

KINGS CANYON JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Total Yes Votes: 115 46.9%

Total No Votes: 130 53.1%

MEASURE C

(Required to Pass: 55% of votes cast)

To improve the quality of education, shall the Kings Canyon Joint Unified School District be authorized to construct a library media center at Reedley High, an Elementary School in Reedley, Orange Cove High music building, student support facilities including cafeterias/multipurpose buildings, make health and safety improvements, provide additional classrooms to reduce overcrowding, and qualify the District for \$8,000,000 in State grants by issuing \$32,000,000 in bonds within legal rates, with citizens' oversight, annual audits, and NO money for administrator salaries?

BONDS YES

BONDS NO

FULL TEXT

This proposition may be known and referred to as the Kings Canyon Joint Unified School District 2006 School Improvement Bond or Measure C.

FINDINGS

The Kings Canyon Joint Unified School District (the "District"), which serves the communities of Reedley and Orange Cove and portions of unincorporated Fresno and Tulare County, is a recognized leader in providing top quality education to Fresno and Tulare County students for over 50 years. Recently, General Grant Middle, Lincoln Elementary, Riverview Elementary, and Washington Elementary Schools were recognized as California Distinguished Schools.

The achievements have been accrued by the District as a result of the long history of visionary leadership from the Board of Trustees of the District (the "Board"), as well as from staff members, parents, and members of the District communities. During its long history, the District has benefited from a community that supports its educational institutions by establishing high standards for academic achievement and the arts while at the same time providing the means required to meet and even to surpass those expectations.

In order to provide our local students with the same classrooms and school facilities as other California school districts, major repairs, upgrades, and new classroom construction are necessary to ensure these buildings will remain functional for future generations.

The Board has prepared a facilities plan and identified significant repairs, upgrades, and classroom construction needs due to increased enrollment that are more than the District is able to fund from currently available sources or annual revenues.

The District has sought, and continues to seek, all available outside sources of funding to improve our school buildings, including local, state, and federal grants and state bond funds. It is necessary to seek voter approval of a bond measure in order to provide the local funding for identified school facility repairs, modernization projects, and growth needs to address student enrollment.

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 \$32,000,000 in principal at interest rates below the legal limit, to provide financing 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 assumes the receipt of matching state funds, which could be subject to appropriation by the Legislature or approval of a statewide bond measure.

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 the 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 annually, 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, participation in joint use projects, and construction management by district personnel and not for any other purpose, including teacher and administrator salaries and other school operating expenses.

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

EXHIBIT A-1 BOND PROJECT LIST

The District intends to complete the following projects, using a combination of funding sources. It is anticipated that bond proceeds will contribute \$32,000,000 to said total cost. Other anticipated sources include state aid matching funds, joint use funds, developer fees and other available funds. The specific school facilities projects to be funded are set forth below:

- Construct a library media center at Reedley High School
- Construct a new elementary school in Reedley to accommodate a growing student population and maintain class size reduction programs
- Complete the construction of Orange Cove High School including the music building, which will include an instrumental and vocal music classroom

- Construct additional classrooms at Citrus Middle School to relieve student overcrowding
- Construct a gymnasium/multi-purpose building for student and community use at Grant Middle School
- Construct a cafeteria/multi-purpose room at Dunlap Elementary, Jefferson, and Riverview Schools
- Relocate the District's transportation yard off of the Reedley High School campus to improve student safety
- Relocate the District's operations center, maintenance and food service buildings, and warehouse off the Reedley High School campus to improve student health and safety
- Furnish and equip schools to the extent permitted by law
- Address unforeseen conditions revealed by construction/modernization (e.g., plumbing or gas line breaks, dry rot, seismic, structural, etc.)
- Renovate, expand, construct, and upgrade student support facilities including joint use projects, as needed
- Necessary site preparation/restoration in connection with new construction, renovation or remodeling, or installation or removal of relocatable classrooms

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY FRESNO COUNTY COUNSEL

Voter approval of this measure will authorize the governing board of the Kings Canyon Joint Unified School District to issue and sell bonds in the maximum amount of Thirty Two Million Dollars (\$32,000,000), bearing interest at legal rates. The bond proceeds will be used to construct a library media center at Reedley High, an elementary school in Reedley, an Orange Cove High music building, and student support facilities including cafeterias and multi-purpose buildings; and also to make health and safety improvements, provide additional classrooms to reduce overcrowding, and qualify the District for Eight Million Dollars (\$8,000,000) in state grants, with annual audits and no money for administrator salaries.

s/ DENNIS A. MARSHALL
County Counsel

TAX RATE STATEMENT

An election will be held in the Kings Canyon Joint Unified School District (the "District") on June 6, 2006, to authorize the sale of up to \$32,000,000 in bonds of the District to finance school facilities as described in the proposition. If the bonds are approved, the District expects to sell the bonds in three series. Principal and interest on the bonds 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 Elections Code of the State of California.

1. The best estimate of the tax which would be required to be levied to fund this 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 4.8 cents per \$100 (\$48.00 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation in fiscal year 2006-07.
2. The best estimate of the tax rate which would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue during the first fiscal year after the sale of the last series of bonds, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is 4.8 cents per \$100 (\$48.00 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation in fiscal year 2016-17.
3. The best estimate of the highest tax rate which would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is 4.8 cents per \$100 (\$48.00 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation. The tax rate is expected to remain the same in each year.

Voters should note that the estimated tax rates are based on the *ASSESSED VALUE* of taxable property on the County's official tax rolls, *not* on the property's market value. Property owners should consult their own property tax bills to determine their property's assessed value and any applicable tax exemptions.

Attention of all voters is directed to the fact that the foregoing information is based upon the District's projections and estimates only, which are not binding

upon the District. The actual tax rates and the 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 and market interest rates at the time of each sale, and actual assessed valuations over the term of repayment of the bonds. The dates of sale and the amount of bonds sold at any given time will be determined by the District based on the need for construction funds and other factors, including the legal limitations on bonds approved by a 55% vote. The actual interest rates at which the bonds will be sold will depend on the bond market at the time of each sale. Actual future assessed valuation will depend upon the amount and value of taxable property within the District as determined by the County Assessor in the annual assessment and the equalization process.

Dated: March 3, 2006

Juan Garza

Superintendent

Kings Canyon Joint Unified School District

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE C

Children in our community have received a good education for over 40 years. But as our community has aged and grown, so have our schools. Originally designed to accommodate 4,000 students, Kings Canyon Unified now accommodates more than twice its original capacity of students. In the next 5 years, the District is expected to grow by another 1,400 students. It is time to construct new classrooms and school facilities.

MEASURE "C" WILL IMPROVE OUR SCHOOLS. IT WILL:

- Provide Reedley High School with a new library media center
- Construct an Elementary School in Reedley to reduce overcrowding and maintain small class sizes
- Complete the construction of Orange Cove High School's music building including an instrumental and a vocal music classroom and
- Construct additional classrooms and cafeteria/multi-purpose rooms throughout the District to relieve student overcrowding

As taxpayers, we all agree on 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 "C" MAKES FINANCIAL SENSE. IT WILL:

- Make improvements now instead of later when they will only cost more
- Be used only to improve our children's schools - not to pay teacher or administrator salaries

BY LAW, TAXPAYER SAFEGUARDS ARE IN PLACE. IT "C" WILL:

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

YES on Measure "C" will have a lasting, positive impact on our children's schools and on our communities. Yes on "C" will 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 "C"!**

s/ Charles Mitchell, Retired Educator

s/ Anita Betancourt, Reedley City Council member

s/ Michael Falcon, Kings Canyon Unified School District Board President

s/ Johnny Rocha, Parent

s/ Michael Wooden, Real Estate Broker

**NO ARGUMENT AGAINST THIS MEASURE
WAS SUBMITTED**