



Local Measure F – Medida Local F

F

FIREBAUGH-LAS DELTAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT REPAIR, SAFETY MEASURE.

BALLOT QUESTION

To repair/upgrade science, technology, vocational classrooms to help retain/attract quality teachers; address immediate safety needs; improve disabled access, electrical wiring, emergency communication systems; protect drinking water; acquire, construct, repair facilities, sites, equipment, shall Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified School District's measure authorizing \$25,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, levying 6¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation, raising on average \$1,700,000 annually while bonds are outstanding be adopted, requiring oversight/audits, spending disclosure, funds for local schools?

Bonds – Yes

Bonds – No





Local Measure F – Medida Local F

FULL TEXT BALLOT PROPOSITION OF THE FIREBAUGH-LAS DELTAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND MEASURE ELECTION NOVEMBER 5, 2024

The following is the full proposition presented to the voters by the Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified School District.

“FIREBAUGH-LAS DELTAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT REPAIR, SAFETY MEASURE. To repair/upgrade science, technology, vocational classrooms to help retain/attract quality teachers; address immediate safety needs; improve disabled access, electrical wiring, emergency communication systems; protect drinking water; acquire, construct, repair facilities, sites, equipment, shall Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified School District’s measure authorizing \$25,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, levying 6¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation, raising on average \$1,700,000 annually while bonds are outstanding be adopted, requiring oversight/audits, spending disclosure, funds for local schools?”

PROJECT LIST

The Board of Trustees of the Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified School District is committed to reducing inequality in school funding by providing cleaner, safer, healthier and more up-to-date local schools by providing safe, secure, upgraded classrooms, labs and technology needed to support high quality instruction in **science, technology, engineering, arts and math** and facilities which ensure students have access to a **well-rounded education** including **music, visual and performing arts**. To that end, the Board evaluated the District’s urgent and critical facility needs, including **safety** issues, class size reduction, basic repairs, **computer and information technology** in developing the types of projects to be funded by this measure as described below. Teachers, staff, community members and the Board have prioritized the key health and safety needs so that the most critical facility needs are addressed.

In approving this Project List, the Board of Trustees determines that the District **must:**

- **PROVIDE** competitive 21st century learning at each school.
- **ASSIST** in retaining and attracting quality teachers.
- **IMPROVE** schools’ preparedness for natural disasters and other emergencies.
- **EXPANDING** opportunities for after school and extra-curricular activities.
- **IMPROVE** student access to instruction in science, technology, engineering, arts and math.
- **REQUIRE** public disclosure of all spending.
- **PROVIDE** clean and safe classrooms.





Local Measure F – Medida Local F

The Project List includes the following types of upgrades and improvements at District schools, facilities and sites:

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: LOCAL SCHOOL FUNDING TO IMPROVING STUDENT ACCESS TO INSTRUCTION IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS AND MATH

Projects That Improve Student Success

Goals and Purposes:

This measure will allow Firebaugh-Las Deltas to expand and upgrade vocational education and job training programs in high-need fields such as agriculture, construction, automotive technology, education and criminal justice. This helps students whose paths do not lead to college learn the skills necessary to get good-paying jobs and have more economic opportunity.

This measure would allow Firebaugh-Las Deltas to qualify for millions of dollars in potential State matching funds. Without the measure, our State tax dollars are going to other school districts in other parts of the State and leaving our local schools behind.

Some of our local schools are lacking the up-to-date technology students need to succeed. This local bond measure will upgrade classrooms, and science and computer labs to ensure our students will have equal access to competitive twenty-first century learning.

Schools will benefit from a variety of achievement projects, such as:

- **Upgrading and increasing early childhood and special education classrooms.**
- Improving instructional technology.
- Upgrading agricultural, vocational and career classrooms and labs.
- **Improving accessibility for students with disabilities.**
- Upgrading and improving the high school swimming pool so that it is competition ready and with year-round community access.





Local Measure F – Medida Local F

IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Repair and Student Safety Projects Funded By Money That Cannot Be Taken By the State Or Used for Other Purposes

Goals and Purposes: Many local schools were built decades ago and need significant repairs—including schools over 70 years old. Passing this measure will fix deteriorating classrooms, restrooms, and leaky roofs; remove asbestos, lead paint and mold; and upgrade outdated electrical wiring, fire safety and security systems so children can learn in safe, healthy classrooms.

This measure is a good long-term investment. Improving neighborhood schools strengthens local property values and will make our community a more desirable place to live, do business, and raise a family.

- Repairing and upgrading classrooms.
- Removing asbestos, lead paint and mold.
- **Upgrading school security, including lighting, fencing, cameras, alarms and emergency communication systems.**
- Improving the safety of school drop-off and pick-up areas.
- **Upgrading fire safety and outdated electrical wiring.**
- Repairing unsafe playing fields and playground equipment.
- Improving pedestrian safety near schools.
- Upgrading outdated heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems.
- Providing safe drinking water.

In addition to the projects listed above, the repair and renovation of each of the existing school facilities may include, but not be limited to, some or all of the following: add or renovate student and staff restrooms; repair and replace electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems; upgrade facilities for energy efficiencies, install EV charging stations and solar panels; install, acquire or repair energy efficiency improvements for school buildings, energy efficient lighting, air conditioning, heating, insulation and ceiling systems, and windows; repair and replace worn-out and deteriorated roofs, windows, walls, floors, doors and drinking fountains; construct or renovate offices and facilities for more efficient administration and multi-purpose learning spaces; install wiring and electrical systems to safely accommodate computers, technology and other electrical devices; upgrade or construct support facilities including administrative, physical education, including gyms, lockers, weight rooms, showers, engineering, agricultural, music, art, visual and performing and fine arts classrooms or facilities, science, computer labs/classrooms, libraries and buildings, covered eating areas, and welcome centers; repair and replace fire alarms, smoke detectors, and sprinklers, emergency communications, fencing and security systems; improve facilities to satisfy ADA





Local Measure F – Medida Local F

requirements; resurface or replace asphalt, broken concrete, pavement and improve hard courts, turf and irrigation/drainage systems and campus landscaping; remove or replace aging portable classrooms; install signage and marquees; expand parking lots and pick-up and drop-off areas; improve all site utilities; acquire land; construct new school buildings; construct, acquire or contribute to teacher and staff housing; upgrade or replace interior and exterior painting, floor covering (including carpets), and school facades; demolition; upgrade kitchens, food service, and school cafeterias; construct various forms of storage and support spaces and classrooms; improve outdoor learning environments and quads; repair, upgrade and install interior and exterior lighting and energy-efficient building systems; acquire, build or improve playgrounds, tracks, stadiums, tennis courts, play structures, sports complex, aquatic, athletic and play fields and facilities, including lighting and scoreboards, to support student health, fitness and safety; replace outdated security fences and security systems (including access control systems), provide lunch shelters, shade areas and structures, indoor space for assemblies or for rainy day lunch and after school programs; transform libraries into modern learning centers; upgrade music labs, multi-purpose rooms, learning centers and library media centers; add or upgrade parking lots. In addition to the listed projects stated above, the Project List also includes the refinancing of outstanding lease obligations or interim funding incurred to advance projects from the Project List, the acquisition of a variety of instructional, maintenance and operational equipment, 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, network rewiring, cabling, fiber infrastructure, computers, portable interface devices, servers, data centers, switches, routers, modules, sound projection systems, public address systems, classroom tv/audio enhancements, laser printers, digital white boards, document projectors, upgrade voice-over-IP, clock/telephone/ intercom systems, call manager and network security/firewall, wireless technology systems, refresh classroom technology, acquire necessary software and miscellaneous IT and instructional equipment, data storage, phones, identity cards and the construction and installation of a data center in the cloud for the District's enterprise systems, such as resource planning, websites, domain name systems, cloud applications and information security.

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 and construction documents are finalized, construction bids are received, construction contracts 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 portable classrooms and 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 or drainage systems, traffic signals, sewer, stormwater, or utility lines, trees and landscaping, relocating fire access roads, and acquiring any necessary easements, licenses, or rights of way to the property. The listed projects will be completed as needed. Each project is assumed to include its share of furniture, equipment, architectural, engineering, legal fees, and similar planning costs, connection fees, permit fees, program/project





Local Measure F – Medida Local F

management, staff training expenses and a customary contingency for unforeseen design and construction costs. Proceeds of the bonds may be used to pay or reimburse the District for the cost of District staff when performing work on or necessary and incidental to bond projects. Bond proceeds shall only be expended for the types of projects and 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: THIS MEASURE REQUIRES A CLEAR SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTABILITY, INCLUDING A PROJECT LIST DETAILING HOW THE MONEY WILL BE USED, A CITIZEN'S OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, INDEPENDENT AUDITS TO ENSURE MONEY IS SPENT PROPERLY AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF HOW ALL FUNDS ARE SPENT.

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.





Local Measure F – Medida Local F

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL

Voter approval of this Measure will authorize the governing board of the Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified School District (the “District”) to issue and sell bonds in the maximum amount of Twenty-Five Million Dollars (\$25,000,000.00), bearing interest at legal rates. The bond proceeds may only be expended to construct, reconstruct, rehabilitate or replace aging and outdated school facilities, including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities or the acquisition or lease of real property for school facilities within the District.

The Project List in Exhibit B (“List”) in the Measure describes the specific projects the District proposes to finance with proceeds from the sale of the bonds. The District may only use bond proceeds for the purposes specified in the Measure. The bond proceeds may not be used for any other purpose, including teacher or administrator salaries or other school operating expenses. Inclusion of a project on the List does not guarantee the project will be funded or completed.

This Measure would require annual independent performance and financial audits of the use of bond proceeds including annual reports to the governing board. In addition, a citizens’ oversight committee will be established to ensure that bond proceeds are properly expended.

Information regarding the estimated tax rate to repay these bonds is found in the “Tax Rate Statement” prepared by the District. The projected tax rate is a best estimate and is based on projections from official sources including upon experience within the District. The actual tax rate necessary to pay the bond Measure may vary depending on factors identified in the Tax Rate Statement.

The Measure makes no change to existing law and must be approved by at least 55% of the eligible votes cast or the bonds will not be issued. This Measure was placed on the ballot by order of the governing board of the District.

DANIEL C. CEDERBORG
Fresno County Counsel





Local Measure F – Medida Local F

TAX RATE STATEMENT

An election will be held in the Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified School District (the “District”) on November 5, 2024 to authorize the sale of up to \$25,000,000 in general obligation bonds (the “2024 Bond Authorization”). 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 submitted in compliance with Sections 9400-9406 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.

The following information is provided pursuant to Elections Code Section 9401:

1. The best estimate of the average annual tax rate that would be required to be levied 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 6.00¢ per \$100 (\$60.00 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation. It is currently expected that the tax will be collected until fiscal year 2056-57.
2. The best estimate of the highest tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue, for each year that bonds are outstanding, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of filing this statement, is 6.00¢ per \$100 (\$60.00 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation, which is projected to be the same in every fiscal year the bonds remain outstanding.
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 \$53.2 million.

Voters should note that 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 the County’s official tax rolls. 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 County Assessor in the annual assessment and the equalization process.

Roy Mendiola, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified School District





Local Measure F – Medida Local F

Argument in favor of Measure F

Quality schools improve property values of our citizens, enhance neighborhoods and community safety, and improve student achievement. Measure F, a \$25 million bond measure, will help Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified:

- Improve the maintenance and efficiency of our schools
- Attract and retain teachers and support staff
- Offset the lack of State school facility funds.

As our schools age, Measure F protects the existing investment in our facilities and allows our district to:

- Replace expensive-to-maintain and outdated building systems
- Provide technology improvements to better serve students
- Improve our classrooms and outdoor learning environments and spaces
- Improve facilities used for community events outside the school day.

Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified has completed every project from past bond measures and leveraged local bonds to access State facility funds to renovate classrooms, kitchens, cafeterias throughout the district and enhance facilities used for career technical education programs at Firebaugh High School. Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified continues to be a good steward of taxpayer funds.

If passed, Measure F will make critical facilities improvements to our schools by:

- Improving classrooms, upgrading outdated electrical wiring, fire safety and security systems; replacing heating and air conditioning systems so that children can learn in safe, healthy classrooms
- Expanding and upgrading early college opportunities, vocational education and job training programs to include agriculture, construction, automotive technology and criminal justice.

Measure F is a wise investment that protects taxpayers.

- Funds must be spent locally to improve neighborhood schools and cannot be taken by the State.
- Spending is reviewed and audited annually by an independent citizens' oversight committee.
- Funds cannot be used for teacher or administrator salaries.

Measure F is good for our schools, students, community, and our future! That's something we can all support. Please join us and Vote YES on Measure F for Firebaugh's students and schools!

Fernando Campa, President
Firebaugh Las Deltas Unified School District

Joel Patrick Allen,
Owner, Joel Allen Ranch

Ana Maria Fuentes,
Retired, Teacher/Principal
Firebaugh Las Deltas Unified School District

Susan Ramirez,
Retired, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Firebaugh Las Deltas Unified School District

Elsa Lopez
Mayor, City of Firebaugh

Rebuttal to the Argument in favor of Measure F

Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified School District is again asking for residents and taxpayers to be saddled with another large sum for facility repairs and renovations.

The requested amount of the bond is \$25 million dollars! Unfortunately, Firebaugh-Las Deltas District residents will be asked to repay a much greater sum for this bond over the years: **\$53.2 MILLION** due to interest and other fees.

Hard working residents should not pay over double in debt to rich bond holders with no transparency of costs and specific use of the funds being requested. This bond measure is vague and only states it will not be used for salaries. Maybe better teacher salaries would help the students more?

In 2016, Firebaugh-Las Deltas District voters approved the Measure H bond. If school buildings really need extensive repairs every 8 years, why aren't they included in annual budgeting? It's time to demand that the school district administrators live within their means and not take more money out of taxpayer pockets.

Proponents claim that projects from past bonds have been completed, but do not mention that taxpayers are still paying for those projects. Measure F will add this debt to district residents' tax burden. With taxes and fees, this new bond debt will be paid over 30 years and will amount to well over double the original amount.

Think wisely and refuse to pay what is not negotiated well.

Vote NO this time to Measure F!

Kat McElroy
Vice Chair, Libertarian Party of Fresno County





Local Measure F – Medida Local F

Argument against Measure F	Rebuttal to the Argument against Measure F
<p>How much election cheating are you willing to put up with?</p> <p>What if it's for an allegedly good cause? Does that change your answer?</p> <p>Do you know all the public officials with duties related to local measure elections? County supervisors, registrar of voters, county counsel, school board that resolves to put measures on the ballots. A lot of public officials, most of them getting salaries you could never dream of.</p> <p>Are these public officials corrupt? All of them?</p> <p>Then how do you explain that at every election they all look the other way or point fingers at each other saying that "It's not my job to enforce measure election laws?"</p> <p>How is it then, that all these public officials, who you pay, combined, millions of dollars a year, have never (never means not once) put a local measure on the ballot that follows the law? http://lpfresno.org/GrandJury2021</p> <p>The statutes regarding local measure elections apply to every county. How is it that every county, even Fresno, doesn't follow every law, as written? Who benefits? Certainly not you.</p> <p>It's almost like it's a conspiracy. Because the public officials (school board) who start the ball rolling, violate every meaningful law with the knowledge, apparently, that all the other public officials will go along with their corruption.</p> <p>There are too many broken laws to mention in 300 words, but you can check it out (http://bit.ly/ElectionCheating) for all the gory details.</p> <p>Bottom line: All the public officials would rather have gullible voters force taxpayers, including themselves, to send every dollar they dream up to some government agency or another. It's more for them. Less for you.</p> <p>Are you tired of been taken for a chump? Vote HELL NO! on Measure _ (\$53,200,000 tax).</p> <p>Join us: https://lpfresno.org/NoFirebaughSchoolBond</p> <p>Matthew Hartwig, Chair, Libertarian Party of Fresno County</p> <p>Kat McElroy Vice Chair, Libertarian Party of Fresno County</p>	<p>Don't let the opponent mislead you with the same argument submitted against multiple school districts. Quality schools improve property values, enhance neighborhood and community safety, and improve student achievement.</p> <p>Measure F will improve Firebaugh schools for Firebaugh students. FLDUSD has been a responsible steward of resources, routinely maintaining and fully utilizing classrooms and facilities. The last bond measure passed by FLDUSD voters was in 2016. Funds from that measure were managed lawfully and properly through an independent Bond Oversight Committee which was audited annually. Funds went toward modernizing and renovating school facilities.</p> <p>As our schools age, Measure F protects the existing investment in our facilities and allows our district to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace expensive-to-maintain and outdated building systems • Provide technology improvements to better serve students • Improve our classrooms and outdoor learning environments and spaces • Improve facilities used for community events outside the school day. <p>If successful, Measure F will continue to help bring all FLDUSD schools up to 21st century standards. Funds are spent on Firebaugh students and cannot be used for teacher or administrator salaries or taken by the State. Our students deserve quality facilities and a quality education. The time has come to reinvest in our community's greatest assets: local children and the schools they attend.</p> <p>Our town is small, but our dreams for our children and our community are big. Please join us and Vote YES on Measure F for Firebaugh's students, schools and future!</p> <p>Fernando Campa President, Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified School District</p> <p>Joel Allen Owner, Allen Joel Ranch</p> <p>Ana Maria Fuentes Retired Teacher/Principal, FLDUSD</p> <p>Susan Ramirez Retired Exec. Asst. to the Supt., FLDUSD</p> <p>Elsa Lopez Mayor, City of Firebaugh</p>

