked to approve \$2 Billion in Community College Bonds at statewide elections this year and in 2004. Those monies are available to the Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to repair and improve community

colleges statewide. Those bonds have been placed on the ballot by the state legislature, based on how much bonded indebtedness they think voters are willing to swallow.

Rather than be satisfied with \$2 Billion of new taxpayer monies and work to prioritize their needs to live within those means, the Community Colleges Chancellor's Office has decided it wants even more money. So, instead of wisely spending the money they have, the Community Colleges write bureaucratic rules to hold hostage the taxpayer monies they already have, to coerce local taxpayers to approve even more bonds and taxes.

Proponents say this makes us competitive for state funding. In reality, it's a two for one deal of the worst kind - two new bond debts for one project funding. It's a cynical ploy to get more taxes and lower priority projects funded.

Let's put a stop to these cynical ploys. Say no to new taxes. Say no to new government bond debt liens on our property.

s/ Jeff Reid, Taxpayer Activist

s/ Jonathan Richter, Vice Chair, Libertarian Party of Fresno County

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE E

This \$161 million bond proposal is unjustifiable. But, don't take our word for it. Take the word of California's premier independent budget analysts!!!

THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE ANALYST (LAO), SAYS COMMUNITY COLLEGES CAN'T JUSTIFY HOW EXISTING CLASSROOMS ARE USED.

Until they do, informed decisions about new classroom building can't be made.

Here's a quote from the LAO's 2002 report on higher education capital outlay:

“It is not possible to know how efficiently the community colleges.. utilize their classrooms ... because they do not track this information. This type of data is needed for the Legislature to make informed decisions about funding capital improvements...”

There's more. **THAT SAME INDEPENDENT ANALYST REPORT SAYS NEW BUILDINGS SHOULDN'T BE BUILT UNTIL COMMUNITY COLLEGES FULLY USE WHAT THEY ALREADY HAVE ... including full use of facilities during summer sessions.** The LAO wrote:

*“If full use of instructional facilities in the summer is not a basis for developing capital outlay plans, the plans may indicate a need to construct new instructional facilities to accommodate enrollment growth, when **there is actually capacity to increase enrollment in the summer and avoid the need to build new instructional facilities.**” (emphasis added)*

District operation and finance managers have revealed that this \$161 bond expenditure plan isn't based on full use of classrooms in the summer!!! So, based on the LAO Report, these bonds are funding unneeded facilities!!!

Besides, we don't need higher property taxes to fund critical community college needs. That's right. Proposition 47, on this same ballot, authorizes nearly \$1 Billion in new bond debt for community college construction projects. But, unlike this measure, Proposition 47 doesn't require higher property taxes!!!

And, the Legislature has already placed another \$1 Billion in community college bonds on the 2004 ballot!!! Isn't \$2 Billion in new community college bonds enough?

s/ Jeff Reid, Taxpayer Activist

s/ Jonathan Richter, Libertarian Party of Fresno County

s/ Mark Dallos, State Center Community College District
Board of Trustees Candidate

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE E

State Center Community College District has a tradition of educational excellence and fiscal responsibility. Our colleges provide first-rate learning environments while being watchful of taxpayers' dollars. Measure E will benefit local colleges.

UNLIKE THE LAO REPORT REFERENCED BY OPPONENTS, STATE CENTER DOES TRACK CLASSROOM UTILIZATION. Existing classrooms are used virtually around the clock, year round, seven days a week and even then our campuses are overcrowded and in need of additional classrooms.

Fresno City College, Reedley College and education centers in Clovis, Madera and Oakhurst prepare students for the workplace right here in our Valley. We train firefighters, peace officers and nurses to protect and serve our community.

In fact, Fresno City College is the largest and oldest institute of higher learning in the Valley.

Old classrooms, decayed plumbing, outdated electrical systems and equipment are challenging our ability to provide our students with the education they deserve. Additionally, enrollment has increased by 31% since 1997, resulting in overcrowded classrooms.

Measure E will provide the following to Fresno City College, Reedley College and our education centers with:

- Expanded job training
- Updated electrical systems
- Fire safety improvements
- Technology labs, learning centers
- Additional classrooms to relieve overcrowding
- Modern ventilation, heating and cooling systems

Measure E meets strict financial accountability requirements. A citizens' oversight committee will oversee annual audits and ensure bond funds are being spent properly. And by law, not one penny of Measure E funds can be spent on staff salaries or administration.

Please join us in supporting Measure E.

s/ John Wallace, Chairman, YES on Measure E Committee
s/ Don Larson, Retired Faculty Member, Fresno City College