

FULL TEXT BALLOT PROPOSITION
MERCED COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT REPAIR, STUDENT SAFETY AND JOB
TRAINING MEASURE

ELECTION MARCH 3, 2020

MERCED COLLEGE REPAIR, SAFETY AND JOB TRAINING MEASURE. “To upgrade job training/instructional classrooms, science/computer labs; improve student safety, emergency communication/security systems, shall Merced Community College District’s measure authorizing \$247,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, levying \$25 /\$100,000 assessed valuation (\$14,600,000 annually) while bonds are outstanding be approved, requiring audits/citizen oversight, no money for administrators’ salaries, all funds used locally to improve opportunities for veterans, remove asbestos/lead paint and acquire, construct, repair sites, facilities, equipment?”

Bonds - Yes

Bonds – No

PROJECTS

The Board of Trustees of the Merced College, to be responsive to the needs of its community, evaluated Merced College’s urgent and critical facility needs, and its capacity to provide students, underserved populations, and veterans with support and **job training** facilities, an **affordable education** and prepare them for success in local jobs. Job training facilities, safety issues, class size and offerings, and information and computer technology were each considered in developing the types of projects to be funded by this measure. The District also prepared a 2019 Merced College Facilities Master Plan, incorporated herein by reference. In developing the types of projects described herein, **basic repairs** (such as **removing asbestos** and mold, repairing deteriorating electrical and sewer lines, improving access for disabled students repairing decaying walls, drainage systems and leaking roofs), job training facilities, **student safety**, facilities supporting job training/vocational/agricultural classrooms, and the expansion of opportunities for local students to receive an **affordable, quality education**, were **prioritized**. If these facility needs are not addressed now, Merced College would be unable to remain competitive in preparing students for jobs in high demand industries and **transfer to four-year colleges and universities**.

The Board of Trustees determines that **Merced College MUST:**

- (i) **Remove asbestos, mold and lead paint;**
- (ii) **Improve student safety and access for students with disabilities;**
- (iii) **Repair deteriorating gas, electrical and sewer lines;**
- (iv) **Repair decaying walls, drainage systems and leaking roofs;**
- (v) **Modernize facilities to provide state-of-the-art classrooms and training programs;**
- (vi) **Better prepare students for transfer to four-year colleges and universities.**

The types of projects which are authorized to be undertaken at all Merced College campuses and education centers, include:

PROVIDE LOCAL STUDENTS AN AFFORDABLE EDUCATION IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT:

Basic Improvements Needed To Allow Merced College to Provide Job Training and Vocational Programs That Are Needed To Prepare Students For Good-Paying Local Jobs

Goals and Purposes: More than half of all Merced Community College buildings and instructional and support services facilities are more than 40-years old and need basic improvements. Funds will be used to remove asbestos, mold and lead paint, repair leaky roofs and deteriorating restrooms and plumbing, improve handicapped accessibility, update the storm water system to prevent water pollution, replace outdated electrical and air-conditioning systems, and upgrade security and fire safety systems.

Merced Community College provides essential workforce preparation for students of all ages, local workers, and residents. The measure will upgrade classrooms, facilities, technology, and expand access to training programs for local nurses, firefighters, and paramedics as well as students looking to find better paying jobs in business, technology, early childhood education, and other high-demand careers.

Our local community college ensures that working families and students who cannot afford the high price of a four-year university will have an opportunity to succeed in college and prepare for good paying careers. This measure will provide a pathway to an affordable, high-quality education for all students.

- Remove asbestos, mold and lead paint from older buildings.
- Repair or replace leaky roofs, old heating systems, decaying walls and drainage systems.
- Improve access to college facilities for students with disabilities.
- Improve deteriorating gas, electrical, sewer and plumbing lines and systems.
- Improve sustainability and efficiency by implementing green/clean technology.
- Improve student safety, security systems, fire security and sprinklers, safety lighting, door locks, security cameras and emergency communication systems.
- Repair deteriorating classrooms.

PROVIDE JOB TRAINING AND COLLEGE TRANSFER:

Classroom and Program Improvements To Help Local Students, First-Generation Populations, Underserved Populations, Veterans and Transfer to Four-Year Universities; Be Trained For Careers Including Agriculture, Nursing, and Firefighting

Goals and Purposes: Merced Community College's high-quality and affordable education programs help students to transfer to four-year universities and allow high school students to get a jumpstart on earning college credits by taking college courses. This measure will ensure that our local community college continues to provide an affordable pathway to a college degree and high-paying jobs.

Merced Community College serves several hundred military veterans, many of whom have recently returned from combat. This measure will upgrade and expand facilities for veterans services and job training so returning veterans receive the academic and career counseling and support they need to complete their education and enter the civilian workforce. Further, Merced College serves a diverse student body population, many of which are underserved and economically disadvantaged, as well as first generation. This measure will also upgrade and expand facilities for special programs and services to support these populations.

Agriculture and farming are a way of life and critical to the Central Valley economy, and Merced College provides the education and workforce preparation needed to succeed in this industry. This measure will upgrade the equipment, technology, classrooms, and labs so that students have the opportunity to learn, train, and acquire the skills for agricultural mechanics, water technology, animal science, automotive technology, horticulture, manufacturing related programs, and other high-demand career technical education programs.

- Expand vocational training facilities/programs for all students with a focus on student equity and students with disabilities and other barriers to access and success.
- Upgrade science, computer and technology labs; construct new permanent buildings.
- Upgrade job training and vocational classrooms.
- Repair deteriorating classrooms and other related facilities.
- Upgrade agricultural classrooms, equipment, labs and career education programs.
- Expand partnerships with local schools to allow more high school students to take college level courses and earn college credits.
- Provide competitive 21st Century learning classrooms.

In addition to the listed types of projects stated above, the types of authorized projects of the measure also include the acquisition of a variety of instructional, maintenance and operational equipment, including interim funding incurred to advance fund projects and the refinancing of outstanding lease obligations, payment of the costs of preparation of all facility planning, fiscal reporting, 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 college activities caused by construction projects. In addition to the projects listed above, repair, renovation and construction projects may include, but not be limited to, some or all of the following: renovate student and staff restrooms; replace aging electrical and plumbing systems; repair and replace heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems; acquire vehicles; upgrade of facilities for energy efficiencies including the installation of solar panels or arrays; repair and replace worn-out and leaky roofs, windows, walls doors and drinking fountains; replace or remove outdated buildings and classrooms and construct new classrooms and support buildings; upgrade wiring and electrical systems to safely accommodate computers, technology and other electrical devices and needs; upgrade facilities to meet current environmental sustainability, State compliance standards and earthquake safety; repair and replace fire alarms, emergency communications and security systems; upgrade, resurface, replacing or relocate hard courts, fields, turf and irrigation systems; replace turf on athletic fields; upgrade classrooms; build new or renovate existing facilities such as a science building, career and technical education building, child development center, student union and support services buildings, bookstore, parking structures; build new sports fields, gymnasiums and other athletic facilities; upgrade, resurface and recondition existing parking lots, roads and sidewalks; improve vehicular access and circulation; improve drop-off zones; repair, upgrade and install interior and exterior lighting systems; replace water lines and valves and sewer lines; construct, upgrade, acquire or expand, multi-use classrooms and labs, expand and improve outdoor learning spaces, swing space, student resources center, student library, outdoor classrooms/performance space, interdisciplinary community center, fine/theater and visual arts, music and performing arts facilities, field lights, bleachers, press box, track replacement, collaborative office suites and administrative offices, purchasing and maintenance facility, agricultural dorms, animal science barns, greenhouse, nursery, botanical garden laboratory and public safety facilities; improve water conservation and energy efficiency; acquire land; replace existing window systems with energy-efficient systems to reduce costs; improve insulation, weatherproofing and roofs to reduce costs; improve access for the disabled; install and repair fire safety equipment, including alarms, smoke detectors, sprinklers, emergency lighting, and fire safety doors; replace broken concrete walks, deteriorated asphalt; replace/upgrade existing signage to reflect better wayfinding, install electronic signage, bells and clocks; demolition of unsafe facilities; install or upgrade new security systems, such as security (surveillance) cameras, burglar alarms, handrails, outdoor lighting, safety bollards, fencing, landscaping, gates, gateways and classroom key cards/door locks; replace sewer lines and improve drainage systems to prevent flooding; upgrade roadway and pedestrian paths and pathways and bridges for improved safety and access for emergency vehicles, site parking, utilities and grounds. The upgrading of technology infrastructure includes, but is not limited to, upgrading classroom technology, expanding wireless internet access throughout all Merced College campuses, acquire portable interface devices, servers, switches, routers, modules, sound projection systems, information systems, printers, digital white boards, upgrade voice-over-IP, communication systems, audio/visual and telecommunications systems, call manager and network security/firewall, Internet connectivity, wireless systems, technology infrastructure, and other miscellaneous IT and instructional equipment, DATA storage, fiber/copper infrastructure, phones, identity access cards and the construction and installation of a data center in the cloud for District's enterprise systems, such as resource planning, websites, domain name systems, cloud applications and information security.

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, staff training expenses, a customary contingency, and costs associated with the Total Cost of Ownership of facilities and equipment. The allocation of bond proceeds may be affected by the final costs of each project. Some projects may be undertaken as joint use projects in cooperation with other local public or non-profit agencies. The budget for each project is an estimate and may be affected by factors beyond the District's control. The final cost of each project or decisions will be determined as plans and construction documents are finalized, construction bids are received, construction contracts are awarded and projects are completed. Based on the final budgets of projects or on the then current priorities of the District, certain of the projects described above may be delayed or may not be undertaken. Demolition of existing facilities and reconstruction of facilities scheduled for repair and upgrade may occur, if the Board determines that such an approach. In addition to the listed types of projects stated above, the types of authorized projects of the measure also include the acquisition of a variety of instructional, maintenance and operational would be more cost-effective in creating more enhanced and operationally efficient campuses. Necessary site preparation/restoration, including the acquisition and installation of temporary facilities (swing space) 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 or reimburse 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 types of projects and 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 Section 53410.

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

This bond measure has strict accountability requirements including:

1. All money will benefit Merced College campuses and CANNOT BE TAKEN BY THE STATE.
2. NO MONEY can be used for ADMINISTRATOR SALARIES or pensions.
3. Require TAXPAYER OVERSIGHT and yearly audits to ensure all funds are used locally, effectively and as promised.
4. NO ADMINISTRATOR SALARIES. Proceeds from the sale of the bonds authorized by this proposition shall be used only for the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of college/school facilities, including the furnishing and equipping of college/school facilities, and not for any other purpose, including teacher, faculty and college administrator salaries, pensions and other operating expenses.
5. FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY. THE EXPENDITURE OF BOND MONEY ON THESE PROJECTS IS SUBJECT TO STRINGENT FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

REQUIREMENTS. BY LAW, PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL AUDITS WILL BE PERFORMED ANNUALLY, AND ALL BOND EXPENDITURES WILL BE MONITORED BY AN INDEPENDENT CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO ENSURE THAT FUNDS ARE SPENT AS PROMISED AND SPECIFIED. THE CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MUST INCLUDE, AMONG OTHERS, REPRESENTATION OF A BONA FIDE TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION, A BUSINESS ORGANIZATION AND A SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATION. NO DISTRICT EMPLOYEES OR VENDORS ARE ALLOWED TO SERVE ON THE CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.