

VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET

Containing

MEASURES E & G

**WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2012

Arguments in favor of or against the proposed measure are the opinions of the authors.

If you would like to receive this information in Spanish please call (925) 335-7800. If you have already requested voting information in Spanish, the information will be mailed to you automatically.

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EGMEA

MEASURE E
WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

To make schools safe, complete essential health/safety repairs, qualify for State matching grants, shall West Contra Costa Unified School District upgrade schools for earthquake safety and handicap accessibility, remove asbestos, upgrade science labs, restrooms, vocational classrooms, technology and energy systems to reduce costs, install lighting and security systems, and acquire, repair, construct, equipment, sites and facilities, by issuing \$360,000,000 in bonds within legal rates and bonding capacity limits with independent audits, citizen oversight, and no money for administrators' salaries?

**COUNTY COUNSEL'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF
MEASURE E**

The Board of Education of the West Contra Costa Unified School District has adopted a resolution proposing to issue and sell bonds. This ballot measure asks voters to decide whether the District should be authorized to issue and sell bonds with an aggregate principal value not to exceed \$360,000,000, to finance specified improvements.

If this measure passes, the District would be authorized to levy a tax on each parcel of taxable property within the District to generate revenue to repay the bonds. Under State law, the rate could be up to \$60 per \$100,000 of taxable property value per year until all bonds are repaid. A parcel of taxable real property is any unit of real property located in the District that receives a separate property tax bill from the Contra Costa County Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office. The tax would not be levied on parcels that are exempt from paying property taxes.

The measure would authorize the District to issue and sell bonds under authority of the California Government Code, and the California Education Code. Bonds issued under the Government Code could have a maturity of up to 40 years. Bonds issued under the Education Code could have a maturity of up to 25 years. The bonds would bear interest at a rate not to exceed the rate authorized by law.

Proceeds from the sale of bonds would be used to finance the school facility improvements specified in the measure. The proceeds may only be used for the purposes specified in the measure. The measure provides that, depending on the cost of each improvement to be financed with bond proceeds, some improvements may be delayed, or may not be completed. The District assumes that it will receive matching state funds to finance some of the improvements specified in

the measure. The measure states that, without matching State funds, some improvements will not be completed.

State law requires the District to conduct an annual performance audit, and, as long as any funds remain unspent, an annual independent financial audit, to ensure that funds are used only for the purposes described in the measure. The measure also would require the District to establish an independent citizens' oversight committee that would ensure funds are used only for the purposes described in the measure.

Fifty-five percent (55%) of those voting on the ballot measure must approve the measure for it to pass.

A "yes" vote is a vote in favor of the ballot measure.

A "no" vote is a vote against the ballot measure.

TAX RATE STATEMENT FOR MEASURE E

An election will be held in the West Contra Costa Unified School District (the "District") on November 6, 2012, to authorize the sale of up to \$360,000,000 in bonds of the District to finance school facilities as described in the proposition. If the bonds are approved, the District plans to issue the bonds in a number of series over a period of time. Principal and interest on the bonds will be payable from the proceeds of tax levies made upon the taxable property in the District. The information presented in numbered paragraphs 1-3 below is provided in compliance with Sections 9400-9404 of the Elections Code of the State of California.

1. The best estimate of the tax which would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue during the first fiscal year after the sale of the first series of bonds, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is 4.80 cents per \$100 (\$48.00 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation in fiscal year 2013-14.
2. The best estimate of the tax rate which would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue during the first fiscal year after the sale of the last series of bonds, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is 4.80 cents per \$100 (\$48.00 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation in fiscal year 2021-22.

3. The best estimate of the highest tax rate which would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue, based on estimate assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, 4.80 cents per \$100 (\$48.00 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation in fiscal year 2021-22.

The District's best estimate of the average tax rate which would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue over all of the years the bonds will be outstanding is 4.80 cents per \$100 (\$48.00 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation.

The tax rate estimates in this statement reflect the District's current projection of future assessed values and of future debt service payments, which are based on certain assumptions. Approval of the ballot measure authorizes the issuance of bonds under certain conditions and for certain purposes, and is not approval of a specific tax rate or a specific plan of bond issuance. The actual tax rates and the years in which they will apply may vary from those presently estimated, due to variations from these estimates in the timing of bond sales, the amount and repayment structure of bonds sold, market interest rates at the time of each sale, and actual assessed valuations over the term of repayment of the bonds. The dates of sale and the amount and repayment structure of bonds sold at any given time will be determined by the District based on its need for construction funds, its intention to meet the tax rate targets stated above, the legal limitations on bonds approved by a 55% vote and other factors. The actual interest rates at which the bonds will be sold will depend on the bond market at the time of each sale. Actual future assessed valuation 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.

Voters should note that the estimated tax rates are based on the *ASSESSED VALUE* of taxable property in the District as shown on the County's official tax rolls, not on the property's market value. Property owners should consult their own property tax bills to determine their property's assessed value and any applicable tax exemptions.

Dated: August 1, 2012

Bruce Harter
Superintendent
West Contra Costa Unified School District

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE E

Our students deserve safe schools, upgraded classrooms, and state-of-the-art computer labs to help them reach their potential and succeed in today's economy. The West Contra Costa School District has worked diligently to leverage local funds to obtain matching state grants that upgraded schools throughout our community and provided safe, clean classrooms for students to learn in. Measure E will allow the school district to work with the existing, successful bond program to complete much of its master plan and provide every student with a quality classroom.

Vote YES on Measure E to:

- Upgrade schools for earthquake safety and handicap accessibility;
- Provide computer and science labs to help provide our students with resources to succeed;
- Remove asbestos and other hazardous materials;
- Upgrade classrooms to support core academics – math, science, reading and writing;
- Upgrade technology and energy systems to reduce costs and increase sustainability;
- Provide classrooms for job training to prepare students for the workforce;
- Provide space for after-school programs so kids are safe from gangs and drugs; and
- Replace aging, outdated and deteriorated schools and classrooms.

The school district will use the \$360 million in bonds provided by Measure E to qualify for millions of dollars in state matching funds. All money spent will be subject to annual independent financial audits and review by an independent citizens' oversight committee. No funds from this bond measure will be used for administrator's salaries or pensions. The money will only be spent on schools in our community and none of the funds can be taken by the state.

Measure E will help our school district provide a safe, healthy learning environment for our students and give them the tools they need to succeed. Join parents, teachers, elected officials, and community members in voting YES on Measure E.

www.YesforSafeSchools.com

Jeff Rubin
Concerned Citizens of Pinole

Thomas Prather
Teacher, Grant Elementary
School

Brenda Surgers
Principal, Lake Elementary School

Eric Zell
Businessperson/Director,
West Contra Costa Healthcare
District

Joey Schlemmer
Police Sergeant, Richmond
Resident

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE E

West Contra Unified School District (District) students deserve good schools. Since school money is scarce, every dollar must be stretched and used carefully. We're concerned that Measure E is unaffordable and jeopardizes our financial future.

Bonds are an expensive form of debt. As with a home mortgage, bonds are repaid over time. Decades from now, the children and grandchildren of today's students will still be paying off the District's CURRENT \$1.27 billion in bonds PLUS INTEREST for today's school construction. Repayment of current bonds will cost HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS in interest.

In considering this measure, voters should ask:

- Right now the District's debt load is NEARLY TWICE that allowed by the state standards. Is it prudent to assume more debt right now?
- This bond says it will fix many of the same problems as previous bonds. Were past bonds spent as originally promised? Are the projects covered by this bond truly necessary?
- Independent supervision of bond spending is in doubt because all members of the Bond Oversight Committee are approved by the School Board. The School Board also has its own representatives on that Committee. Isn't there a conflict of interest?
- With declining school enrollment does it make sense to continue all this construction?

Until these questions are answered, residents should vote NO on Measure E!

For more information see www.cocotax.org

Contra Costa Taxpayers Association
Kris Hunt, Executive Director

Anton Jungherr
Former Member West Contra Costa Unified
School District Citizens' Bond Oversight
Committee

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE E

School bonds are not free money. Bonds are debt that must be paid back with interest.

Voters in the West Contra Costa Unified School District (District) already have generously approved five bonds worth **\$1.27 billion, plus hundreds of millions in interest charges**. Now the District wants another \$360 million for more construction, despite declining school enrollment. Only two years ago voters approved \$380 million in bonds that promised similar projects to those now proposed.

Consider:

- In 1998 the District represented that the first \$40 million bond would fund all of the projects they would ever need. Four bond measures followed.
- Bond after bond, the same items appear on the project funding lists. Something is wrong.
- The District has an excessive level of debt that exceeds the state standard for school districts.
- Bond funds do not reach classrooms, which is where money should be directed to improve schools.
- Bond oversight committees are very limited in what they can do. All appointees (even the one from the taxpayer group) are approved by the school board.

Property tax bills list the many costs piled onto property owners. West County homeowners, apartment owners, and business owners are already paying THREE TIMES THE AVERAGE school bond rates – yet the District wants even more. Enough is enough!

By voting NO on Measure E residents will stop this reckless financial merry-go-round!

Vote **NO** on Measure E!

For more information see www.cocotax.org

Contra Costa Taxpayers Association
Kris Hunt, Executive Director

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE E

West County students deserve safe, clean schools. The School District has buildings that still have hazardous materials in them, are not adequately earthquake safe, and are not accessible to all students. They've worked hard to upgrade most of our schools, leveraging previous bond money to get millions of dollars in funding from the state. West County voters have approved these projects and were rewarded with safe, upgraded schools. The remaining schools deserve the same care and assistance.

Measure E will fund upgrades, improvements, and rebuilds at:

Cameron School
Collins Elementary
Crespi Middle School
Grant Elementary
Hercules Middle/High School
Kennedy High School
Lake Elementary
Madera Elementary
North Campus Continuation School
Portola Playfields
Olinda Elementary
Richmond High School
Riverside Elementary
Shannon Elementary
Verde Elementary

The School District has delivered on previous bond funding with improvements you can see district-wide. Despite cuts in state funding, they paid back all the money that was borrowed from the state.

Measure E will ensure all students have safe classrooms to learn core academics, participate in hands-on science education, and prepare for college and the workforce. It will improve technology in schools, upgrade

schools for earthquake safety and accessibility, and remove asbestos and other hazardous materials.

All money spent through Measure E is subject to annual financial audits by an independent citizens' oversight committee. The funds raised by Measure E must be spent on schools in our community, and none of the money can be taken by the State.

Join us in voting YES on Measure E.

Brant Fetter
Parent, Coronado Elementary
School Member, WCCUSD Bond
Oversight Committee

Marianne Darke Harrison
President and Parent, Collins
Elementary School PTA

Eric Swabeck
Teacher, Lake Elementary School

Jim Russey
Retired Firefighter, City of
Richmond

Anne Shin
Principal, Collins Elementary School
City of Hercules resident

**FULL TEXT OF
MEASURE E**

**EXHIBIT B
FULL TEXT BALLOT PROPOSITION
OF THE WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOND MEASURE ELECTION NOVEMBER 6, 2012**

“WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT SAFETY/CLASSROOM REPAIR MEASURE. To make schools safe, complete essential health and safety repairs, qualify for State matching grants, shall West Contra Costa Unified School District:

- upgrade schools for earthquake safety and handicap accessibility,
- remove asbestos,
- upgrade science labs,
- upgrade restrooms, vocational classrooms, technology and energy systems to reduce costs,

- install lighting and security systems,
- acquire, repair, construct equipment, sites and facilities

by issuing \$360,000,000 in bonds within legal rates and bonding capacity limits with independent audits, citizen oversight, and no money for administrators' salaries?"

PROJECT LIST

The Board of Education of the West Contra Costa Unified School District certifies that it evaluated the District's urgent and critical school needs, including school and student safety issues, enrollment trends, class size reduction, overcrowding, energy efficiency and computer technology, seismic safety requirements, and aging, outdated or deteriorating school buildings in developing the scope of projects to be funded. In developing the scope of projects, the District has prioritized the key health and safety and sustainability needs so that the most critical school site needs are addressed. The Board conducted an evaluation at all school sites and received public input in developing the scope of school projects to be funded. This input concluded that if these needs were not addressed now, the problem would only get worse and more expensive to address in the future. In approving this Project List, the Board of Education determines that the District should:

- (i) Provide classrooms for job training to prepare students for the workforce.
- (ii) Upgrade classrooms to support core academics, math, science, reading and writing.
- (iii) Upgrade computer and science labs.
- (iv) Qualify for millions of dollars of State matching funds.
- (v) Provide good after-school program space so kids are safe from gangs and drugs.
- (vi) Adhere to specific FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY safeguards such as:
 - (a) Sacramento will be prohibited from taking any of the funds raised.

- (b) All expenditures will be subject to annual independent financial audits.
- (c) No funds will be used for administrators' salaries and pensions.
- (d) All funds will be subject to local control and provide improvements, at all of our schools.
- (e) An independent citizens' oversight committee will be appointed to ensure that all funds are spent only as authorized.

The Project List includes the following types of projects:

School Renovation, Repair and Upgrade Projects

Goal and Purpose: Schools will benefit from the renovation, repair and upgrade of deteriorating, outdated school buildings, science labs, classrooms, computer learning centers and school libraries and equipment, to ensure compliance with handicap accessibility requirements and that students and teachers have the resources they need to excel and students be prepared for college and the real world when they graduate:

- Repair, upgrade and replace worn-out leaking roofs.
- Replace existing wiring systems to meet current electrical and accessibility codes.
- Additional electrical service capacity to relieve currently overloaded electrical systems.
- Replace existing water, sewer, plumbing and storm drain systems to meet current codes, including the elimination of lead-containing fixtures.
- Upgrade aging and deteriorating school restrooms.
- Provide improved, upgraded computer labs.
- Upgrade and equip classrooms, science labs and multipurpose rooms and facilities.
- Federal and State-mandated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility upgrades.
- Replace old, portable classrooms.

- Upgrade aging schools.

School Health, Safety and Security, Earthquake Safety and Energy Efficiency School Projects

Goal and Purpose: To ensure that the learning process is not interrupted by gangs and drugs or juvenile crime, to maintain healthy students and improve daily attendance, to help attract and retain excellent teachers, and to deter vandalism, schools and school sites will benefit from a variety of health and safety projects, such as:

Student Safety

- Install new security systems, such as security (surveillance) cameras, outdoor lighting, fencing, gates and classroom door locks.
- Remove or abate asbestos, lead paint, mold and hazardous materials.
- Upgrade emergency communication systems.
- Fire alarm systems upgraded to automatic systems, repair fire safety equipment, add sprinklers and fire safety doors.
- Upgrades to schools to meet handicap accessibility requirements.
- Replace/upgrade existing signage, bells and clocks.
- Upgrade site playground equipment replacement to meet current safety standards.

Energy Efficiency-Returning Savings to the Classrooms.

- Install energy efficient systems, including solar panels, energy efficient heating, ventilation and cooling systems for cost savings and energy efficiency.
- Replace existing window systems with energy efficient systems.
- Replace older ceilings, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and lighting systems with building code compliant, energy efficient systems.

District-Wide Wiring and Instructional Technology For Effective Learning Environment and Job Training Projects

Goal and Purpose: To upgrade computer technology, improve both current instruction methods and to expand job training programs by applying modern technology infrastructure:

- Update computer labs.
- Provide and maintain upgraded technology, data and communication equipment.
- Upgrade and expand wireless systems, telecommunications, Internet access.
- Upgrade and replace computers, hardware and software systems.
- Upgrade and replace classroom furniture, equipment and instructional aids.
- Upgrade media and audio/visual equipment.
- Expand bandwidth to allow student greater access to the Internet.
- Install up-to-date learning technology and equipment used in job training programs.

Listed building, repair and rehabilitation projects and upgrades 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 and a customary contingency for unforeseen design and construction costs. In addition to the listed repair and construction projects stated above, the Project List also include the acquisition of a variety of instructional, maintenance and operational equipment, including the reduction or retirement of outstanding lease or capital facility note obligations including interim funding incurred to advance fund projects from the Project List, or the reimbursement of the District for such reduction, as well as the refinancing of outstanding general obligation bond debt of the District, the construction of new classrooms or schools, if necessary to serve students, the acquisition of land, the construction or remodeling of administrative support spaces, installation of signage and fencing, the payment of the costs of preparation of all facility planning, facility assessment reviews, facility master plan updates, environmental studies (including environmental investigation, remediation and

monitoring) and construction documentation, gymnasium upgrades, temporary housing of dislocated District activities caused by bond projects and the completion of projects authorized under the District's Measure M, Measure D, Measure J and 2010 Measure D projects, previously approved by the voters. The upgrading of technology infrastructure includes, but is not limited to, computers, LCD projectors, portable interface devices, servers, switches, routers, modules, sound projection, card access systems, laser printers, digital white boards, document projectors, upgraded voice-over IP, call manager and network security/firewall, and other miscellaneous equipment and software. In 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; repair and replacement of heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems; upgrade of facilities for energy efficiencies and to reduce fire risks; repair and replacement of worn-out and leaky roofs, windows, walls doors and drinking fountains; demolition of unsafe schools or facilities; installation wiring and electrical systems to safely accommodate computers, technology and other electrical devices and needs; repair and replacement of fire alarms, emergency communications and security systems; resurfacing or replacing of hard courts, turf and irrigation systems and campus landscaping; build/renovate new gymnasiums, pools and high school stadiums; upgrade or replace inadequate libraries, multi-purpose rooms and kitchens; upgrade locker rooms; install lunch shelters, artificial turf, and bleachers; improve sanitation and recycling; expand parking; build new stadium; install interior and exterior painting and floor covering; replacement of portable classrooms; installation of covered walkways or shelters; addition of administrative support spaces; upgrade school site kitchens; repair rubberized play apparatus surfaces; demolition; and construction of various forms of storage and support spaces; upgrade classrooms; repair, upgrade and install interior and exterior lighting systems; replace water and sewer lines and other plumbing systems; and replace outdated security fences and security systems. 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 may be undertaken as joint use projects in cooperation with other local public or non-profit agencies. Possible joint-use projects could include any of the following at various school sites: libraries, gymnasiums, athletic facilities, daycare centers, preschools and career technology centers. 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 will be determined as plans are finalized,

construction bids are awarded and projects are completed. Based on the final costs of each project, certain projects described above may be delayed or may not be completed. 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, storm drain, and 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 specific purposes identified herein. In order to fund the projects and prior to the issuance of any bonds authorized by this Measure, the District may seek a waiver from the State Board of Education of the applicable bonding limit requirements of Section 15106 of the Education Code. 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.

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 SCHOOL FACILITIES, INCLUDING THE FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF SCHOOL FACILITIES, AND NOT FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE, INCLUDING TEACHER AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR SALARIES AND OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES.

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 (EDUCATION CODE SECTION 15278 ET SEQ.) 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.

MEASURE G
WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

To maintain quality education with local funding the State cannot take away, including protecting core academics – reading, writing, math, science, attracting and retaining quality teachers, providing lower class sizes for the youngest children, preparing students for college and the workforce, and improving safety on and around school campuses, shall West Contra Costa Unified School District renew its existing parcel tax for five years, keeping the current rate, with no funds for administrator salaries, exempting seniors and requiring citizen oversight?

**COUNTY COUNSEL’S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF
MEASURE G**

The Board of Education of the West Contra Costa Unified School District has adopted a resolution proposing to extend its current parcel tax (a qualified special tax). This ballot measure asks voters to decide whether the District’s existing parcel tax should be extended for an additional five years, beginning July 1, 2014.

The District currently levies an annual parcel tax of 7.2 cents per square foot of total building area on each parcel of taxable real property, or \$7.20 per unimproved parcel of taxable real property, within the District. The District’s current parcel tax is set to expire on June 30, 2014. If this measure passes, the parcel tax would be extended for an additional five years, beginning July 1, 2014, and continuing through June 30, 2019.

A parcel of taxable real property is any unit of real property located in the District that receives a separate property tax bill from the Contra Costa County Treasurer-Tax Collector’s Office. The total building area on each parcel would be obtained from the Contra Costa County Assessor’s Office, or based on the records of the building department of the jurisdiction in which the property is located. Parcels that are contiguous, are used solely for owner-occupied residential purposes, and are held under identical ownership, could apply annually to be treated as a single parcel for the purposes of the parcel tax. The parcel tax would not be levied on parcels that are exempt from paying property taxes. The measure also provides that any person who is over the age of 65, or who, regardless of age, receives Supplemental Security Income for disability, may apply to the District for an exemption from the parcel tax.

The ballot measure states that proceeds from the parcel tax will be used to “improve the quality of education in the District by supporting” specified District programs. Proceeds from the parcel tax may be used only for the specific purposes set forth in the ballot measure and according to constitutional and statutory provisions.

State law requires the District’s chief fiscal officer to file an annual report with the District’s Board of Education that states the amount of funds received and expended in each year and the status of any projects required or authorized to be funded from the parcel tax proceeds. State law also requires the proceeds from the parcel tax to be deposited into a designated account. Parcel tax funds also will be the subject of an annual independent financial audit, and the District’s Community Budget Advisory Committee will oversee the use of parcel tax proceeds.

Two-thirds of those voting on the ballot measure must approve the measure for it to pass.

A “yes” vote is a vote in favor of authorizing the parcel tax.

A “no” vote is a vote against authorizing the parcel tax.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE G

Maintain quality local education and give students the tools they need to succeed by voting YES on Measure G. This measure renews our local educational funding measure which provides a basic level of funding for our schools that the state can’t take away.

Measure G enables the school district to continue giving students a quality education from kindergarten to high school graduation, providing them with the tools they need to succeed in today’s workforce. We cannot rely on state government to fund local schools. Voting YES on Measure G will renew existing funding needed to maintain core academic programs that prepare our students for success.

Vote YES on Measure G to:

- Fund core academic programs of reading, writing, math and science;
- Maintain manageable class sizes to provide students with the individual attention they need;
- Support after-school programs that keep kids away from gangs and drugs;

- Keep programs that prepare students for college and train them for the workforce;
- Provide classroom computers, technology, and science lab materials; and
- Attract and retain quality teachers.

Measure G provides local funding for our schools and students by renewing local educational funding for the next five years. All funding will stay here in our community and can't be taken by the state for any reason. An independent citizen oversight committee will review all expenditures to ensure they are spent correctly. No funds raised from Measure G will be used for administrator salaries. Seniors are exempt from paying this tax.

Measure G does not increase your taxes – it continues the current local educational funding to maintain programs in your local schools. Without Measure G, the district will be forced to make significant cuts to critical programs that our students can't afford.

Vote YES on Measure G to protect our schools and help local students.

www.ProtectWestCountySchools.com

McKinley Williams
Retired President
Contra Costa College

Maria Saxton
Teacher, Washington Elementary
School, WCCUSD Teacher of the
Year

John Gioia
Contra Costa County Board
of Supervisors, District 1

Ben Steinberg
Parent, Mira Vista K-8 School

Charles E. Toombs
President, Kensington Police
Protection and Community
Services District

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE G

It seems the School Board is spending more time and money on ballots and surveys than it is on budgeting. California's residents are struggling financially and the District's enrollment is declining. Isn't it logical that our school district should need less money, not more?

WCCUSD has 7 items on your property bill for taxes, assessments and bonds. Now having not one, but TWO measures on the same ballot,

WCCUSD wants to expand the smorgasbord for more financial obligations on already overburdened taxpayers. Parcel taxes disproportionately single out property owners, including retirees and those on fixed or low income, to pay for services and programs.

Remember the “senior exemption” only applies to seniors who are homeowners and only if they apply for the exemption.

Promises of an "oversight" committee give voters a false sense of security. WCCUSD's CBOC has no authority to impose changes or make decisions. That power lies solely with the School Board. There's nothing to ensure your dollars will be applied with any equity or used in your neighborhood.

Most parcel taxes are supposed to be fixed term measures but most, like the MRAD Assessment, show up again as “extensions”. Sound familiar?

Don't be fooled by fancy flyers, costly campaigns or intimidating scare tactics. WCCUSD already garners a disproportionate amount of your wallet, and will for many years to come. Look at State and local measures, the needs of other public agencies who serve you and say NO to Measure G.

Paul Freese
Homeowner, Retired Systems
Analyst

Joy J. Jennings
Homeowner, Caregiver

Georgette Bynum
Homeowner, Registered Nurse

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE G

Less than 6 months ago, voters rejected WCCUSD parcel tax Measure K. And now the school district presents another parcel tax measure. We believe WCCUSD spends too much on consultants and surveys - money that should be going into the classroom. We owe over a BILLION dollars in debt that has us paying every year until 2027 and beyond.

Are the students getting a better education for this? Without good management, and a good plan, instead of improving education, the school district has run wild with spending. Oversight doesn't seem to help, as debt continues to mount and accountability is sparse. Throwing money at problems is not a solution.

Want to know how much the WCCUSD costs you? The County Treasure/Tax Collectors Office can help you, or you can look online at www.Westcountyforum.com. Remember to look at bonds from 1998, 2000, 2002, 2005, 2010 and MRAD ("WCCUSD Assessment") and 2008 parcel tax.

Taxpayers have been generous to WCCUSD, but as communities strain to maintain streets, lighting, utilities, safety and more, the District needs to reexamine their resourcefulness, and question their methods and priorities. You are the source of their funds. Is your financial support unending? We say no.

Many other school districts perform better at less cost. WCCUSD doesn't seem to know how that happens. It's no wonder that parents seek alternatives to education with home-schooling, charter and private schools while still paying their taxpayer obligations. In this period of declining enrollment and financial crisis for so many, demand quality education, demand accountability, demand better. Say NO to Measure G.

Susan L. Pricco
Homeowner

Margie Liberty
Property Owner

Thomas Lynden
Business Owner CPA

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE G

Measure G is not a new tax. It is simply a renewal to continue the local education funding our schools need. You will not pay more with Measure G, and our schools will not receive any new funding. They will just continue to receive the local funding they are currently using to support core academic programs, after school programs, manageable class sizes, and school safety.

This district has shown time and again that it is now responsible and transparent with all its funding. In early May, the School District made the final payment on the state loan from the early 1990s. Earlier in this school year, they made the final payments on both the IBM loan and the Voluntary Integration Program (VIP), both debts coming from the same period in the District more than 20 years ago. There has been a state audit that has determined the District is fiscally responsible.

Measure G will renew our local education funding to support programs that prepare our children for success. It supports after school programs that keep kids away from gangs and drugs, and it funds college and workforce preparation to give students the tools they need to succeed in today's economy. Measure G funding provides classroom computers as well as materials for technology and science labs.

Don't let our local education funding expire. Vote YES on Measure G to renew this critical funding source without paying any new taxes.

John Hardester
Chief of Police, City of Pinole
(title for identification purpose only)

Angela Chavez
Vice-President, Hanna Ranch
Elementary School PTA

John E. Marquez
Board Member, Contra Costa
Community College District Ward I

Jacqueline Rushing
CEO/Founder of Young
Scholars

Elizabeth Underwood
Retired Teacher of WCCUSD

FULL TEXT OF MEASURE G

The following is the full ballot text of the proposition to be presented to the voters by the West Contra Costa Unified School District in the ballot pamphlet:

To maintain quality education with local funding the State cannot take away, including:

- protecting core academics - reading, writing, math, science,
- attracting and retaining quality teachers,
- providing smaller class sizes for the youngest children,
- preparing students for college and the workforce,
- improving safety on and around school campuses,

shall West Contra Costa Unified School District renew its existing parcel tax for five years, with no funds for administrator salaries, exempting seniors and requiring citizen oversight?

The purpose of the special tax is to improve the quality of education in the District by supporting the following programs:

- protecting core academics – reading, writing, math and science,
- attracting and retaining qualified teachers,
- preparing students for college and the workforce,
- providing smaller class sizes for the youngest children,
- providing classroom computers and technology,
- improving safety on and around our campuses,
- supporting after-school programs to keep kids away from gangs and drugs,
- supporting science laboratories, materials and activities,
- supporting libraries.

An exemption shall be granted annually on any single family residential parcel or multi-family dwelling unit owned by one or more persons 65 years of age or older or persons who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for a disability, regardless of age, who occupies said parcel or unit as a principal residence, upon annual application to the District for exemption.

Pursuant to California Constitution Article XIII B and applicable laws, the appropriations limit for the District will be adjusted periodically by the aggregate sum collected by levy of this special tax.

Accountability

The proceeds of the special tax shall be applied only for the specific purposes identified above. The proceeds of the special tax shall be deposited into an account, which shall be kept separate and apart from other accounts of the District. No later than January 1 of each year while the tax is in effect, commencing January 1, 2014, the chief fiscal officer of the District shall prepare and file with the Board of Education a report detailing the amount of funds collected and expended during the prior fiscal year, and the status of any project or description of any programs authorized to be funded by this measure. Parcel Tax funds

shall also be subject to an annual independent financial audit which shall be made public, including oversight by the Community Budget Advisory Committee and posting on the District's website.

Basis of Tax

The current parcel tax shall be maintained at an annual tax of 7.2 cents per square foot of total building area on each parcel of taxable real property within the District or a tax of \$7.20 per unimproved parcel of taxable real property. The District shall provide the Contra Costa County Treasurer-Tax Collector a report indicating the parcel number and amount of tax for each parcel of taxable real property. The number of square feet of total building area on improved real property shall be obtained from the Contra Costa County Tax Assessor. If that information is missing from the tax assessor's records, the number of square feet of total building area shall be based upon the records of the building department for the applicable jurisdiction.

Definition of Parcel of Taxable Real Property

"Parcel of taxable real property" shall be defined as any unit of real property in the District that receives a separate tax bill for *ad valorem* property taxes from the Contra Costa County Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office. All property that is otherwise exempt from or on which are levied no *ad valorem* property taxes in any year shall also be exempt from the parcel tax in such year. Parcels owned and occupied by persons 65 years of age or older or persons receiving Supplemental Security Income for a disability regardless of age, may be exempt from the parcel tax, subject to annual application, as described above.

For purposes of this special tax, any such "Parcels" which are (i) contiguous, (ii) used solely for owner-occupied, single-family residential purposes, and (iii) held under identical ownership may, by annually submitting an application of the owners thereof by July 1 of any year to the Board of Education be treated as a single "parcel" for purposes of the levy of this education parcel tax.

Severability

The Board of Education hereby declares, and the voters by approving this measure concur, that every section and part of this measure has independent value, and the Board of Education 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.