



Biggs Unified School District Measure

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

W School Bond Measure

To improve the quality of education; modernize outdated classrooms, construct new gymnasium, restrooms and school facilities; upgrade classroom technology; and make health, safety and security improvements; shall the Biggs Unified School District issue \$9.5 million of bonds at legal interest rates, generating on average \$624,000 annually as long as bonds are outstanding at a rate of approximately 4.7 cents per \$100 assessed value, with annual audits, citizens' oversight committee, NO money for salaries and all money staying local?

Bonds—Yes

Bonds—No



IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE W

Measure W, a Biggs Unified School District (“District”) bond measure, seeks voter approval to authorize the District to issue \$9.5 million of bonds at legal rates. The primary purpose of the bonds is to finance school facilities projects as specified in the measure.

Pursuant to Section 18 of Article XVI and Section 1 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution, this measure will become effective upon the affirmative vote of at least 55% of the qualified electors voting on this measure.

Education Code section 15100 restricts the use of the proceeds from the bonds sale to items such as building school buildings, improving school grounds, supplying school buildings and grounds with equipment, and acquiring real property for school facilities. In addition, proceeds may only be used for the projects listed in the measure. This measure provides that its proceeds will fund projects outlined in the measure (reproduced in the sample ballot pamphlet) that include, but are not limited to: repairing and replacing leaking or deteriorating roofs; installing or improving fire safety systems; installing solar panels to reduce energy costs; upgrading aging or deteriorating restrooms; upgrading classroom technology; and enhancing student safety-related projects. Proceeds may not be used for any other purpose such as teacher and administrator salaries and other operating expenses.

If 55% of those who vote on the measure vote “yes”, the District will be authorized to issue bonds in the amount of \$9.5 million. Approval of this measure will authorize a levy on the assessed value of taxable property within the District by an amount needed to pay the principal and interest on the bonds each year that the bonds are outstanding.



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The Tax Rate Statement for Measure W in this sample ballot pamphlet reflects the District's best estimates, based upon currently available data and projections, of the property tax rates required to service the bonds. The best estimate of the tax rate required to be levied to fund the bonds is 4.7 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation or \$47 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. It is estimated that such rate would be levied starting in fiscal year 2019-20. The final fiscal year in which it is anticipated that the tax will be collected is 2050-51. The best estimate of the total debt service, including principal and interest, that would be required to be repaid if all the bonds are issued and sold is approximately \$19.1 million.

The Board of Trustees ("Board") will appoint a citizens' oversight committee to ensure that the bond proceeds are spent for the projects listed in the measure. The Board will also conduct annual, independent performance and financial audits.

If 55% of those voting on this measure do not vote for approval, the measure will fail and the District will not be authorized to issue the bonds.

This measure is placed on the ballot by the governing board of the District.

/s/Bruce S. Alpert
County Counsel

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure W. If you desire a copy of the measure, please call Butte County Elections at 530-538-7761 or 800-894-7761 within Butte County and a copy will be mailed to you at no cost. You may also access the full text of the measure at the following website address: <http://buttevotes.net>



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TAX RATE STATEMENT REGARDING PROPOSED \$9.5 MILLION BIGGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

An election will be held in the Biggs Unified School District (the "District") on November 6, 2018, to authorize the sale of up to \$9.5 million in bonds of the District to finance school facilities as described in the measure. If such bonds are authorized and sold, principal and interest on the bonds will be payable only from the proceeds of *ad valorem* tax levies made upon the taxable property in the District. The following information is provided in compliance with Sections 9400-9404 of the Elections Code of the State of California. Such information is based upon the best estimates and projections presently available from official sources, upon experience within the District, and other demonstrable factors.

Based upon the foregoing and projections of the District's assessed valuation, the following information is provided:

1. The best estimate of the average annual tax rate which would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue over the entire duration of the bond debt service, based on a projection of assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is \$0.047 per \$100 of assessed valuation (or \$47 per \$100,000 of assessed value). The final fiscal year in which it is anticipated the tax will be collected is 2050-51.
2. The best estimate of the highest tax rate which would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue, based on a projection of assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is \$0.047 per \$100 of assessed valuation (or \$47 per \$100,000 of assessed value). It is estimated that such rate would be levied starting in fiscal year 2019-20 and following.
3. The best estimate of the total debt service, including the principal and interest, that would be required to be repaid if all the bonds are issued and sold is approximately \$19.1 million.

Voters should note the estimated tax rate is based on the assessed value (not market value) of taxable property on the County's official tax rolls. 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. Property owners should consult their own property tax bills and tax advisors to determine their property's assessed value and any applicable tax exemptions.



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The attention of all voters is directed to the fact that the foregoing information is based upon projections and estimates only, which amounts are not maximum amounts and are not binding upon the District. The actual debt service, tax rates and the years in which they will apply may vary from those used to provide the estimates set forth above, due to factors such as variations in the timing of bond sales, the par amount of bonds sold and market interest rates available at the time of each sale, actual assessed valuations over the term of the bonds, and other factors. The date and amount of bonds sold at any given time will be determined by the District based on the need for project funds and other considerations. The actual interest rates at which the bonds will be sold will depend on conditions in the bond market at the time of sale. Actual future assessed valuations 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.

By: /s/Doug Kaelin
Superintendent
Biggs Unified School District



ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE W

Biggs Unified School District was formed over 100 years ago, and all our schools were built multiple decades ago. Though the District has not passed a school improvement measure and has maintained its facilities with other resources, our schools are some of the oldest in Butte County and vital repairs can no longer wait. Biggs Elementary School was built in 1950!

The longer we put off repairs, the more expensive it will be to fix these problems down the road. California does not provide schools with unmatched funds for most construction costs, so our schools need our support to make much needed repairs. Your YES vote on Measure W will ensure a safe, clean, and modern learning environment for children for decades to come.

If passed, Measure W will make critical facility improvements to our local schools, including; repairing or replacing leaky roofs, constructing a new gymnasium at Biggs Elementary School, upgrading classroom technology, making health, safety and security improvements, and modernizing outdated classrooms, restrooms and school facilities.



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With money for plan design provided by the State Allocation Board, and with Department of State Architecture approved plans in hand, including all specifications for each site, the District is fully ready to complete all the needed projects within the District.

Measure W makes financial sense and protects taxpayers. All bond funds must be spent **locally** and cannot be taken by the State. By law, spending must be reviewed and annually audited by an **independent** citizens' oversight committee. In addition, funds can only be spent to improve our local schools, not for teacher or administrative salaries.

Measure W upgrades and repairs old, inadequate classrooms, improves the education of local students and maintains the quality of our community. That's something we can all support. Please join us and Vote Yes On Measure W!

/s/ Doug Kaelin, Superintendent, Biggs USD
/s/ Dennis Slusser, Board President, Biggs USD
/s/ Janet Smith, Retired Teacher, Biggs USD
/s/ Angela Andes, Teacher BUTA, Biggs USD
/s/ Dave Browning, Maintenance CSEA, Biggs USD

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE W WAS SUBMITTED

FULL TEXT OF BOND MEASURE

INTRODUCTION

To improve the quality of education; modernize outdated classrooms, construct new gymnasium, restrooms and school facilities; upgrade classroom technology; and make health, safety and security improvements; shall the Biggs Unified School District issue \$9.5 million of bonds at legal interest rates, generating on average \$624,000 annually as long as bonds are outstanding at a rate of approximately 4.7 cents per \$100 assessed value, with annual audits, citizens' oversight committee, NO money for salaries and all money staying local?



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BOND AUTHORIZATION

By approval of this measure by at least 55 percent of the registered voters voting on the measure, the Biggs Unified School District will be authorized to issue and sell bonds of up to \$9.5 million in aggregate principal amount at interest rates not to exceed legal limits and to provide financing for the specific types of school facilities projects listed in the Bond Project List described below, subject to all the accountability requirements specified below.

ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS

The provisions in this section are specifically included in this measure in order that the voters and taxpayers in the District may be assured that their money will be spent wisely. Expenditures to address specific facilities needs of the District will be in compliance with the requirements of Article XIII A, Section 1(b)(3), of the State Constitution and the Strict Accountability in Local School Construction Bonds Act of 2000 (codified at Education Code Sections 15264 and following.)

Evaluation of Needs. The School Board has identified detailed facilities needs of the District and has determined which projects to finance from a local bond. The School Board hereby certifies that it has evaluated safety, class size reduction, enrollment growth, and information technology needs in developing the Bond Project List shown below.

Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee. Following approval of this measure, the Board of Trustees will establish an Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee, under Education Code Sections 15278 and following, to ensure bond proceeds are expended only on the types of school facilities projects listed below. The committee will be established within 60 days of the date when the results of the election appear in the minutes of the School Board.

Performance Audits. The School Board will conduct annual, independent performance audits to ensure that the bond proceeds have been expended only on the school facilities projects listed below.

Financial Audits. The School Board will conduct annual, independent financial audits of the bond proceeds until all of those proceeds have been spent for the school facilities projects listed below.



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Government Code Accountability Requirements. As required by Section 53410 of the Government Code, (1) the specific purpose of the bonds is set forth in this Full Text of the Measure, (2) the proceeds from the sale of the bonds will be used only for the purposes specified in this measure, and not for any other purpose, (3) the proceeds of the bonds, when and if issued, will be deposited into a building fund to be held by the Butte County Treasurer, as required by the California Education Code, and (4) the Superintendent of the District shall cause an annual report to be filed with the Board of Trustees of the District not later than January 1 of each year, which report shall contain pertinent information regarding the amount of funds collected and expended, as well as the status of the projects listed in this measure, as required by Sections 53410 and 53411 of the Government Code.

NO TEACHER OR ADMINISTRATOR SALARIES

Proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized by this measure shall be used only for the purposes specified in Article XIII A, Section 1(b)(3), those being for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities, including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities, and the acquisition or lease of school facilities, and not for any other purpose, including teacher and administrator salaries and other school operating expenses.

STATE MATCHING FUNDS

The following statement is included in this measure pursuant to Education Code Section 15122.5: Approval of this measure does not guarantee that the proposed project or projects that are the subject of bonds under this measure will be funded beyond the local revenues generated by this measure. The District's proposal for the project or projects described below may assume the receipt of matching state funds, which, if available, could be subject to appropriation by the Legislature or approval of a statewide bond measure.

INFORMATION ABOUT ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS INCLUDED IN BALLOT

This measure authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to finance the types of projects set forth on the Bond Project List set forth below, to be repaid by tax collections for the years that bonds are outstanding. The measure presented to District voters on the Ballot, as set forth above under the heading "INTRODUCTION", includes information regarding the expected average amount of money to be raised annually to pay issued bonds, the estimated rate of the approved tax per \$100 of assessed valuation, and the year through which it is approximated the proposed tax will be levied and collected. Each of these estimates and approximations are provided as information only. Such amounts



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are estimates only, and are not maximum amounts or limitations on the terms of the bonds or the tax rate or duration supporting repayment of bonds. The approximations and estimates provided depend on numerous variables which are subject to variation and change over the term of the District's overall facilities and bond financing plan, including but not limited to the amount of bonds issued and outstanding at any one time, the interest rates applicable to issued bonds, market conditions at the time of sale of the bonds, when bonds mature, timing of project needs and changes in assessed valuations in the District. As such, while such estimates and approximations have been provided based on information currently available to the District and its current expectations, such estimates and approximations are not limitations and are not binding upon the District.

BOND PROJECT LIST

Scope of Projects. Bond proceeds will be expended on the modernization, renovation, expansion, acquisition, construction/reconstruction, rehabilitation, and/or replacement of school facilities of the Biggs Unified School District, including the furnishing and equipping of such school facilities. This measure authorizes bond projects to be undertaken at all District sites, including current and future sites.

School Facility Project List. The items presented on the following list are the types of projects authorized to be financed with voter-approved bond proceeds. Specific examples included on this list are not intended to limit the broad types of projects described and authorized by this measure. The types of projects authorized are:

Biggs Elementary/Middle School (Constructed in 1950)

- Repair/replace leaking or deteriorating roofs.
- Install new or improve existing student fire safety systems.
- Install new solar panels to reduce energy costs.
- Upgrade aging and/or deteriorating restrooms.
- Upgrade classroom technology.
- Renovate, upgrade classrooms, buildings, including support areas, physical education facilities and auditorium, upgrade facilities to improve access for students and teachers with disabilities, remove hazardous materials, if any. Replace 40-year-old portable classrooms.



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- Enhance student safety with improved security systems and emergency communication systems, outdoor lighting, fencing and upgraded field surfaces and play structures.
- Construct new gymnasium.*

Biggs High School (Constructed in 1963)

- Repair/replace leaking or deteriorating roofs.
- Install new or improve existing student fire safety systems.
- Upgrade heating and ventilation system for energy efficiency and install new solar panels to reduce energy costs.
- Upgrade aging and/or deteriorating restrooms.
- Upgrade classroom technology.
- Upgrade wood/metal shop to expand vocational career opportunities.
- Renovate, upgrade classrooms, buildings, including support areas, physical education facilities and auditorium, upgrade facilities to improve access for students and teachers with disabilities, remove hazardous materials, if any.
- Enhance student safety with improved security systems and emergency communication systems, outdoor lighting, fencing and upgraded field surfaces.

Richvale Elementary School (Constructed in 1965)

- Repair/replace leaking or deteriorating roofs.
- Install new or improve existing student fire safety systems.
- Upgrade heating and ventilation system for energy efficiency and install new solar panels to reduce energy costs.
- Upgrade aging and/or deteriorating restrooms.

* If there are any sufficient funds after all health and safety repairs are completed.



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- Upgrade classroom technology.
- Renovate, upgrade classrooms, buildings, including support areas, physical education facilities and auditorium, upgrade facilities to improve access for students and teachers with disabilities, remove hazardous materials, if any.
- Enhance student safety with improved security systems and emergency communication systems, outdoor lighting, fencing and upgraded field surfaces and play structures.

Each of the bond projects described in this Bond Project List include the costs of furnishing and equipping such facilities, and all costs which are incidental but directly related to the types of projects described above. Examples of incidental costs include, but are not limited to: costs of design, engineering, architect and other professional services, facilities assessments, inspections, site preparation, utilities, landscaping, construction management and other planning and permitting, legal, accounting and similar costs; independent annual financial and performance audits; a customary construction contingency; demolition and disposal of existing structures; the costs of interim housing and storage during construction including relocation and construction costs incurred relating to interim facilities; rental or construction of storage facilities and other space on an interim basis for materials and other equipment and furnishings displaced during construction; costs of relocating facilities and equipment as needed in connection with the projects; interim classrooms and facilities for students, administrators, and school functions, including modular facilities; federal and state-mandated safety upgrades; addressing unforeseen conditions revealed by construction/modernization and other necessary improvements required to comply with existing building codes, including the Field Act; access requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act; costs of the election; bond issuance costs; and project administration during the duration of such projects, as permitted by law.

The scope and nature of any of the specific projects described above may be altered by the District as required by unforeseen conditions that may arise during the course of design and construction. In the event that a modernization or renovation project is more economical for the District to be undertaken as new construction, this bond measure authorizes land acquisition, relocation and construction and/or reconstruction, and all costs relating thereto, for said reason or, alternatively, based on other considerations deemed in the best interest of the District by the Governing Board. In addition, this measure authorized the acquisition of real property, including necessary rights of ways



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or other real property interests, required to expand District facilities, to provide access to school or other District facilities, or to provide additional school or related facilities. In addition, authorized projects include reimbursements for paid project costs and paying and/or prepaying interim or previously obtained financing for the types of projects included on the project list, such as bond anticipation notes, and including payment and prepayment of lease payments relating to projects and/or equipment previously financed.

Approval of the District's bond measure does not guarantee that all of the identified projects within this Bond Project List will be funded beyond what can be completed with local funds generated by the bond measure. The District plans to pursue funds from the State of California, if available, to complete certain of the identified facilities projects.

The order in which school facilities projects are listed in the foregoing Bond Project List does not suggest an order of priority. Project priorities will be determined by the Board of Trustees. The District is unable to anticipate all unforeseen circumstances which may prevent some of the projects listed above from being undertaken or completed.