

Ballot Label

To improve the quality of education; make health, safety and security improvements; upgrade HVAC systems; and construct/ renovate/ modernize classrooms, restrooms and school facilities; shall Tulare Joint Union High School District's measure authorizing \$80,000,000 of bonds at legal rates be adopted, generating on average \$5,400,000 annually, at average rates of approximately \$29 per \$100,000 assessed value, while bonds are outstanding, with annual audits, citizens' oversight, all money staying local, with no projected increase to existing tax rates?

Bonds – Yes

Bonds - No

Impartial Analysis

The Board of Trustees of the Tulare Joint Union High School District (the "Board") placed this bond measure on the ballot. The California Constitution and Education Code authorize school districts to issue bonds for specified purposes if issuance of the bonds is approved at an election by 55% of those voting on the measure.

If approved, this measure will authorize the Board to issue and sell general obligation bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$80,000,000. The bonds will have an interest rate not exceeding the legal maximum and will be repaid within the time permitted by law. The Tax Rate Statement printed in this pamphlet contains the Board's best estimates of tax rates required to service the bond debt during the life of the bonds.

The Board's best estimate of the highest annual tax rate required to fund this bond issue is \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed property valuation. This means that property assessed at \$300,000 would have a maximum annual tax obligation of \$90. The Board's best estimate of total debt service, including principal and interest, if all the bonds are issued and sold will be approximately \$156,700,000.

The California Constitution requires the measure to list specific projects to be funded from the bond revenue, and certification that the Board has evaluated safety, class size reduction, and information technology needs in the development of that list. The full text of the measure contains the Bond Project List, which is summarized as follows:

- Accessibility/ADA improvements;
- Renovate, refurbish, and replace HVAC systems, classrooms, restrooms, multi-purpose rooms, and related facilities;
- Modernization of the learning laboratory at the Ag Farm;
- Construction of an all-weather track at Mission Oak High School, new soccer and baseball facilities at Tulare Union High School, and installation of sports lighting and turf at Tulare Western High School;
- Replace and/or upgrade paved surfaces, parking areas, physical instruction and other athletic facilities to eliminate safety hazards and improve outdoor instruction;
- Improve and upgrade technology infrastructure, electrical systems and wiring; and
- Modernize plumbing, electrical and sewer systems.

State law requires that the Board take certain steps to account for the proceeds from the bonds. The Board will direct the funds to be deposited into a special account, appoint an independent citizens' oversight committee, conduct annual independent performance and financial audits to ensure that funds are spent only for the purposes listed in the Bond Project List and for no other purposes, and prepare annual reports listing the amount of funds collected and expended and the status of any funded project. No bond proceeds shall be used for teacher or administrator salaries or operating expenses.

A "yes" vote on this measure would authorize the Board to issue bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$80,000,000 for the purposes listed in the Bond Project List; which would levy approximately \$29 per \$100,000 of assessed value on properties within the district.

A "no" vote would prevent the Board from issuing the bonds.

This measure will pass if 55% of those voting on the measure vote "yes."

s/ Diane Freeman
Kings County Counsel

Tax Rate Statement

An election will be held in the Tulare Joint Union High School District (the "District") on November 5, 2024, to authorize the sale of up to \$80,000,000 in general obligation bonds. The following information is submitted in compliance with Sections 9400-9404 of the Elections Code of the State of California. 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, the following information is provided:

1. The best estimate of the average annual tax rate that would be required to fund this bond issue over the entire duration of the bond debt service, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is \$29 per \$100,000. It is currently expected that the tax will be collected until fiscal year 2057-58.
2. The best estimate of the highest tax rate that would be required to fund this bond issue, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of filing this statement, is \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. This rate is projected to apply [in each fiscal year that bonds are outstanding].
3. The best estimate of total debt service, including principal and interest, that would be required to be repaid if all the bonds are issued and sold will be approximately \$156,700,000.

These estimates are based on projections derived from information obtained from official sources, and are based on the assessed value (not market value) of taxable property on the official tax rolls of each county in which the District is located. In addition, taxpayers eligible for a property tax exemption, such as the homeowner's exemption, will be taxed at a lower effective tax rate than described above. Property owners should consult their own property tax bills and tax advisors to determine their property's assessed value and any applicable tax exemptions. The attention of all voters is directed to the fact that the foregoing information is based upon projections and estimates only, which amounts are not maximum amounts and durations and are not binding upon the District. The actual debt service, tax rates and the years in which they will apply may vary depending on the timing of bond sales, the par amount of bonds sold at each sale and actual increases in assessed valuations. The timing of the bond sales and the amount of bonds sold at any given time will be determined by the District based on the need for project funds and other considerations. Actual assessed valuations will depend upon the amount and value of taxable property within the District as determined by the assessor of each county in which the District is located in the annual assessment and the equalization process.

s/ Lucy Van Scyoc
Superintendent
Tulare Joint Union High School District

Argument in Favor of Measure E

Our high schools are some of the most important assets in our community and should be our number one priority. High-quality schools increase student achievement, improve property values, prepare children for a productive future, and create greater neighborhood safety. Although our teachers and staff do a great job educating local children, classrooms and buildings in the Tulare Joint Union High School District are deteriorating and need to be upgraded to provide students with the proper school facilities they need to succeed.

While our facilities have been well maintained, aging classrooms and facilities must be upgraded. We can achieve this by voting **YES on Measure E**, as this school improvement measure would allow the District to improve the quality of its school facilities and education provided to local students. By investing in our high schools, we can meet today's safety, technological, and educational standards as well as better our community.

If passed, Measure E will provide funding to make facility improvements at the District's seven high schools by:

- Making health, safety and security improvements throughout the District
- Repairing and replacing leaky roofs
- Making handicapped accessibility (ADA) improvements
- Replacing outdated heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems
- Modernizing outdated classrooms, restrooms, and school facilities

Measure E makes financial sense and protects taxpayers.

- **IT WILL NOT INCREASE** the current annual tax rate that property owners are currently paying.
- All funds must be spent locally and cannot be taken by the state.
- By law, spending must be reviewed and annually audited by an independent citizens' oversight committee.
- Funds can only be spent to improve our local high schools, not for teacher or administrator salaries.

Measure E upgrades and renovates old and inadequate classrooms, improves the education of local students, and maintains the quality of our community. That's something we can all support. Please join us and **VOTE YES ON MEASURE E!**

s/ Terry A. Sayre
Mayor of the City of Tulare
s/ Lori Cardoza
COS Board Member

s/ Pete Vander Poel
Tulare County Supervisor

No Argument was filed Against this Measure.

Full Text**BOND AUTHORIZATION**

By approval of this measure by at least 55% of the registered voters voting on the measure, the District will be authorized to issue and sell bonds of up to \$80,000,000 in aggregate principal amount, at interest rates not to exceed legal limits and to provide financing for the specific types of school facilities projects listed in the Bond Project List included below, subject to all the accountability requirements specified below.

ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS

The provisions in this section are specifically included in this measure in order that the voters and taxpayers in the District may be assured that their money will be spent wisely. Expenditures to address specific facilities needs of the District will be 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.)

The Bonds may be issued under the provisions of the California Education Code (starting at Section 15100), under the provisions of the California Government Code (starting at Section 53506), or under any other provision of law authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds by community college districts. The Bonds may be issued in series by the

District, from time to time, and each series of Bonds shall mature within the legal limitations set forth in the applicable law under which the Bonds are issued.

Evaluation of Needs. The Board of Trustees of the District has identified detailed facilities needs of the District, and has determined which projects to finance from a local bond. The Board of Trustees hereby certifies that it has evaluated safety, class size reduction, enrollment growth, and information technology needs in developing the Bond Project List described below.

Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee. Following approval of this measure, the Board of Trustees will establish an independent citizens' oversight committee, under Education Code Sections 15278 and following, to ensure bond proceeds are expended only on the types of school facilities projects listed below. The committee will be established within 60 days of the date when the results of the election appear in the minutes of the Board of Trustees.

Performance Audits. The Board of Trustees will conduct annual, independent performance audits to ensure that the bond proceeds have been expended only on the school facilities projects listed below.

Financial Audits. The Board of Trustees will conduct annual, independent financial audits of the bond proceeds until all of those proceeds have been spent for the school facilities projects listed below.

Government Code Accountability Requirements. As required by Section 53410 of the Government Code, (1) the specific purpose of the bonds is set forth in this Full Text of the Measure, (2) the proceeds from the sale of the bonds will be used only for the purposes specified in this measure, and not for any other purpose, (3) the proceeds of the bonds, when and if issued, will be deposited into a building fund to be held by the Tulare County Treasurer, as required by the Education Code, and (4) the Superintendent of the District shall cause an annual report to be filed with the Board of Trustees of the District not later than January 1 of each year, which report shall contain pertinent information regarding the amount of funds collected and expended, as well as the status of the projects listed in this measure, as required by Sections 53410 and 53411 of the Government Code.

NO TEACHER OR ADMINISTRATOR SALARIES

Proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized by this measure shall be used only for the purposes specified in Article XIII A, Section 1(b)(3), specifically the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities, including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities, and the acquisition or lease of school facilities, and not for any other purpose, including teacher and administrator salaries and other school operating expenses.

STATE MATCHING FUNDS

The following statement is included in this measure pursuant to Education Code Section 15122.5: Approval of this measure does not guarantee that the proposed projects that are the subject of bonds under this measure will be funded beyond the local revenues generated by this measure. The District's proposal for the projects described below may assume the receipt of matching state funds, which, if available, could be subject to appropriation by the Legislature or approval of a statewide bond measure.

INFORMATION ABOUT ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS INCLUDED IN BALLOT

Voters are informed that any estimates or projections in the bond measure or ballot materials, including relating to estimated tax rates, the duration of issued bonds and related tax levies and collections are provided as informational only. Such amounts are estimates and are not maximum amounts or limitations on the terms of the bonds, the tax rate or duration of the tax supporting repayment of issued bonds. Such estimates depend on numerous variables which are subject to variation and change over the term of the District's overall facilities and bond financing plan, including but not limited to the amount of bonds issued and outstanding at any one time, the interest rates applicable to issued bonds, market conditions at the time of sale of the bonds, when bonds mature, timing of project needs and changes in assessed valuations in the District. As such, while such estimates and approximations are provided based on information currently available to the District and its current expectations, such estimates and approximations are not limitations and are not binding upon the District. In addition, the abbreviated and condensed statement of the bond measure presented to voters which is subject to a word count limitation imposed by State law does not limit the scope and complete meaning of the measure provided in this Full Text of Bond Measure and related ballot materials.

The District currently expects that the estimated tax rate relating to the bonds will result in an extension of the 2023-24 cumulative tax rate levied for outstanding District general obligation bonds, and will not increase the current rate taxed

for District bonds. This expectation is based on several factors examined by the Board of Trustees of the District at the time of placing this measure on the ballot, including the District's currently outstanding bonded indebtedness, the required annual debt service payments on its outstanding bonds, the District's current and projected total taxable assessed value of properties in its boundaries taking into account reasonable assessed valuation growth estimates, and the expected timing and structure of additional general obligation bonds. This projection will be examined by the Board each time a series of bonds is to be issued pursuant to this bond measure. This current expectation does not, however, impose a maximum tax rate on the levy necessary to support the general obligation bonds to be issued pursuant to this measure during the entire term they are outstanding. In accordance with State law, general obligation bonds are secured by ad valorem property taxes unlimited as to rate or amount. The actual tax rates necessary to support issued bonds over the full term of years a bond issue is outstanding can be impacted by many future factors including changes in assessed valuations, and may exceed current rates.

BOND PROJECT LIST

Scope of Projects. Bond proceeds will be expended on the modernization, renovation, expansion, acquisition, construction/reconstruction, rehabilitation, and/or replacement of school facilities of the District, including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities, at all current and future sites and properties.

School Facility Project List. The items presented on the following list provide the types of school facilities projects authorized to be financed with voter-approved bond proceeds. Specific examples included on this list are not intended to limit the types of projects described and authorized by this measure. The following types of projects are authorized at all existing sites of the District and all sites that may be acquired by the District in the future:

- Make handicapped accessibility (ADA) improvements
- Upgrade heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems
- Construct, modernize, renovate, replace and/or expand classrooms, restrooms, multi-purpose rooms and related facilities, including providing updated furnishings and other equipment to facilitate a safe, modern learning environment for students
- Upgrade and modernize the learning laboratory at the Ag farm to reflect industry standards
- Make energy-efficiency improvements, including replacing lighting and windows
- Modernize classrooms and facilities, to provide a quality learning environment for current and future students, including an all-weather track at Mission Oak High School, soccer and baseball facilities for Tulare Union High School, and sports lighting and turf at Tulare Western High School
- Update parking and drop off areas to improve campus traffic and safety
- Replace and/or upgrade paved surfaces, tracks, turf, grounds and outdoor areas, including lighting, to eliminate safety hazards and to facilitate outdoor instruction and gathering spaces
- Improve and upgrade technology infrastructure, electrical systems and wiring for computers and Internet access
- Modernize plumbing, electrical and sewer systems
- Install, replace or modernize physical education facilities

Incidental Expenses. Each of the bond projects described in this Bond Project List include the costs of furnishing and equipping such facilities, and all costs which are incidental but directly related to the types of projects described above. Examples of incidental costs include, but are not limited to: costs of design, engineering, architect and other professional services, facilities assessments, inspections, site preparation, utilities, landscaping, bond project construction management, administration and other planning and permitting, legal, accounting and similar costs; independent annual financial and performance audits; a customary construction contingency; demolition and disposal of existing structures; the costs of interim housing and storage during construction including relocation and construction costs incurred relating to interim facilities; the preparation or restoration of construction, renovation or remodeling; rental or construction of storage facilities and other space on an interim basis for materials and other equipment and furnishings displaced during construction; costs of relocating facilities and equipment as needed in connection with the projects; interim classrooms and facilities for students, administrators, and school functions, including modular facilities; federal and state-mandated safety upgrades; addressing unforeseen conditions revealed by construction/modernization and other necessary improvements required to comply with existing building codes, including the Field Act; access requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act; and costs of the election; bond issuance costs; and project administration during the duration of such projects, as permitted by law.

Furnishing and Equipping. Each project is assumed to include its share of furniture, fixtures, equipment, architectural, engineering, and similar planning costs, program/project management, staff training expenses and a customary contingency for unforeseen design and construction costs. In addition to the listed projects stated above, the list also

includes the acquisition of a variety of instructional, maintenance and operational equipment, including the reduction or retirement of outstanding lease obligations and interim funding incurred to advance fund projects from the list; installation of signage and fencing; payment of the costs of preparation of all facility planning, facility studies, assessment reviews, facility master plan preparation and updates, environmental studies (including environmental investigation, remediation and monitoring), design and construction documentation, and temporary housing of dislocated District activities caused by construction projects. The upgrading of technology infrastructure includes, but is not limited to, computers, projectors, portable interface devices, servers, switches, routers, modules, sound projection systems, printers, digital white boards, document projectors, telephone system, call manager and network security/firewall, wireless technology systems and other miscellaneous equipment.

Alternations to Scope; New Construction. The scope and nature of any of the specific projects described above may be altered by the District as required by conditions that may arise during the course of design and construction. In the event that a modernization or renovation project is more economical for or otherwise determined by the Board to be in the best interests of the District to be undertaken as new construction, this bond measure authorizes said new construction including land acquisition, relocation and construction at a new or alternative site, and/or demolition and reconstruction and/or repurposing on the original site, including an expanded site, and all costs relating thereto. In addition, this measure authorizes the acquisition of real property, including necessary rights of ways or other real property interests, required to expand District facilities, to provide access to school or other District facilities, or to provide additional school or related facilities. For any project involving rehabilitation or renovation of a building or the major portion of a building, the District shall be authorized to proceed with new construction instead, if the Board of Trustees determines that replacement and new construction is more economically practical than rehabilitation and renovation, considering the building's age, condition, expected remaining life, and other relevant factors.

Interim Financing Included; Joint Use Projects Authorized. Authorized projects include paying and/or prepaying interim or previously obtained financing for the types of projects included on the Bond Project List, such as bond anticipation notes, and includes prepayment of lease payments to acquire title to facilities and/or equipment previously financed. Projects may also be undertaken on a joint use basis with other public entities.

Bond Project List Not in Order of Priority; Board Determines Prioritization. Approval of this bond measure does not guarantee that the proposed projects will be funded beyond the local revenues generated by the measure. The District's capital needs currently exceed the amount of bonds the voters are being asked to authorize. The order in which particular projects are listed is not intended to suggest priority for funding or completion, and itemization of projects in the list above does not guarantee that all such projects will be undertaken. Project priorities will be determined by the Board of Trustees. The ability of the District to undertake and complete the listed projects is subject to numerous variables including the adequacy and availability of sufficient funding sources. The District is unable to anticipate all unforeseen circumstances which may prevent some of the projects listed above from being undertaken or completed.

Interpretation. The terms of this bond measure and the words used in the Bond Project List shall be interpreted broadly to effect the purpose of providing broad and clear authority for the officers and employees of the District to provide for the school facilities projects the District proposes to finance with the proceeds of the sale of bonds authorized by this proposition within the authority provided by law, including Article XIII A, Section 1(b)(3) of the California Constitution, Education Code Section 15000 *et seq.* and the Strict Accountability in Local School Construction Bonds Act of 2000. Words used in the Bond Project List such as repair, improve, upgrade, expand, modernize, renovate, and reconfigure are used to describe school facilities projects in plain English but are not intended to expand the nature of such projects beyond what is authorized by law. As such, in accordance with legal requirements, the Bond Project List does not authorize, and shall not be interpreted to authorize, expending proceeds of the sale of bonds authorized by this proposition for current maintenance, operation or repairs.

Severability. The District Board hereby declares, and the voters by approving this Bond Measure concur, that every section and part of this bond proposition has independent value, and the District Board and the voters would have adopted each provision hereof regardless of every other provision hereof. Upon approval of this measure by the voters, should any part be found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid for any reason, all remaining parts hereof shall remain in full force and effect to the fullest extent allowed by law, and to this end the provisions of this bond measure are severable.