

VOTER'S PAMPHLET

MEASURES, ANALYSES AND ARGUMENTS

(whichever is applicable to your ballot)

Arguments in support of, or in opposition to, the proposed laws are the opinions of the authors.

SCOTTS VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Q

To provide safe and modern school facilities, improve student learning, and qualify for matching funds, shall the Scotts Valley Unified School District issue \$55 million in bonds at legal interest rates to replace our 65-year old middle school with modern classrooms and facilities, replace deteriorating portables with permanent classrooms, and add/improve classrooms, libraries, multi-purpose rooms, and other school facilities, with independent citizen oversight, mandatory annual audits, no money for administrator salaries and all funds benefiting Scotts Valley schools?

FULL TEXT OF BALLOT MEASURE Q

"To provide safe and modern school facilities, improve student learning, and qualify for matching funds, shall the Scotts Valley Unified School District issue \$55 million in bonds at legal interest rates to replace our 65-year old middle school with modern classrooms and facilities, replace deteriorating portables with permanent classrooms, and add/improve classrooms, libraries, multi-purpose rooms, and other school facilities, with independent citizen oversight, mandatory annual audits, no money for administrator salaries and all funds benefiting Scotts Valley schools?"

As required by the California Constitution, the proceeds from the sale of the bonds will be used only for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or replacement of school facilities, including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities, or the lease of real property for school facilities, and not for any other purpose, such as teacher and administrator salaries and other school operating expenses.

Scotts Valley Unified School District

Bond Project List

The District intends to complete the following projects, using a combination of bond funding and other anticipated sources, including State matching funds. The Board of Trustees of the District has determined that the District does not intend to purchase land with the proceeds of the Bonds.

The Scotts Valley Unified School District will use bond funds for the following school facility projects:

Scotts Valley Middle School

The 1940 Scotts Valley Middle School will be demolished, and a new middle school will be built in the same location, with new furniture, equipment and grounds, as needed. The Board of Trustees of the District has determined that the Scotts Valley Middle School is a priority project.

Vine Hill Elementary School

- (1) Current portables will be replaced by permanent buildings.
- (2) A multi-purpose building will be constructed, including an area for food services, physical education, performing arts and other instruction.
- (3) Student play areas will be improved and increased.

Brook Knoll Elementary School

- (1) Current portables will be replaced by permanent buildings.
- (2) A multi-purpose building will be constructed, including an area for food services, physical education, performing arts and other instruction.
- (3) Student play areas will be improved and increased.

Scotts Valley High School

A library/media center will be constructed, furnished and equipped.

District-Wide Facilities

In addition, the following facilities may be financed with proceeds of the Bonds:

- The District may construct or improve facilities or grounds in order to qualify for matching funds.
- Where possible and cost effective, facilities built with the proceeds of the Bonds may be built in a manner consistent with green building standards.

* * * * *

The District's Board of Trustees has evaluated safety, class size reduction and information technology needs in developing the foregoing list.

The District's Board of Trustees will conduct an annual, independent performance audit to ensure that the funds have been expended only on the project list set forth above.

The District's Board of Trustees will conduct an annual, independent financial audit of the proceeds from the sale of the Bonds until all of those proceeds have been expended for the school facilities projects.

Pursuant to Section 15772 of the Education Code, the District's Board of Trustees will appoint a citizens' oversight committee and conduct annual independent audits to assure that funds are spent only on school and classroom improvements and for no other purposes.

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IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL
BALLOT MEASURE Q

If approved by at least fifty-five percent of those voting on the measure, this measure will authorize the Scotts Valley Unified School District (the "District") to issue general obligation bonds in a maximum aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$55,000,000. The bonds would constitute an indebtedness of the District.

The money raised through sale of the bonds may only be used by the District for the purposes stated in the ballot question and not for any other purpose, such as teacher and administrator salaries and other operating expenses. To ensure that the bond monies are expended for the approved purposes, the Board of Trustees of the District will cause annual, independent performance and financial audits to be conducted, and it also will cause the appointment of a citizens' oversight committee.

The interest paid on the bonds cannot exceed a rate set by State law, and their term to maturity will not exceed forty years.

Payment of interest and principal relating to the bonds would be financed by a tax levied on real property within the District. The Tax Rate Statement for Measure Q which is printed in this ballot pamphlet provides information about that tax, as required by law. The precise effect of the bonds upon the property tax rate within the District would only be determined after sale of the bonds.

A "yes" vote on Measure Q is a vote to authorize the general obligation bonds to be issued and financed by ad valorem taxes levied annually on real property in the Scotts Valley Unified School District.

A "no" vote on Measure Q is a vote against issuing the proposed general obligation bonds.

DANA McRAE, COUNTY COUNSEL
By Jane M. Scott, Assistant County Counsel

TAX RATE STATEMENT FOR BOND MEASURE Q

An election will be held in the Scotts Valley Unified School District (the "District") on June 3, 2008, to submit to electors of the District the question of whether to authorize the sale of up to \$55,000,000 in bonds of the District to finance school facilities as described in the ballot measure. If the bonds are approved, the District expects to sell the bonds in two or more series over 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 contained in numbered paragraphs 1 – 3 below is provided in compliance with Sections 9400-9404 of the Elections Code of the State of California. Such information is based on the best estimates and projections presently available from official sources, upon experience within the District and other demonstrable factors.

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 6.0 cents per 100 dollars (\$60.00 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation in fiscal year 2008-09.

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 6.0 cents per \$100 (\$60.00 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation in fiscal year 2010-11.

3. The best estimate of the highest tax rate which would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is 6.0 cents per \$100 (\$60.00 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation in fiscal year 2010-11.

4. The best estimate of the average annual tax rate which would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue through the entire repayment period, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is 6.0 cents per \$100 (\$60.00 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation.

Voters should note that the estimated tax rates are based on the *ASSESSED VALUE* of taxable property 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.

Attention of all voters is directed to the fact that the foregoing information is based upon the District's projections and estimates only, which is not binding upon the District. 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 of bonds sold and 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 of bonds sold at any given time will be determined by the District based on its need for construction funds and other factors, including the legal limitations on bonds approved by a 55% vote. 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.

Dated: March 7, 2008.

s/ Susan B. Silver
Superintendent
Scotts Valley Unified School District

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE Q

Measure Q funds basic improvements at our aging neighborhood schools to provide safe and modern classrooms, science labs, technology and libraries.

Scotts Valley Middle School was built in 1941. While Scotts Valley Unified School District has worked hard to maintain this facility, after six decades of continuous use major improvements are needed to protect the health and safety of our kids.

Half of all classes are held in portables that have exceeded their lifespan. They are falling apart. Deteriorating plumbing, heating and ventilation systems need replacement. Ancient electrical systems cannot accommodate modern classroom technology. Inefficient insulation, doors and windows waste energy and money. Student restrooms are in dilapidated shape. Science labs are outdated for modern instruction.

Measure Q is a carefully crafted plan addressing our most urgent school facility needs. Specifically, Measure Q will:

- Priority one - replace the 67-year-old middle school with safe and modern classrooms, science labs, school library, and physical education facilities that meet current fire and earthquake safety codes and enhance the curriculum.
- Replace deteriorating portables with permanent classrooms at elementary schools.
- Add multipurpose rooms at elementary schools for group learning, performing arts, physical education, and for indoor meals in bad weather
- Provide a high school library and media center to give students access to the books and technology needed to succeed in life

All funds raised by Measure Q will stay in our community to benefit our students and teachers. The funds cannot be used for administration and cannot be taken away by the State. An Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee and mandatory annual audits will ensure funds are spent properly. Measure Q will qualify SVUSD for state matching funds.

Measure Q is critical to preserving quality education in Scotts Valley. Good schools enhance our property values.

Please vote YES on Q.

s/ Michael Shulman
School Facilities Subcommittee Member, Vine Hill Elementary School Parent

s/ Joe Miller
Former Mayor, City of Scotts Valley
Former Executive Director, Scotts Valley Chamber of Commerce

s/ Mary Lonhart
Principal, Scotts Valley Middle School

s/ Fred Zanotto
Businessman

s/ Mary Dettle
Fifth Grade Teacher, Vine Hill Elementary School

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE Q

Vote No on Measure Q
Read the Fine Print.

Kids & Teachers are always more important than buildings!
There are better ways to support them.

- **\$55,000,000 is far too expensive!**
The middle school could be replaced for millions less.
- **This huge tax hike cannot legally be used to help teachers or fund students.**
Read the Fine Print ... funds cannot be utilized for people inside the classroom.
- **This new tax burden will remain for 40 years!**
Today's Middle Schoolchildren will be grandparents before this tax expires.
- **NO SENIOR CITIZEN EXEMPTION**
A less extravagant Parcel Tax would allow important protection for our seniors.
- **Scotts Valley Schools are suffering from severe declining enrollment.**
Will we close a school in the near future like neighboring School Districts?

- **Let's Solve the REAL Problem!**

The real problem is that we need to retain and attract quality teachers.
We can't do that without **adequately paying teachers** and changing the climate of fear and stress under which they work in Scotts Valley.

- **It's a matter of Priorities.**

Buildings alone will not educate our kids!

Defeat of this **extravagant tax measure** will provide time to craft a better plan that includes local funding for retaining teachers, **expressly excludes** the use of **eminent domain**, provides needed **tax relief for Senior Citizens**, and offers a more **reasonable approach** for the Middle School.

No More Blank Checks for the Scotts Valley Unified School District !

Read the Fine Print.
Vote NO on Measure Q

s/ Tom Walsh
Executive Director, Senior Coalition

s/ Dr. Jane Martin
Retired School Superintendent
Former School Board Trustee

s/ Linda Santos
Scotts Valley School District Parent
Scotts Valley Business Owner, "Families Matter"

s/ Connie Mullins
Forest Hills Mobile Home Park Resident

s/ Doug White
Retired County Supervisor
Weston Road Home Owner

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ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE Q

Vote NO on Measure Q

**We value our students & teachers over bricks & mortar.
There are better funding alternatives for supporting them!**

- **HUGE COST** — \$55,000,000 is enough to build 2 new middle schools! **Why the extra tax money?** Are more **unpopular** projects being hidden? **Millions in previously approved High School bond monies have been badly mismanaged by District officials.** Have corrective steps been adopted to avoid paying for another financial disaster? **\$55 Million over 40 years is both unneeded and unacceptable.**
- **BAD ECONOMY** — **Should we dramatically increase taxes on our most vulnerable community members?** The negative impact on property owners at this shaky economic time is real and substantial. Measure Q would more than **double** what the Scotts Valley Unified School District already collects from taxpayers. **The tax burden on our Senior Homeowners is especially staggering, and there is no opportunity for a Senior Citizen Exemption!**
- **CREDIBILITY ISSUES** — **Why did the Superintendent get a pay raise and contract extension with over \$1 million of school budget cuts and Teacher layoffs?** District officials held closed-door meetings regarding possible **eminent domain proceedings against elderly mobile home park residents and other landowners.** There was extensive planning for new and larger School District Administration offices using Bond funds. **Could this be why Scotts Valley Teachers voted "No Confidence" in the Superintendent last year?**
- **DECLINING ENROLLMENT** — **Why has there been no independent student demographic study undertaken?** Scotts Valley Unified School District enrollment is dropping dramatically. **A loss of over 400 students is projected through 2011.** This is the equivalent of one entire school. **Why pay for school facilities that might be closed in a few years?**

Measure Q has far more Questions than Answers!

Please Call: 479-2122 — Let's really help our students & teachers.

Vote NO on Measure Q

Read the Fine Print.

- s/ Phil Liberty
Former Mayor of Scotts Valley
- s/ Dr. Jan Keating
School Administrator, Foundation President
- s/ Gene Scothorn
Public Schools Design Engineer
- s/ Jen Farmer
Scotts Valley Small Business Owner, Greenworks
- s/ Jane Pennington
Forest Hills Mobile Home Park Resident
Former Owner Scotts Valley Printing

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE Q

The opponents of Measure Q deliberately mislead voters with inaccurate statements.

Here are the facts:

- **BY LAW,** Measure Q funds can only fund projects included in the detailed school-by-school project list. Priority one is to replace the middle school. Then replace portables at the elementary schools with permanent classrooms, add multi-purpose rooms at the elementary schools and add a library at the high school. **There is no fluff, just basic school facilities.**
- **BY LAW,** Measure Q funds cannot be spent to acquire land. No funds can be taken away by the State or spent on administrator salaries.
- **BY LAW,** an Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee ensures Measure Q funds are spent as promised.

Scotts Valley Middle School is 67 years old and falling apart. Elementary school students attend class in deteriorating portables that long ago surpassed their life-span. Scotts Valley High School has no library.

Middle and elementary school populations far exceed as-built capacities. School closure is not realistic.

Measure Q will qualify Scotts Valley schools for matching funds that will reduce the cost of these projects for local taxpayers. Without Measure Q, these matching funds will go to other school districts.

All Measure Q funds will stay in Scotts Valley to complete specifically listed school improvements.

Each day hundreds of our students attend class in outdated and unsafe facilities. **Waiting will only make these projects more expensive. We need to act now.**

<http://www.building4excellence.org/>

Please vote YES on Q.

- s/ Glenn E. Soma
Owner & Senior Partner, Tico Construction
Board Member & Past President Scotts Valley Educational Foundation
- s/ Merri Wurtz
President, Vine Hill School PTA
- s/ Charlotte Multer
President Scotts Valley Educational Foundation
Parent
- s/ Cathie Simonovich
Scotts Valley Business Owner, Santa Cruz Pasta Factory
Parent of three Scotts Valley students
- s/ Mary Kelly
Scotts Valley Senior, Monteville Resident, Vine Hill & Middle School grandparent