

# November 8, 2022 Local Ballot Measure: C

# **Measure C**

# **City of Santa Rosa High School District**

# **Measure Question**

# 55% Majority Needed to Pass

Santa Rosa City Schools Middle/ High Schools Repair Measure. To upgrade Santa Rosa middle and high school classrooms, science labs, learning technology, and job training facilities; repair/ replace deteriorating portables, leaky roofs inefficient heating/ cooling/ electrical/ plumbing systems; and improve campus security, fire/ earthquake safety; shall City of Santa Rosa High School District's measure authorizing \$398,000,000 in bonds at legal rates be adopted, levying  $3\phi$ / \$100 of assessed value (\$20,000,000 annually) while bonds are outstanding, requiring independent oversight, annual audits, and all funds controlled locally?

#### What Your Vote Means

YES	NO
A "yes" vote on Measure C authorizes the District to issue the bonds and levy taxes to pay for the indebtedness.	A "no" vote on Measure C denies authorization to issue the bonds and levy associated taxes.

### For and Against Measure C

FOR	AGAINST
Mike Thompson Member, US Congress	No argument was submitted against Measure C
Steven D. Herrington Ph.D Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools	
Jeff Gospe RVUSD Board Member	
Carmelita G. Affonso 34 Year SRCS Employee	
Frank Chong President, Santa Rosa Junior College	

Sonoma County 49-507 9363



#### County Counsel's Impartial Analysis of Measure C

California law permits school districts to issue bonds to pay for construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities, provided 55 percent of voters who vote on Measure C approve the sale of the bonds. The City of Santa Rosa High School District ("District") has called an election on whether to issue \$398,000,000 in bonds for such purposes.

Money raised by bond sales may only be used for the purposes and projects stated in the Bond Project List set forth in Measure C, following this analysis. The Bond Project List includes a complete list of projects and allowed expenditures for construction, repair, upgrades and modernization of school facilities, including technology improvements. As required by law, Measure C prohibits using bond proceeds for teacher or administrator salaries or other operating expenses.

The District has certified that it evaluated safety, class size, and information technology needs in developing the Bond Project List. Inclusion of a project on the Bond Project List does not guarantee it will be funded or completed. The District may seek State funds to augment Bond proceeds to advance the Bond Project List. The District will establish the priority and order in which projects are undertaken.

Measure C includes "Accountability Requirements" that require the District to: annually conduct independent financial and performance audits; establish an Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee; and maintain bond proceeds in a separate account established by the District. Measure C further requires the District's chief fiscal officer to provide an annual report on the status of projects undertaken and the amount of bond proceeds received and expended in each year.

If approved, Measure C authorizes the District to issue and sell general obligation bonds in series, at different times, as projects are undertaken. All bonds must mature within the statutory maximum number of years from date of issue. The interest rate on the bonds will depend on the market rate at the time bonds are sold, but cannot exceed the maximum rate set by law. The bonds will be repaid from property taxes levied on real property, which the District anticipates will continue through Fiscal Year 2058-59 based on the value of land and improvements on each property. Those taxes would be in addition to current real property taxes.

The amount of tax needed each year will depend upon the amount needed to repay outstanding principal and interest. The District's Tax Rate Statement, which follows this analysis, estimates the highest tax rate necessary to fund the bonds is \$30.00 per \$100,000 of assessed value. This is a projection that could go up or down depending on a number of factors including the timing and amount of bond sales, and changes in assessed property values. The estimated total debt service (including principal and interest) if all bonds are sold is \$752,500,000.

A "yes" vote on Measure C authorizes the District to issue the bonds and levy taxes to pay for the indebtedness.

A "no" vote on Measure C denies authorization to issue the bonds and levy associated taxes.

ROBERT PITTMAN County Counsel

By: s/ Matthew R. Cody Deputy County Counsel

#### Tax Rate Statement — Measure C

An election will be held in the City of Santa Rosa High School District (the "District") on November 8, 2022, to authorize the sale of up to \$398,000,000 million in bonds of the District to finance school facilities as described in the measure. If such bonds are authorized and sold, principal and interest on the bonds will be payable only from the proceeds of ad vabrem 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. 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 which would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue over the entire duration of the bond debt service, based on a projection of assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is 2.7 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation (or \$27.00 per \$100,000 of assessed value). The final fiscal year in which the tax is anticipated to be collected is 2058-59.
- 2. The best estimate of the highest tax rate which would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue, based on a projection of assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is 3.0 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation (or \$30.00 per \$100,000 of assessed value). It is estimated that such rate would be levied starting in fiscal year 2022-23 and following.
- 3. The best estimate of the total debt service, including the principal and interest, that would be required to be repaid if all the bonds are issued and sold is approximately \$752.5 million.

Voters should note the estimated tax rate is based on the assessed value (not market value) of taxable property on the County's official tax rolls. 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 are not binding upon the District. The actual debt service, tax rates and the years in which they will apply may vary from those used to provide the estimates set forth above, due to factors such as variations in the timing of bond sales, the par amount of bonds sold and market interest rates available at the time of each sale, actual assessed valuations over the term of the bonds, and other factors. The date and amount of bonds sold at any given time will be determined by the District based on the need for project funds and other considerations. The actual interest rates at which the bonds will be sold will depend on conditions in the bond market at the time of sale. Actual future assessed valuations 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.

Date: August 10, 2022

s/ Anna Trunnell
Superintendent
City of Santa Rosa High School District



Arguments and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors. They are printed exactly as submitted, including errors.

#### **Argument in Favor of Measure C**

### **Argument Against Measure C**

Vote Yes on C to support science, technology, engineering and math education in our local middle and high schools.

Most of our local middle and high schools were built over 50 years ago and many classrooms, labs, job training facilities and portable classrooms are over 30 years old and falling apart. Basic repairs are needed to meet modern educational and safety standards.

Voting Yes on C will update classrooms, labs, job training facilities and learning technology to meet rising academic standards, support advanced classes in science, math, engineering and technology, and ensure students have access to the same updated learning environments as other students in Sonoma County.

Measure C ensures that all local middle and high school students have access to updated, 21st-century classrooms so local graduates are prepared for college and in-demand careers in computer science, biotech, chemistry, physics, physiology, forensics, web tech design, robotics and engineering.

Measure C will update classrooms, science labs, learning technology and job training facilities; replace deteriorating portable classrooms; repair leaky roofs and replace inefficient heating and cooling systems, electrical systems and plumbing; provide updated equipment for classrooms, labs and libraries; and improve campus security, fire and earthquake safety.

Every penny raised by Measure C must stay local to repair and upgrade local middle schools and high schools only – no funds can be taken by the State.

Strict accountability requirements, such as public disclosure of all spending and independent citizen's oversight, ensure Measure C funds are used properly. By law, no money can be used for administrator salaries

Even if you don't have school-age children, improving local schools is a wise investment. Good schools improve the quality of life in our community and enhance the value of our homes.

Join local parents, teachers, business and community leaders — vote Yes on  ${\bf C}!$ 

s/ Mike Thompson s/ Steven D. Herrington Ph.D Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools

s/ Jeff Gospe s/ Carmelita G. Affonso
RVUSD Board Member 34 Year SRCS Employee

s/ Frank Chong President, Santa Rosa Junior College No argument was submitted against Measure C

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#### Full Text of Measure C

#### **EXHIBIT A**

FULL TEXT BALLOT PROPOSITION OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND ELECTION FOR NOVEMBER 8, 2022

#### **FINDINGS**

The City of Santa Rosa High School District (the "District") strives to provide high-quality education and job training to over 10,000 students attending the District's 10 middle and high schools.

The Board of Education (the "Board") has determined that many local middle and high schools were built more than 50 years ago and require repairs and upgrades due to leaking roofs, outdated and inefficient heating and cooling systems, and deteriorating water, sewer and gas lines. Some portable classrooms are over 30 years old and are falling apart.

Outdated classrooms, labs, job training facilities and learning technology must be updated to meet rising academic standards and support advanced classes in science, math, engineering and technology so graduates are prepared for college and in-demand careers.

Locally controlled funding from a school improvement bond measure would update classrooms, science labs, learning technology and job training facilities and provide updated equipment for classrooms, science and computer labs and libraries.

Funding is also needed for the replacement of deteriorating portable classrooms, to repair leaky roofs, replace inefficient heating and cooling systems, electrical systems and plumbing and to improve campus security, fire and earthquake safety.

The State of California provides very limited funding for facility improvements and school improvement bond measures are the primary available means for funding upgrades to school facilities.

A local bond measure proposed by the District is legally required to include mandatory taxpayer protections, including an Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee, mandatory audits and public disclosure of all spending.

None of the money from a bond measure can be spent on administrators' salaries or pensions.

Every dollar received from a local bond measure must only be used to upgrade local middle and high schools, be controlled locally, and cannot be taken away by the State.

Funds from a local bond measure would be used to compete for state matching funds that would otherwise go to other school districts.

#### INTRODUCTION

The Board of Education of the Santa Rosa High School District is committed to student safety and clean, safe schools, with upgraded science labs, classrooms and technology to provide a strong, 21 st century education for its students. The District conducted a thorough site-by-site evaluation of school facilities needs, and also sought input from various stakeholders to ensure the district's educational priorities are in line with those of the community. The Board concluded that if these needs are not addressed now, the problems will only become more pressing and expensive to address. Therefore, in approving this Project List, the Board of Education determines that the District must prioritize:

- Safety repairs to classrooms, labs and other school facilities to protect student health and safety;
- II. Providing 21st-century educational technology to prepare

students for college and careers;

- III. Making critical and basic facilities repairs, including repairing deteriorating plumbing, sewer and electrical systems, fixing leaky and aging roofs and replacing outdated heating and air conditioning systems;
- IV. Adhere to specific fiscal accountability safeguards such as:
  - All funds must be used to benefit the students of the Santa Rosa High School District, with no funds taken away by the state and controlled locally
  - b) Annual independent financial audits must be required for all expenditures,
  - No funds can be used for administrators' salaries and pensions,
  - d) An Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee must be appointed to ensure that all funds are spent only as authorized by the voters.

#### ACCOUNTABILITY SAFEGUARDS

The provisions in this section are specifically included in this proposition in order that the Santa Rosa High School District's voters and taxpayers 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).

<u>Evaluation of Needs</u>. The Board of Education hereby certifies that it has evaluated the facilities needs of the Santa Rosa High School District, and the priority of addressing each of these needs. In the course of its evaluation, the Board of Education took safety, class size reduction and information technology needs into consideration while developing the Project List.

<u>Limitation on Use of Bond Proceeds</u>. The State of California does not have the legal authority to take locally approved school district bond funds for any State purposes. The Constitution allows proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized by this proposition to be used only for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities listed in this proposition, including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities, or the acquisition or lease of real property for school facilities, and not for any other purpose, including teacher and administrator salaries and other school operating expenses. Proceeds of the bonds may be used to pay or reimburse the District for the cost of District staff only when performing work on or necessary and incidental to the bond projects.

Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee. The Board of Education shall establish an independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (pursuant to Education Code Section 15278 and following), to ensure bond proceeds are spent only for the school facilities projects listed in the Project List. The committee shall be established within 60 days of the date on which the Board of Education enters the election results on its minutes.

Annual Performance Audits. The Board of Education shall conduct an annual, independent performance audit to ensure that the bond proceeds have been expended only on the school facilities projects listed in the Project List.

Annual Financial Audits. The Board of Education shall conduct an annual, independent financial audit of the bond proceeds (which shall be separate from the District's regular annual financial audit) until all of those proceeds have been spent for the school facilities projects listed in the Project List.



#### Full Text of Measure C (Cont.)

Special Bond Proceeds Account; Annual Report to Board. Upon approval of this proposition and the sale of any bonds approved, the Board of Education shall take actions necessary pursuant to Government Code Section 53410 and following 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 or the Associate Superintendent, Business Services of the District (or such other employee as may perform substantially similar duties) shall cause a report to be filed with the Board no later than January 31 of each year, commencing January 31, 2023, 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 such officer shall determine, and may be incorporated into the annual budget, audit, or other appropriate routine report to the Board.

#### **STATE MATCHING FUNDS**

The following statement is included in the measure pursuant to Education Code Section 15122.5:

Approval of this measure does not guarantee that the proposed project or projects in the Santa Rosa High School District that are the subject of bonds under the measure will be funded beyond the local revenues generated by the measure. The District's proposal for the project or projects may assume the receipt of matching state funds, which could be subject to appropriation by the Legislature or approval of a statewide bond measure.

#### **PROJECT LIST**

All bond proceeds will be expended in Santa Rosa High School District to modernize, replace, renovate, expand, construct, acquire, equip, furnish and otherwise improve the classrooms and school facilities.

The specific school facilities projects to be funded include the following projects at each and all of the District's schools and sites:

# Basic School Repairs, Upgrades and Capital Improvements to Classrooms, Labs and Facilities

- Renovate, improve, repair, expand or upgrade existing classrooms and school facilities, including infrastructure improvements and landscaping
- Repair or replace outdated and inadequate heating, air-conditioning, plumbing, sewer and electrical systems with building code compliant and energy efficient systems
- Install energy efficient heating, air-conditioning and lighting systems including alternative energy systems
- · Repair aging roofs, flooring, walls and other school facilities
- · Upgrade physical education facilities for school and community use
- Furnish and equip classrooms, science labs, libraries, food service facilities, auditoriums, outdoor instructional areas and other school facilities
- Construct, acquire, improve, furnish and equip additional classrooms/classroom buildings and other school facilities throughout the District
- Repair or replace outdated, aging and deteriorating temporary portable classrooms or replace with new and/or permanent classrooms
- · Acquire real property for school facilities

#### **Projects to Improve School Safety**

- Repair, replace, upgrade and install security, fire, lighting and other safety systems including security cameras and entry/door locks
- Improve or repair school communications and technology systems
- Make health and safety improvements including and handicap accessibility improvements to improve classroom and school access for

students and staffwith disabilities

- Federal and State-mandated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility upgrades including site access, parking, staff and student restrooms, relocation of some existing electrical devices, drinking fountains, etc.
- Improve safety by upgrading physical education facilities for school and community use
- Acquire, construct, install and improve outdoor facilities including lunch areas and other grounds to eliminate safety hazards including heat and sun protection
- Upgrade school site parking, utilities and grounds and improve traffic circulation
- Replace, install or upgrade signage and fencing

#### Technology Improvements to Provide a 21st Century Education

- Upgrade classrooms and other school facilities with modern 21<sup>st</sup> century technology
- Acquire, install and upgrade computers, computer learning technology and technology infrastructure
- Construct, equip, improve and upgrade computer labs and science labs to improve student achievement
- Replace existing wiring systems to meet current electrical and accessibility codes and increased capacity
- Install up-to-date learning technology and equipment to be used in job and teacher training programs

The listed projects will be completed as needed. Each project is assumed to include its share of furniture, equipment, architectural, engineering, and similar planning costs, program/project management 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 such as lease payments relating to certificates of participation; the acquisition of real property for school facilities and construction, acquisition, improvement and equipping of additional classrooms or classroom building and other school facilities; 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. h addition to the projects listed above, the repair and renovation of each of the existing school facilities may include, but not be limited to, some or all of the following: renovation of student and staff restrooms; upgrade of facilities for energy efficiencies; repair and replacement of worn-out windows, walls, doors and drinking fountains; installation of wiring and electrical systems to safely accommodate computers, technology and other electrical devices and needs; upgrades or construction of support facilities, including administrative, physical education/athletic facilities and performing arts buildings and maintenance yards; resurfacing or replacing of hard courts, pools, turf and irrigation systems and campus landscaping and play fields; expand parking; install interior and exterior painting and floor overing; demolition; and onstruction of various forms of storage and support spaces, upgrade classrooms, bleachers, kitchens. The upgrading of technology infrastructure includes, but is not limited to, computers, LCD projectors, portable interface devices, servers, switches, routers, modules, sound projection systems, laser printers, digital white boards, document projectors, upgrade voice-over-IP, call manager and network security/firewall, wireless technology systems and other miscellaneous equipment and software. The allocation of bond proceeds will be affected by the District's receipt of State matching funds and the final costs of each project. In the absence of State matching funds, which the District will aggressively pursue to reduce the District's share of the costs of the projects, the District will not be able to complete some of the projects listed above. Some projects throughout the District, such as gyms, fields and performing arts facilities, may be undertaken as joint use projects in cooperation with other local public or non-profit agencies.



### Full Text of Measure C (Cont.)

Demolition of existing facilities and reconstruction of facilities scheduled for repair and upgrade may occur, if the Board determines that such an approach would be more cost-effective in creating more enhanced and operationally efficient campuses. Necessary site preparation/restoration may occur in connection with new construction, renovation or remodeling, or installation or removal of relocatable classrooms, including ingress and egress, removing, replacing, or installing irrigation, utility lines, trees and landscaping, relocating fire access roads, and acquiring any necessary easements, licenses, or rights of way to the property. Proceeds of the bonds may be used to pay the District for the cost of District staff when performing work on or necessary and incidental to bond projects. Bond proceeds shall only be expended for the specific purposes identified herein. The District shall create an account into which proceeds of the bonds shall be deposited and comply with the reporting requirements of Government Code § 53410.

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