



## Local Ballot Measure: E

### Full Text of Measure E

#### SOLEDAD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

By approval of this measure by at least fifty-five percent (55%) of the registered voters voting thereon, the Soledad Unified School District shall be authorized to issue and sell bonds of up to \$42 million in aggregate principal amount to provide financing for the specific school facilities projects listed below in the Bond Project List, subject to all of the accountability safeguards specified herein.

#### **SECTION I: KEY FINDINGS**

- Soledad Unified School District has provided quality education to students in the local community over its long history, consistent with its mission to create the conditions for student success, contribute to a positive learning environment, nurture the unique skills and abilities of every student and work as a collaborative team within each District school site and the greater learning community.
- In the past, local voters have approved school facility bonds to help the District meet critical renovation, modernization and safety needs at the District's schools, with citizens' oversight to verify that all funds expended thus far are being spent in accordance with voter-approved priorities.
- Bond revenue is the primary means by which all local school districts are able to keep its school buildings and classrooms in good repair, safe, designed and equipped to support changing educational standards, methods and approaches.
- Though bond funding has made a significant impact, our local schools still have urgent needs that reach beyond the scope of the District's annual operating budget, such that passing this bond measure provides a guaranteed and necessary source of local funding to maintain and improve the community's local school facilities.
- The District has identified the upgrades needed at each school site in order to meet modern safety and security standards, to meet the District's goals for supporting current academic standards, and to address specific priorities at individual school sites.
- The District cannot rely on the State of California to fund school facility improvements and the limited state dollars available for facility upgrades often require local matching funds that could be provided by a local bond measure.
- This bond measure will benefit local schools only and no funds can be taken away by the State or other school districts, and by law, no money can be used for administrator salaries or pensions.
- This bond measure requires strict fiscal accountability protections including mandatory annual audits and an independent citizens' oversight committee comprised of local residents to ensure funds are managed and spent properly.

#### **SECTION II: ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES**

The provisions in this section are included in this proposition in order that the voters and taxpayers of the District may be assured that their money will be spent to address specific facilities needs of the District, all 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 Section 15264 *et seq.* of the California Education Code).

**Evaluation of Needs.** The Board of Education has evaluated the facilities needs of the District and has identified projects to finance from a local bond measure. The Board of Education has certified that it has evaluated safety, class size reduction and information technology needs in developing the Bond Project List.

**Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee.** The Board of Education shall appoint a new or empower an existing independent Citizens' Oversight Committee in accordance with Education Code sections 15278-15282 and applicable Board policy, to ensure bond proceeds are expended only for the school facilities projects listed in the Bond Project List. The committee shall be established within sixty (60) days of the date when the Board of Education enters the results of the election in its official minutes.

**Annual Performance Audit.** The Board of Education shall conduct or cause to be conducted an annual, independent performance audit to ensure that the bond proceeds have been expended only on the school facilities projects described in the Bond Project List.

**Annual Financial Audit.** The Board of Education shall conduct or cause to be conducted an annual, independent financial audit of the bond proceeds until all of those proceeds have been spent.

**Annual Report to Board.** Upon approval of this measure and the sale of any bonds approved, the Board of Education shall take actions necessary to establish an account in which proceeds of the sale of bonds will be deposited. As long as any proceeds of the bonds remain unexpended, the Superintendent shall cause a report to be filed with the Board of Education no later than January 1 of each year, commencing on the first January 1 after bonds have been issued and proceeds spent, stating (1) the amount of bond



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proceeds received and expended in the past fiscal year, and (2) the status of any project funded or to be funded from bond proceeds. The report may be incorporated into the annual budget, annual financial report, or other appropriate routine report to the Board.

### SECTION III: BOND PROJECT LIST

This Bond Project List, which is an integral part of this measure, describes the specific projects the District proposes to finance with proceeds of the bonds. All information contained within this “Section III: Bond Project List” comprises the Bond Project List and description of permissible projects and expenses that may be paid from bond proceeds.

In order to meet all identified facility needs, the District intends to complete projects using a combination of funding sources, including joint use funds or contributions, development impact fees, and state funding (if available). The District will pursue state matching funds if and when they become available and, if received, they will be used for projects on the Bond Project List or other high priority capital outlay expenditures as permitted by law. Approval of this measure does not guarantee that all projects on this Bond Project List at all listed sites will be funded beyond the local revenues generated by this measure. The District’s proposal for the projects assumes the receipt of some state matching funds, which could be subject to appropriation by the Legislature or approval of a statewide bond measure. Bond funds may be used to meet any matching share contribution requirements.

Proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized by this measure shall be used only for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, replacement, furnishing and equipping of school facilities, and the acquisition or lease of real property for school facilities, all as listed on the Bond Project List. All projects to be financed with bonds authorized by this measure listed on the Bond Project List have been determined by the District to be “school facilities” as that term is used in the California Constitution. “School facilities” include projects at school sites as well as administrative and teacher/staff support facilities which are necessary for, and related to, the delivery of high-quality education services. Projects listed below may be completed at any and all properties, school sites and facilities where such project is determined necessary, and projects are authorized to be performed at each and all of the District’s schools, sites and facilities, including administrative and ancillary support facilities, whether owned, leased or yet to be acquired, including, without limitation, the following:

Specific projects to be funded by the bond measure include, without limitation, the following:

#### **All District Sites**

**(including the District Office, MOTF Yard and Community Education Center):**

- Expand, renovate and revitalize existing or construct new classrooms and school facilities for vocational and career training programs, including coding, engineering and woodworking
- Update schools to improve student safety and security including installing additional fencing and gates, pedestrian access, walkways, lighting, reconfiguring entrances and drop-off/pickup locations, point of entry access, upgrading door locks with keyless entry systems, and security systems, including intercom and emergency communications systems, video surveillance systems, lighting systems, bell systems, fire and life safety systems
- Replace, repair, modernize deteriorating roofs, leaking pipes, outdated plumbing, sewer and gas lines, waterlines, storm drains and valves, relocate downspouts, condense piping, heating, cooling, ventilation systems and electrical systems
- Renovate and modernize classrooms and school facilities including flooring, windows, window coverings, doors, lighting, interior and exterior finishes, and paint
- Federal and State-mandated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility upgrades district-wide including site access, walkways, parking, staff and student restrooms, relocation of some existing electrical devices, drinking fountains, playground equipment and classrooms
- Expand, Renovate and revitalize existing or construct new classrooms, labs and school facilities for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (“STEAM”) instruction
- Develop, construct, install and improve outdoor areas including playgrounds, outdoor learning and meeting areas, hardscaping, landscaping, xeriscaping, irrigation improvements including water reclamation, and building/installing shade structures and seating
- Renovate and repair restrooms and drinking fountains
- Construct and equip new transitional kindergarten and pre-kindergarten classrooms, restrooms, learning spaces and play areas
- Modernize, upgrade, renovate existing classrooms and facilities including installing gas and water to science buildings and labs
- Upgrade, install, expand district-wide technology projects including installing all necessary network infrastructure, network



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connections, network security and wiring, and upgrading, servers, fiber optics, hardware, data backup systems, software, computers, tablets, classroom technology tools, remote learning software, internet and wi-fi

- Provide adequate furniture and equipment for all classrooms
- Design, acquire and construct rental housing units for teachers and staff including all related amenities and facilities
- Repair, reconfigure or replace deteriorating asphalt, concrete, sidewalks, parking lots, driveways and walkways
- Construct, modernize, retrofit cafeteria, eating and serving areas, kitchen and multipurpose rooms
- Renovate, expand and modernize classrooms and facilities for mental health, wellness, counseling, and nursing
- Renovate, repair, replace, construct and/or install playfields, athletic fields, tracks, playgrounds, play structures, play surfaces, softball and baseball fields, gyms, courts, weight rooms, locker rooms, and other athletic and fitness facilities, and all related improvements and equipment
- Renovate and modernize school libraries and media centers
- Construct, modernize, retrofit and expand classrooms and facilities including ROTC building and culinary arts
- Repair, modernize outdated portable classrooms or replace with permanent modern facilities
- Renovate, repair, replace, modernize, construct theater/auditorium, multipurpose rooms or other classrooms and facilities for music, performing and visual arts programs
- Improve and expand energy efficiency and sustainability including installation of energy efficient lighting and systems, solar panels, battery storage, and electric vehicle charging stations
- Construct, renovate, modernize and relocate school administration offices, workrooms, IT facility, conference rooms and other spaces for District support services
- Purchase school buses and District fleet vehicles, including electric buses and vehicles
- Make health and safety improvements, such as installing necessary seismic reinforcements, repairing termite damage and repairing and/or replacing aging building materials including removal of hazardous materials identified either prior to or during construction

Listed projects, repairs, improvements, rehabilitation projects and upgrades will be completed only as needed, and the listing of projects does not imply a particular prioritization among such improvements. Projects may be done in phases, based on Board of Education priorities and available funding. Listed projects may be completed at any and all District schools, sites, properties (owned, leased or yet to be acquired) and education buildings where such project is determined necessary. Bond projects are anticipated to provide benefit to all users of school facilities, sites and buildings, including charter schools that occupy school campuses, community members and other organizations.

Decisions regarding the scope, function, timing, location, prioritization or other facets of project implementation for school facility projects listed on the Bond Project List will be made solely by the Board of Education by subsequent action, including the interpretation, meaning and intent of each listed project. Where terms such as “renovate,” “upgrade,” “replace,” “improve” and “repair” are used in the Bond Project List, the Board of Education has the discretion to determine the best method for accomplishing the project’s objective, including the use of new construction. For any listed project involving renovation or modernization of a building or the major portion of a building, the District may proceed with new replacement construction instead (including any necessary demolition), if the District determines that replacement and new construction is more practical than renovation, considering the building’s age, condition, expected remaining life, comparative cost and other relevant factors. In addition, this measure authorizes the acquisition of real property, including necessary rights of ways 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. Where feasible, projects may be completed in partnership with other public or private agencies on a joint use basis using bond proceeds, subject to federal tax rules and regulations.

Each project is assumed to include its share of costs of bond issuance, architectural, engineering, legal, accounting and similar planning costs and professional services; litigation costs; construction management; bond project consultants; staff development and training expenses associated with learning construction techniques and approaches and new bond-funded equipment and systems; the furnishing and equipping of all projects, including equipment to maintain facilities in a safe and clean condition; and a customary contingency for unforeseen design and construction costs. Payment of the costs of preparation of facilities planning and project implementation studies, feasibility and assessment reviews, master planning, environmental studies, permit and inspection fees, Division of State Architect (DSA) - related requirements, studies and assessments, including ADA and seismic, and temporary housing, storage and relocation costs for dislocated programs or activities caused or necessitated by projects on the Bond Project List are permissible bond expenditures. Land may be acquired for any project, and all projects may be furnished and equipped using bond proceeds to ensure the functionality and usability of facilities and sites constructed or reconstructed with bond proceeds.



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Bond proceeds may be used to retire any interim funding incurred to advance fund projects described on the Bond Project List. The upgrading of technology infrastructure listed above includes, but is not limited to, computers, projectors, portable interface devices, servers, switches, routers, modules, sound projection systems, printers, digital white boards, document projectors, telephone system, call manager and network security/firewall, wireless technology systems and other miscellaneous equipment and software.

The final cost of each project will be determined as plans are finalized 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. Necessary site preparation, grading or restoration may occur in connection with acquisition of property, new construction, modernization, renovation or remodeling, or installation or removal of modular classrooms, including ingress and egress, removing, replacing or installing irrigation, utility lines, trees and landscaping, relocating fire access roads and acquiring any necessary easements, leases, licenses or rights of way to the property.

The Board of Education hereby declares, and the voters by approving this Bond Measure concur, that every section and part of this bond proposition 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, and to this end the provisions of this bond measure are severable.

### SECTION IV: ADDITIONAL SPECIFICATIONS

**No Operating Expenses.** Proceeds from the sale of Bonds authorized by this proposition shall be used only for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or replacement of school facilities on the Bond Project List, including the furnishing and equipping of said school facilities, or the acquisition or lease of real property for said school facilities, and not for any other purpose, including teacher or administrator salaries and other school operating expenses in accordance with applicable law.

**Single Purpose.** All of the purposes enumerated in this proposition shall be united and voted upon as one single proposition, pursuant to Section 15100 of the California Education Code, and all the enumerated purposes shall constitute the specific single purpose of the bonds and proceeds of the bonds shall be spent only for such purpose.

**Other Terms of the Bonds.** The bonds may be issued and sold in several series, and in accordance with a financing plan determined by the Board of Education pursuant to requirements of law. When sold, the bonds shall bear interest at an annual rate not exceeding the statutory maximum and with a maximum term not exceeding the statutory maximum, provided that the average useful life of bonds sold will not exceed one hundred twenty percent (120%) of the average life of the projects being financed or as otherwise provided by federal tax law. Bond funds may be used to reimburse the District for Bond Project List expenditures incurred prior to the election and bond issuance, in accordance with federal tax law.

Attention of all voters is directed to the fact that the financial information contained in this measure is based upon the District's projections and estimates only, which are not binding upon the District, nor are the summary or average payment estimates, if any, provided in the Ballot Label. The actual tax rates, debt service 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 need for construction funds 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.

In preparing this information, the District obtained reasonable and informed projections of assessed property valuations that took into consideration projections of assessed property valuations made by the County Assessor, if any, in accordance with Education Code Section 15100(c).