

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.

AROMAS-SAN JUAN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

V **Aromas-San Juan Bautista Schools Improvement Measure.** To improve neighborhood schools and provide for student safety, health, and learning; to replace relocatable classrooms; to acquire, construct, upgrade and equip classrooms, restrooms, facilities and sites; and to retire an outstanding facilities loan, shall Aromas-San Juan Unified School District issue \$18,800,000 of bonds at legal interest rates for Aromas-San Juan Bautista school projects, not administrators' salaries or operating expenses, with citizens' oversight and independent public financial audits?

FULL TEXT OF BALLOT MEASURE V

The following is the full proposition presented to the voters by the Aromas-San Juan Unified School District.

"Aromas-San Juan Bautista Schools Improvement Measure. To improve neighborhood schools and provide for student safety, health, and learning; to replace relocatable classrooms; to acquire, construct, upgrade and equip classrooms, restrooms, facilities and sites; and to retire an outstanding facilities loan, shall Aromas-San Juan Unified School District issue \$18,800,000 of bonds at legal interest rates for Aromas-San Juan Bautista school projects, not administrators' salaries or operating expenses, with citizens' oversight and independent public financial audits?"

PRIORITY SCHOOL PROJECTS LIST

The Aromas-San Juan Unified School District evaluated the District's urgent and critical facility needs, including safety issues, enrollment trends, class size, energy efficiency and computer technology, in developing the scope of projects to be funded. In developing the scope of projects, teachers, staff and community members have prioritized the key health and safety needs so that the most critical facility needs are addressed. The Board conducted a facilities evaluation and received public input and review in developing the scope of facility projects to be funded. This input concluded that if these facility and financial needs were not addressed now, the cost of upgrading our schools would only get more expensive. **In approving this Priority School Projects List, the Board of Trustees makes five important policy determinations:**

- (i) the District must remove aging portable classrooms which have passed their useful life and have become too expensive to maintain; and
- (ii) the District must add new permanent classrooms to replace portable classrooms and reduce maintenance expenses; and
- (iii) the District must upgrade aging classrooms and science labs to accommodate current teaching strategies; and
- (iv) the District must aggressively apply for State matching funds so that the greatest cost of school repairs is paid for by the State; and
- (v) the District must identify and remove hazardous asbestos from its multi-purpose classrooms so that all students are healthy and safe.

The Bond Priority School Projects List is on file at the District Office of the Superintendent and includes the following projects:

1. Aromas School: Construct 12 new classrooms allowing the removal of an equal number of deteriorating portable classrooms; repair unsafe asphalt/concrete paving on site; renovate classrooms; repair and upgrade multi-purpose room constructed in 1948, including removing hazardous asbestos; upgrade restrooms.
2. San Juan School: Renovate four 7th and 8th grade classrooms to accommodate current teaching strategies; renovate and upgrade restrooms, multi-purpose room, including the removal of hazardous asbestos, and kitchen to meet current standards.

3. Anzar High School: To reduce classroom overcrowding, construct six new classrooms and one integrated multi-purpose area which will accommodate lunch eating areas, allowing students to eat indoors in the event of rain or inclement weather, a main District kitchen and student assemblies.

4. District-Wide Project: Retire an outstanding loan which financed the construction of school facilities and which would significantly improve the financial condition of the District.

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 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 Priority School Projects List also includes the payment of the costs of preparation of all facility planning, facility assessment reviews, environmental studies and construction documentation, and temporary housing of dislocated District activities caused by bond projects. The allocation of bond proceeds will be affected by the District's receipt of State matching funds and the final costs of each project. Certain projects may be undertaken as joint use projects in cooperation with other local public 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 will be determined as plans are finalized, construction bids are awarded and projects are completed. Based on the final costs of each project, certain of the 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, utility lines, trees and landscaping, redirecting fire access, and acquiring any necessary easements, licenses, or rights of way to the property. 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.

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

IN ACCORDANCE WITH EDUCATION CODE SECTION 15272, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WILL APPOINT A CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE AND CONDUCT ANNUAL INDEPENDENT AUDITS TO ASSURE THAT FUNDS ARE SPENT ONLY ON DISTRICT PROJECTS AND FOR NO OTHER PURPOSE. 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.

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.

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IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL
BALLOT MEASURE V

If approved by at least fifty-five percent of those voting on the measure, this measure will authorize the Aromas-San Juan Unified School District (the "District") to issue general obligation bonds in a maximum aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$18,800,000. 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 the full text ballot proposition printed in this pamphlet 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 twenty-five 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 V 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 V 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 Aromas-San Juan Unified School District.

A "no" vote on Measure V 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 V

Aromas-San Juan Joint Unified School District

An election will be held in the Aromas-San Juan Unified School District (the "District") on June 3, 2008, to authorize the sale of up to \$18,800,000 in bonds of the District to finance school facilities as described in the proposition. If the bonds are approved, the District expects to sell the bonds in several 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 which includes portions of San Benito, Monterey, and Santa Cruz counties. The following information 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 \$0.03925 per \$100 (\$39.25 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 \$0.03922 per \$100 (\$39.22 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 \$0.03950 per \$100 (\$39.50 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation in fiscal year 2011-12.

4. The best estimate of the average annual 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 \$0.03943 per \$100 (\$39.43 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 official tax rolls of the respective counties, not on the property's market value. 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. Certain taxpayers may also be eligible to postpone the payment of taxes. Property owners should consult their own property tax bills and tax advisors 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 are 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 the 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 respective County Assessors in the annual assessment and the equalization process.

Dated: March 4, 2008

Jacquelyn Muñoz
Superintendent
Aromas-San Juan Unified School District

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE V

Thanks to the support of voters of the Aromas – San Juan Unified School District, our children now attend classes in facilities that are safer, healthier, and better equipped to meet the challenges of today's educational demands.

There are still many critical projects to be completed. Students at Anzar High School eat meals and assemble outside, in all weather. Built in 1994, it is already over capacity. Centralizing the District kitchen at Anzar would save money and time. Portable classrooms at Aromas leak, ruining books, equipment, and furniture. San Juan School's science/humanities classrooms and multipurpose room are old and run down.

We can no longer depend on the state for the minimum financial support needed to educate our children and pay teachers and staff. Paying off construction loans that drain our general fund will avoid budget cuts that threaten local control of our schools.

On June 3, voters in The Aromas – San Juan Unified School District will be asked to approve Measure V which will raise local funds to complete projects and qualify us for matching funds from the state.

Measure V will do the following at:

Aromas School:

- Replace 25 year old portables with permanent classrooms
- Replace unsafe pavement
- Renovate 60 year old kindergarten classroom
- Renovate multi-purpose room and prep kitchen

San Juan School:

- Renovate four Science/Humanities classrooms
- Renovate multi-purpose room and prep kitchen

Anzar High School:

- Construct six classrooms to accommodate increased enrollment
- Construct multi-purpose room for interior dining and assembly
- Create centralized kitchen to save money and time

Our Aromas-San Juan Unified School District administration and staff work tirelessly on behalf of our students. The District has provided facilities that help maintain property values and add to the well being of our communities. Please join us by voting YES on Measure V – for our children and our communities.

s/ Joel S. Wiley
Parent

s/ Patty Brown
Community Member

s/ John Ferreira
Community Member

s/ James Sleznick, Jr.
Community Member

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE V

The Salinas Valley Taxpayers Union and other taxpayer friendly groups urge you to **Vote NO on Measure V**. It's a tax increase!

Voters in the Aromas-San Juan Unified School District have already passed and are paying **higher taxes** for a 11.2 million dollar bond measure in 2002 to fix and repair similar "critical projects". But, school officials are back again for more of your money. School officials are greedy and will keep asking you to pay more until you say "**NO**" and force them to spend what they have responsibly.

School officials are failing by not managing your taxes responsibly. Instead of adequately budgeting from their general fund for maintenance and other facility needs, they spend your tax money on **higher salaries** and ask you to replace it by paying more.

Taxpayers are already over-taxed, and more and more taxes are being levied each year, including for bonds spent by this school district or others.

CalTax has reported that the average cost of a school bond measure is 6% of assessed property value.

Many taxpayers are **denied a vote** on this measure, and school officials are guilty of not balancing this wrong with a two-thirds voter majority requirement. For this reason the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association **opposes** this measure.

Shame on school officials! Taxpayers deserve better!

It's your money! Remember on June 3, to vote **NO on Measure V**. "**No New Taxes!**"

Freedom Watch
s/ Lawrence K. Samuels, President

Libertarian Party of Monterey County
s/ Jane Heider, Treasurer

Salinas Valley Taxpayers Union (SVTU.org)
s/ John Tresch

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ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE V

Government schools have not performed well. California taxpayers continue to throw good money at a so-called educational system with scores approaching the bottom of the national average. Some argue that more money is needed, but, in a classic example of the boomerang effect, evidence shows that the more money spent on government-operated schools, the less students achieve.

According to the Census Bureau in 2005, New York is the biggest spender on education at \$14,119 per student, with New Jersey second at \$13,800 and Washington, D.C. third at \$12,979. But schools in these states have some of the lowest scores in the nation. Most years, New York actually ranks 51 out of 51. So, higher spending doesn't necessarily translate into better results. In 2002, for instance, North Dakota spent the least per pupil, yet it ranked number four nationwide. More money is not the answer.

The United States ties with high-ranking Switzerland on spending the most per student; adjusted for inflation, spending per student went up 212% from 1960-1995 across our nation. But the U.S. ranks at the bottom in math and science scores compared to all other developed nations. Even some developing countries do better.

The Aromas-San Juan Unified School District is asking taxpayers to issue an \$18.8 million dollar bond with interest as high as 12 percent. With interest, this long-term could cost taxpayers more than \$40 million.

The education of our children is too important to put into the politically-motivated hands of government. Some alternatives include more charter schools, educational vouchers or the libertarian idea of separation of school and state. But something must be done. Vote No on Measure V. For more information, see www.Freedom1776.com or www.axethetax.net

Freedom Watch
s/ Lawrence Samuels, President

Libertarian Party of Monterey County
s/ Jane Heider, Treasurer

Salinas Valley Taxpayers Union (SVTU.org)
s/ John Tresch

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE V

Don't let the opponents of Measure V confuse you as much as they are confused. Measure V is for students in the Aromas-San Juan Unified School District, not New York, Washington D.C., or even Switzerland!

The facts are very clear. The State has made drastic cuts in the financial support for education, and local communities are stepping up to keep control of their schools-and to insure that their tax money stays in their community to benefit their children. Measure V will complete the work voters approved in 2002.

That work was done as promised, on budget, and on time. The improvements that remain are critical to the health and safety of our children: providing an indoor eating area at Anzar High School, and replacing deteriorating portables that leak which damages equipment and materials, and causes mold and other problems in classrooms at Aromas School.

Passage of Measure V will also retire a District debt eliminating the burden on the general fund, allowing the District to use that money to support students.

It is a fact that good schools have a direct impact on home values. The communities of the Aromas-San Juan Unified School District are well served by the quality of the facilities and the education that our students receive -- a value for today and for the future.

Passage of Measure V will qualify the District for matching funds meaning our tax dollars will stretch even further. Please join us in voting Yes for Measure V.

s/ Joel S. Wiley

s/ Patty Brown

s/ John Ferreira

s/ James Sleznick, Jr.