



Local Ballot Measures: Measure U

U

Wheatland Union High School District: Bond Measure School Facility Improvement District No. 2

Ballot Question

To improve the quality of education at Wheatland High; modernize/renovate/construct classrooms, restrooms and school facilities; repair/replace leaky roofs; make health, safety, and security improvements; shall the Wheatland Union High School District (SFID No. 2) measure authorizing \$8,700,000 of bonds at legal interest rates be adopted, generating on average \$535,000 annually while bonds are outstanding at rates of approximately \$28 per \$100,000 assessed value, with annual audits, independent citizens' oversight committee, NO money for salaries and all money staying local?

Full Text of Measure

FULL TEXT OF BOND MEASURE

BOND AUTHORIZATION

By approval of this measure by at least 55% of the registered voters voting on the measure, the Wheatland Union High District (the "District") will be authorized to issue and sell bonds of up to \$8,700,000, on behalf of its Improvement District No. 2 (Wheatland) (the "Improvement District") 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 included below, subject to all the accountability requirements specified below.

The Bonds may be issued under the provisions of the California Education Code (starting at Section 15100), under the provisions of the California Government Code (starting at Section 53506), or under any other provision of law authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds by community college districts. The Bonds may be issued in series by the District, on behalf of the Improvement District, from time to time, and each series of Bonds shall mature within the legal limitations set forth in the applicable law under which the Bonds are issued.

ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS

The provisions in this section are specifically included in this measure in order that the voters and taxpayers in the Improvement District may be assured that their money will be spent wisely. Expenditures to address specific facilities needs in the Improvement 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 Board of Trustees of the District has identified detailed facilities needs in the Improvement District, and has determined which projects to finance from a local bond. The Board of Trustees hereby certifies that it has evaluated safety, class size reduction, enrollment growth, and information technology needs in developing the Bond Project List described 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 Board of Trustees.

Performance Audits. The Board of Trustees 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 Board of Trustees 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.

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





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and if issued, will be deposited into a building fund to be held by the Yuba County Treasurer, as required by the 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), specifically 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 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 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

Voters are informed that any estimates or projections in the bond measure or ballot materials, including relating to estimated tax rates, the duration of issued bonds and related tax levies and collections are provided as informational only. Such amounts are estimates and are not maximum amounts or limitations on the terms of the bonds, the tax rate or duration of the tax supporting repayment of issued bonds. Such estimates 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 Improvement District. As such, while such estimates and approximations are 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. In addition, the abbreviated and condensed statement of the bond measure presented to voters which is subject to a word count limitation imposed by State law does not limit the scope and complete meaning of the measure provided in this Full Text of Bond Measure and related ballot materials.

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 in the Improvement District, including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities, at all current and future sites and properties.

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

- Repair or replace leaky roofs
- Modernize, renovate, construct and/or expand aging and outdated classrooms, restrooms, multipurpose rooms and buildings, libraries, computer and science labs, cafeterias, kitchens, student services, and other school facilities to meet modern educational standards, including providing updated furnishings and other equipment to facilitate a modern and healthy learning environment and operational and efficient facilities
- Make health, safety and security improvements to comply with all applicable laws and regulations and to ensure the safety and security of District students, staff and facilities, including fire alarm compliance, communication systems, surveillance, pest control and fencing
- Improve P.E. fields and facilities for school and community use





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- Construct a new multi-purpose room/cafeteria
- Repair or replace outdated heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems
- Improve student access to computers and modern technology, including providing necessary infrastructure such as upgrading/replacing electrical systems, hardware, software, computers, devices and other modern instructional equipment throughout District sites
- Make Federal and State-mandated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility upgrades including ensuring site access, parking, staff and student restrooms, relocation of existing electrical devices, drinking fountains, playground equipment, etc. as necessary to ensure adequate accommodations are provided and all legal requirements are met
- Upgrade, repair and/or expand infrastructure serving District facilities such as utility systems (gas, water, sewer) and storm drainage systems
- Repair or replace deteriorating sewer systems and plumbing
- Improve, modernize and equip support facilities such as restrooms, cafeteria, kitchen, eating and other gathering spaces
- Make energy efficiency improvements, including replacing or upgrading doors, windows, insulation and flooring
- Abate and remove hazardous materials identified prior to or during construction
- Upgrade and repair outdoor areas such as parking, vehicle traffic areas, bus barn facility, grounds and storm drainage systems, including grading and resurfacing, repairing and/or replacing asphalt and concrete, installing signage, shade structures, lighting, walkways, ADA access ramps, and make landscaping improvements including installation/upgrade of irrigation systems
- Implement water conservation methods, such as irrigation systems and irrigation control systems, and installation of efficient, drought-resistant landscaping

Incidental Expenses. 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, bond project construction management, administration 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; and costs of the election; bond issuance costs; and project administration during the duration of such projects, as permitted by law.

Furnishing and Equipping. Each project is assumed to include its share of furniture, fixtures, 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 projects stated above, the list also includes the acquisition of a variety of instructional, maintenance and operational equipment, including the reduction or retirement of outstanding lease obligations and interim funding incurred to advance fund projects from the list; installation of signage and fencing; payment of the costs of preparation of all facility planning, facility studies, assessment reviews, facility master plan preparation and updates, environmental studies (including environmental investigation, remediation and monitoring), design and construction documentation, and temporary housing of dislocated District activities caused by construction projects. The upgrading of technology infrastructure includes, but is not limited to, computers, LCD 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.





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Alternations to Scope; New Construction. The scope and nature of any of the specific projects described above may be altered by the District as required by conditions that may arise during the course of design and construction. In the event that a modernization or renovation project is more economical for or otherwise determined by the Board to be in the best interests of the District to be undertaken as new construction, this bond measure authorizes said new construction including land acquisition, relocation and construction at a new or alternative site, and/or demolition and reconstruction and/or repurposing on the original site, including an expanded site, and all costs relating thereto. In addition, this measure authorizes the acquisition of real property, including necessary rights of ways or other real property interests, required to expand facilities in the Improvement District, to provide access to school or other facilities in the Improvement District, or to provide additional school or related facilities.

Interim Financing Included; Joint Use Projects Authorized. Authorized projects include paying and/or prepaying interim or previously obtained financing for the types of projects included on the Bond Project List, such as bond anticipation notes, and includes prepayment of lease payments to acquire title to facilities and/or equipment previously financed. Projects may also be undertaken on a joint use basis with other public entities.

Bond Project List Not in Order of Priority; Board Determines Prioritization. Approval of this bond measure does not guarantee that the proposed projects will be funded beyond the local revenues generated by the measure. The District's capital needs currently exceed the amount of bonds the voters are being asked to authorize. The order in which particular projects are listed is not intended to suggest priority for funding or completion, and itemization of projects in the list above does not guarantee that all such projects will be undertaken. Project priorities will be determined by the Board of Trustees. The ability of the District to undertake and complete the listed projects is subject to numerous variables including the adequacy and availability of sufficient funding sources. The District is unable to anticipate all unforeseen circumstances which may prevent some of the projects listed above from being undertaken or completed.

Interpretation. The terms of this bond measure and the words used in the Bond Project List shall be interpreted broadly to effect the purpose of providing broad and clear authority for the officers and employees of the District to provide for the school facilities projects the District proposes to finance with the proceeds of the sale of bonds authorized by this proposition within the authority provided by law, including Article XIII A, Section 1(b)(3) of the California Constitution, Education Code Section 15000 *et seq.* and the Strict Accountability in Local School Construction Bonds Act of 2000. Words used in the Bond Project List such as repair, improve, upgrade, expand, modernize, renovate, and reconfigure are used to describe school facilities projects in plain English but are not intended to expand the nature of such projects beyond what is authorized by law. As such, in accordance with legal requirements, the Bond Project List does not authorize, and shall not be interpreted to authorize, expending proceeds of the sale of bonds authorized by this proposition for current maintenance, operation or repairs.

Severability. The District Board 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 District Board 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.

The Full Text of Measure ends at the above line.





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Impartial Analysis

Voter approval of Measure U would authorize the Wheatland Union High School District (the “District”) to issue and sell new general obligation bonds in the principal amount not to exceed eight million, seven hundred thousand dollars (\$8,700,000) for the purpose of funding the completion of projects that fall within the scope of the modernization, renovation, expansion, acquisition, construction/reconstruction, rehabilitation, and/or replacement of school facilities (the “Scope”).

The District Board of Trustees (the “Board”) has compiled a nonexclusive Bond Project List of the types of projects that fall within the Scope and are authorized to be financed with voter-approved bond proceeds. The Board will establish an independent citizens’ oversight committee that will conduct annual, independent performance and financial audits to ensure that bond proceeds are spent only on types of projects that fall within the Scope.

Upon voter approval, the principal and interest on the bonds will be paid by tax levies made upon the assessed value of taxable property in the District. The tax will be levied at an estimated annual tax rate of \$28 per \$100,000 of assessed value (2.8 cents per \$100 of assessed value). The final fiscal year in which the tax is anticipated to be collected is 2057 – 2058.

The District plans to seek State matching funds to complete the proposed projects to the extent possible.

The Board adopted a resolution to place Measure U on the ballot for all registered voters who are residents of the District to vote upon the measure. Measure U will be passed if approved by at least fifty-five percent (55%) of the registered voters voting on the measure.

/s/ Amy Carlson, Deputy County Counsel





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Tax Rate Statement

An election will be held in Improvement District No. 2 (Wheatland) of the Wheatland Union High School District (the "Improvement District") of the Wheatland Union High School District (the "District") on March 5, 2024, to authorize the sale of up to \$8,700,000 in general obligation bonds. The following information is submitted 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 Improvement District, and other demonstrable factors.

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

1. The best estimate of the average annual tax rate that would be required to fund this bond issue over the entire duration of the bond debt service, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is \$26 per \$100,000. It is currently expected that the tax will be collected until fiscal year 2057-58.
2. The best estimate of the highest tax rate that would be required to fund this bond issue, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of filing this statement, is \$28 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. This rate is projected to apply until fiscal year 2053-54.
3. The best estimate of total debt service, including principal and interest, that would be required to be repaid if all the bonds are issued and sold will be approximately \$18,200,000.

These estimates are based on projections derived from information obtained from official sources, and are based on the assessed value (not market value) of taxable property on Yuba 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. 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 durations and are not binding upon the District. The actual debt service, tax rates and the years in which they will apply may vary depending on the timing of bond sales, the par amount of bonds sold at each sale and actual increases in assessed valuations. The timing of the bond sales and the amount of bonds sold at any given time will be determined by the District based on the need for project funds and other considerations. Actual assessed valuations will depend upon the amount and value of taxable property within the District as determined by the Yuba County Assessor in the annual assessment and the equalization process.

/s/ Nicole Newman
Superintendent
Wheatland Union High School District





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Arguments and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors.
We print them exactly as submitted, including grammatical errors.

Argument in Favor of Measure U	Argument Against Measure U
<p>Wheatland High School is the most important asset in our community and should be our number one priority. Quality schools improve student achievement, improve property values, prepare students for a productive future, and create greater neighborhood safety. Our teachers and staff do a great job educating local children, but classrooms and buildings in the Wheatland Union High School District need to be upgraded to provide students with the school facilities they need to succeed.</p> <p>Our students need your yes vote on Measure U! Although Wheatland High has been well maintained, 30-50 year-old classrooms and facilities must be upgraded since many do not meet 21st century standards. Measure U would allow the District to improve our local high school and the quality of education provided to local students. By investing in our high school, we can meet today's safety, technological, and educational standards as well as improve our community.</p> <p>If passed, Measure U will provide funding to make critical facility improvements to Wheatland High School including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constructing a new multi-purpose room and cafeteria Repairing or replacing leaky roofs Modernizing/renovating and constructing classrooms, restrooms, P. E. fields and school facilities Making health, safety and security improvements; and Planning for a field house for school and community use <p>Measure U makes financial sense and protects taxpayers.</p> <p>By law, spending must be reviewed and annually audited by an independent citizens' oversight committee. All bond funds must be spent locally and cannot be taken by the State. Funds are required to be spent only on our high school, not for administrator or teacher salaries.</p> <p>Measure U upgrades and renovates classroom restrooms and other school facilities, improves the education of local students, and maintains the quality of our community. That's something we can all support. Please vote yes on Measure U.</p> <p>/s/ Frank D. Webb, Jr., Business Owner /s/ Earl Manion IV, Deputy /s/ Robert Coe, Jr., Small Business Owner /s/ Joseph G. Fini /s/ Lois F Morton</p>	<p>NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE U FILED.</p>

