

November 2, 2004 General Election

Total Yes Votes: 44 53.7%

Total No Votes: 38 46.3%

HANFORD HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

(required to pass: 55% of votes cast)

Measure K

Hanford High School Overcrowding Measure: To reduce overcrowding in local high schools, improve student safety and expand job training programs by constructing, acquiring and equipping a new high school, classrooms, technical and vocational training classrooms, sites, facilities, installing fire safety equipment and replacing outdated computers and technology, repairing schools, qualifying for State matching funds, shall Hanford Joint Union High School District issue \$33,500,000 of bonds, at legal rates, require annual financial audits, citizen oversight and no money for administrative salaries?

**FULL TEXT
BOND MEASURE K**

The following is the full proposition presented to the voters by the Hanford Joint Union High School District.

“Hanford High School Overcrowding Measure: To reduce overcrowding in local high schools, improve student safety and expand job training programs by constructing, acquiring and equipping a new high school, classrooms, technical and vocational training classrooms, sites, facilities, installing fire safety equipment and replacing outdated computers and technology, repairing schools, qualifying for State matching funds, shall Hanford Joint Union High School District issue \$33,500,000 of bonds, at legal rates, require annual financial audits, citizen oversight and no money for administrative salaries?”

In examining the needs of the District, the Board of Trustees of the Hanford Joint Union High School District has determined that:

- (i) The population of Hanford and the Central Valley is growing rapidly and our community needs more high school space for the increasing number of students;**
- (ii) High school is a crucial time to prepare kids for their futures and that the District must be sure that students graduate and are prepared to enter college or get good jobs;**
- (iii) Hanford High School and Hanford West High School are at their maximum capacity and to accommodate our students the District would need to either build portable classrooms at Hanford High and Hanford West High and eliminate valuable teaching and recreation space, or build a new high school; and**
- (iv) It will be less expensive to build a new high school now than in the future.**

The District held community meetings to identify community priorities, and evaluated the needs of the District in developing the scope of school facility projects to be funded, as outlined in the District's Master Plan, November 1997, as amended from time to time (the "Master Plan"), incorporated herein, and on file with the District Superintendent. In implementing the Master Plan, the District has successfully constructed a new second high school and significantly modernized Hanford High School. Certain projects remain to be completed at each of Hanford West and Hanford High Schools. Principle among them are a pool at Hanford High School and an all-weather track and a practice gym at Hanford West High School. The District intends to fund these projects from a combination of residential and commercial developer fees and capital facilities funds available to the District. While these fees are inadequate to construct new schools, they do serve as a primary means by which the District can make smaller facility improvements needed as a result of student growth.

The Board of Trustees of the Hanford Joint Union High School District has also evaluated safety, class size reduction, and information technology needs in developing the following list of bond school facility projects:

Projects

- Construct and equip a new high school to accommodate 1700 students. The new high school will be oriented toward general education as well as providing technical and vocational training and certification to prepare students for jobs.

The District has applied for State matching funds for the new high school. In the event that the District receives more money from the State for the new high school project than it anticipates or if the high school is completed under budget, causing the District to have surplus bond money, such funds will be used to enable the following projects:

- Address safety, energy, technology, and classroom needs at Hanford High School and Hanford West High School, including installing and repairing fire safety equipment such as alarms, smoke detectors, sprinklers, emergency lighting and fire safety doors;
- Upgrade electrical systems and wiring for computer technology and for enhanced internet access;
- Repair leaking roofs and cracked walls;
- Upgrade libraries.

Each project is assumed to include its share of equipment, furniture, 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 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: The expenditure of bond money on these projects are subject to stringent financial accountability requirements. Performance and financial audits will be performed annually, and all bond expenditures will be monitored by an independent Citizens' Oversight Committee to ensure that funds are spent as promised and specified.

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 school facilities, including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities, and not for any other purpose, including teachers' and administrators' salaries and other operating expenses. By law, all funds can only be spent on repair and improvement projects.

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF KINGS COUNTY COUNSEL BOND MEASURE K

Article XIII A of the California Constitution generally prohibits ad valorem taxes on real property exceeding 1% of the full cash value of the property. On November 7, 2000 California voters approved Proposition 39, which amended Section 1(b) of Article XIII A to require a vote of 55% of the voters voting on the measure for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities, as authorized by the measure.

If 55% of the qualified electors vote in favor of the proposed bond measure, the Hanford Joint Union High School District will be authorized to issue bonds and thereby incur bonded indebtedness for construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities. The School District will also be authorized to levy an annual special tax upon all parcels of land and improvements located within the School District boundaries to pay for the debt service on the bonds. If the bond measure is not approved by at least 55% of the qualified electors voting on the measure, the measure will fail and the proposed special tax will not be levied.

The amount of bonded indebtedness proposed by the bond measure is \$33,500,000.00. The maximum allowable interest rate is 12% per annum. The maximum period during which the indebtedness on the bonds issued may be left outstanding is 40 years. Notwithstanding the authority obtained by voter approval of this measure, total bonded indebtedness may not exceed 1.25% of the assessed value of the taxable property within School District boundaries, and the bonds may not be issued if the tax rate levied would exceed thirty dollars (\$30.00) per year per one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) of assessed valuation. In addition, the bond administration shall be subject to oversight by a citizens' committee, which shall inform the public concerning the expenditure of the bond proceeds. The assessed value of taxable property within the School District for fiscal year 2004/2005 is \$3,134,537,379.00. Whether this assessed value will provide authority for bond sales in the full amount of \$33,500,000.00 sought in the bond measure will be determined at the time the bonds are issued and sold.

Further, as interest on the debt is determined by competitive bidding or negotiation at the time of sale, the exact effect on tax rates of the issue and sale of the bonds can only be determined after the bonds have been sold. The time of sale and the amount of bonds to be sold will be governed by the needs of the School District, the bond market, bonding capacity and other factors. Voters should also consult the tax rate statement, which is mailed to the voters along with the sample ballot.

s/ Peter D. Moock
Kings County Counsel

**TAX RATE STATEMENT
BOND MEASURE K**

An election will be held in Hanford Joint Union High School District (the "District") on November 2, 2004, for the purpose of submitting to the electors of the District the question of incurring a bonded indebtedness of the District in a principal amount of \$33,500,000. 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 \$30.00 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation for the year 2006-07.

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 \$30.00 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation for the year 2010-11.

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 \$30.00 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation for the year 2006-07.

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. Hence, the actual tax rates and the years in which such rates are applicable may vary from those presently estimated as above stated.

s/ Marie V. Bañuelos, Superintendent
Hanford Joint Union High School District

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE K

A YES vote on Measure "K" will benefit our community and all students of our high schools and feeder schools.

The facts are:

- Hanford High School and Hanford West High School were designed to serve 1,700 students. With **1,735** students at HHS and **1,742** at HWHS, both high schools will be **over capacity** on the first day of the 2004-2005 school year.
- Hanford is expected to grow **125%** to about **90,000** by 2025.
- In 2005-2006, more than **4,425 students** - enough to fill **24 new classrooms** - will be enrolled.
- By 2009, when the third high school will be completed, there will be **more than 5,000** high school students -enough to fill **39 new classrooms**.
- Adding portables will cost money and take up already limited space.

- Local matching funds are needed to qualify for state funds.

Voter approval of Measure “K” will:

- Qualify Hanford Joint Union High School District for state money, approx. \$12 million.
- Build a much needed fully functional third high school.
- Relieve overcrowding.
- Provide a complete high school for students currently enrolled in third grade and younger.
- Provide the facilities for a complete educational program, including college prep and vocational education.

The cost is reasonable:

Measure “K” is an investment in our community. These children are our future. If we don’t educate them well, our democracy will decline.

Time is of the essence. Construction costs continue to rise. Delaying construction will only increase costs and cause further overcrowding. Good, safe schools increase property values and create economic growth.

An assessed valued home of \$100,000 will pay \$30.00 per year for the life of the bond. That’s a small investment of \$2.50 per month, or 8 cents per day, with large returns.

Dated: 8/11/04

- s/ Mike Robinson
Business Owner, Parent, Community Volunteer
- s/ Mark Facchini
Pharmacist, Co-Chair, Yes on Measure K Committee, Parent
- s/ Ramona Castillo

County Employee, Parliamentarian of LULAC, Parent,
Community Volunteer

s/ Judith A. Horn

Outreach Director/Case Manager Kings Partnership for
Children, Community Volunteer

s/ Lisa Loewen

High School Counselor, President Hanford High School
Teachers Association

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST THIS MEASURE WAS SUBMITTED