

Sonoma Valley Unified School District

Questions & Answers Regarding Potential Bond Measure

As of 6/15/2010

Q: How does the State budget deficit affect our Sonoma Valley schools?

A: The Governor's current budget takes nearly \$2.5 billion from schools throughout the state. Sonoma Valley schools currently face a budget deficit of over \$1.5 million for the next fiscal year after already making over \$3 million in cuts the last several years. We cannot allow Sacramento's current fiscal crisis and the Governor's proposed school budget cuts to affect the quality education we provide, or the health and safety of our students.



Q: What is your plan?

A: We are considering a Proposition 39 General Obligation (GO) Bond Measure that would help us improve energy efficiency in all of our schools, saving us approximately \$1 million a year that could be put back into classrooms and used to retain and attract quality teachers, keep class sizes small, preserve school library hours, maintain music and art classes and upgrade technology in our schools. This bond would be structured so that it does not increase existing tax rates.

Q: What are some of the technology needs of our local schools?



A: Much of the technology in our schools is old and outdated, with limited access to computers for our students. We need to prepare our students for today's tough market for jobs and careers by upgrading technology in classrooms, libraries, computer and science labs.

Q: What about students who do not plan to attend college?

A: We need to expand opportunities for career and technical education, including agriculture, manufacturing, and technology skills training. This will ensure that local students who choose not to go to college have the opportunity to learn valuable job skills and can compete for good-paying jobs when they graduate high school.

Q: What about my child's school?

A: If the Board proceeds with a November 2010 bond measure, every school will benefit.

Q: How much would this cost?

A: We are considering a potential school bond measure of approximately \$40 million. Such a measure would not increase your current tax rate.

Q: How does a no rate increase bond work?

A: The proposed bond is a loan that will need to be repaid over time. Repayment can be achieved either by raising tax rates or extending the time to repay at the District's current projected tax rate. Given the prevailing economic environment, we believe it is more prudent to achieve the repayment by extending the term, as opposed to increasing the tax rate. This approach is commonly used by many school districts in California.

Q: How do we know that funds would be spent as promised?

A: Any measure placed on the ballot would have strong fiscal accountability requirements, such as annual independent financial audits and independent Citizen's Oversight. Any funds raised by such a measure could only be spent on bricks and mortar, with NO monies going to administrator salaries or pensions.

Q: What election are you considering?

A: We are strongly considering placing a measure on the November 2010 Ballot.

Q: How can I learn more?

A: Please e-mail Lissa at the Superintendent's office: ljuricich@sonomavly.k12.ca.us