

NOTICE OF ELECTION – BALLOT MEASURE

NOTICE OF BALLOT MEASURES TO BE DECIDED UPON. NOTICE OF TIME WITHIN WHICH ARGUMENTS AND REBUTTAL ARGUMENTS FOR OR AGAINST MEASURES MAY BE FILED WITH THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS. NOTICE OF CENTRAL COUNTING LOCATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS FOR SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE ELECTIONS LAWS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA THAT ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024, THERE WILL BE A GENERAL ELECTION.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT AT THE GENERAL ELECTION THE FOLLOWING MEASURE SHALL BE PUT TO A VOTE FOR THE QUALIFIED VOTERS IN THE RIPON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

RIPON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND MEASURE J

BALLOT QUESTION

The following is an abbreviated form of the bond measure:

Ripon Unified School District Classroom Improvement Measure

To upgrade aging schools, attract/retain quality teachers, and maintain quality education by repairing/replacing deteriorating roofs, restrooms, plumbing, heating, cooling and electrical systems; improving security/fire safety; and providing up-to-date classrooms, labs, technology; shall Ripon Unified School District's measure, authorizing \$32,000,000 in bonds at legal rates be adopted, averaging \$30 per \$100,000 assessed valuation (approximately \$2,661,000 annually) while bonds are outstanding, with independent oversight, audits, public spending disclosure, and no funds for administrators?

FULL TEXT OF MEASURE

RIPON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT CLASSROOM IMPROVEMENT MEASURE

FINDINGS

Ripon Unified School District (the "District") serves over 3,300 students in pre-kindergarten through high school in seven local schools, many were built 60 to 85 years ago. The State of California does not provide dedicated funding for the repair and upgrade of school facilities, so some improvements must be funded locally. The Governing Board of the District (the "Board") believes that locally controlled funding from a school improvement bond measure could help to complete high priority facility repairs and upgrades.

A school improvement bond measure could be used update classrooms, roofs, restrooms and other school facilities, and make the District eligible for State matching funds. The measure includes fiscal accountability requirements, including an independent citizens' oversight committee and annual audits.

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 \$32,000,000 in aggregate principal amount (the "Bonds"), 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 school 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 Governing Board of the District has identified detailed facilities needs of the District, and has determined which projects to finance from a local bond. The Governing Board 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 Governing Board 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 Governing Board.

Performance Audits. The Governing Board 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 Governing Board 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 San Joaquin 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 Governing Board 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.

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:

- Construct, modernize, renovate, replace and/or expand classrooms, restrooms, labs, career technical facilities, multi-purpose rooms and other school facilities, including providing updated furnishings and other equipment to facilitate a modern learning environment
- Replace temporary portables with permanent classrooms
- Update parking and drop off areas to improve campus traffic and safety
- Repair or replace leaky roofs, plumbing, electrical and sewer systems
- Repair or replace outdated heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems
- Improve, and upgrade technology infrastructure, electrical systems and wiring for computers and Internet access
- Make health, safety and security improvements
- Make accessibility upgrades including but not limited to ensuring site access, parking, staff and student restrooms, relocation of existing electrical devices, drinking fountains, and playground equipment, as necessary to ensure adequate accommodations are provided and all legal requirements are met
- Upgrade, repair and/or expand school site parking, roadways, grounds, tracks, fields, playgrounds and other infrastructure such as utility systems, including exterior lighting, pathways, walkways, access ramps, shade structures and other outdoor areas, and landscaping improvements, including irrigation

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, painting, 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 Governing Board 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 Governing Board. 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.

ARGUMENTS AND REBUTTALS TIMELINE

Monday, July 29, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. is hereby fixed as the final date and time for the filing of arguments. Arguments for or against the measures listed are not to exceed 300 words in length. The 10-calendar day required public viewing period will be from Tuesday, July 30, through Thursday, August 8, 2024.

Thursday, August 8, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. is hereby fixed as the final date and time for the filing of rebuttal arguments. Rebuttal arguments are not to exceed 250 words in length. The 10-calendar day required public viewing period will be from Friday, August 9, through Sunday, August 18, 2024.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT California Elections Code Section 9600 governs the form of said arguments and/or rebuttals. Arguments and/or rebuttals submitted to the San Joaquin County Registrar of Voters' Office must follow E.C. 9600. Authors of said arguments/rebuttals may call the Registrar of Voters' Office at (209) 468-8945 for more information on submitting an argument for or against a measure. To be eligible for printing and distribution as provided by law, such arguments and rebuttals must be received and filed at the Registrar of Voters' Office, 44 N. San Joaquin St, Suite 350, Stockton, CA 95202, no later than said date and time. All arguments and rebuttals must be submitted in block format. Limited use of bolding, underlining, capitalizing, italics or bullets (small solid circle only) is permitted. Arguments and rebuttals that are not in compliance will be reformatted and set in uniform type.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT Vote by Mail processing may begin on the 29th day before the election, which is Monday, October 7, 2024. All ballots cast in the November 5, 2024, General Election shall be tallied at the central counting place, the San Joaquin County Registrar of Voters' warehouse located at 7585 Longe Street, Suite 112, Stockton, California. Initial results will be available at 8:15 p.m. on election night and continue until the count is completed. Persons interested in viewing these procedures should contact the San Joaquin County Registrar of Voters' Office at (209) 468-8945 for further information. (EC §§ 12109, 15101, 15104)