



Local Measure Q – Medida Local Q

Q

LOCAL COMMUNITY COLLEGES WORKFORCE TRAINING, AFFORDABLE EDUCATION AND CLASSROOM REPAIR MEASURE

BALLOT QUESTION

To upgrade local colleges/education centers; improve nursing, paramedic, firefighter, police/agriculture/manufacturing and vocational training; fix leaky roofs, asbestos, lead paint; sewer lines; protect drinking water; acquire, construct, repair facilities, sites, equipment; shall State Center Community College District's measure authorizing \$698,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, levying 2¢ per \$100 assessed valuation (\$42,000,000 annually) while bonds are outstanding be adopted, with oversight, all funds used locally?

Bonds – Yes

Bonds – No





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FULL TEXT BALLOT PROPOSITION

STATE CENTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT REPAIR, AFFORDABLE EDUCATION AND NURSING AND PUBLIC SAETY TRAINING IMPROVEMENT MEASURE

ELECTION November 5, 2024

“LOCAL COMMUNITY COLLEGES WORKFORCE TRAINING, AFFORDABLE EDUCATION AND CLASSROOM REPAIR MEASURE. To upgrade local colleges/education centers; improve nursing, paramedic, firefighter, police/agriculture/manufacturing and vocational training; fix leaky roofs, asbestos, lead paint; sewer lines; protect drinking water; acquire, construct, repair facilities, sites, equipment; shall State Center Community College District’s measure authorizing \$698,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, levying 2¢ per \$100 assessed valuation (\$42,000,000 annually) while bonds are outstanding be adopted, with oversight, all funds used locally?”

PROJECTS

The Board of Trustees of the State Center Community College District, to be responsive to the needs of its community, evaluated each of Fresno City College’s, Reedley College’s, Madera Community College’s, Clovis Community College’s and the District’s education centers’ urgent and critical facility needs, and their capacity to provide students an **affordable education and job training facilities for nursing, allied health, firefighting, public safety**, agriculture and advanced manufacturing, and prepare them for success in local jobs and in transferring to four-year universities. Job training and college transfer facilities, safety issues, class size and offerings, and information and computer technology were each considered in developing the types of projects to be funded by this measure. In developing the types of projects described herein, job training facilities, facilities supporting college transfer and career training classrooms, and the expansion of opportunities for local students to receive an **affordable, quality education**, were prioritized. If these facility needs are not addressed now, each of Fresno City, Reedley, Madera and Clovis Colleges would be unable to remain competitive in preparing students for jobs in high demand industries and transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

The **Board of Trustees** determines that **State Center CCD MUST:**

- (i) **IMPROVE job training programs for nurses, peace officers, firefighters, paramedics and 911 emergency responders; and**
- (ii) **KEEP the cost of a local college education and job training programs affordable; and**
- (iii) **EXPAND career and vocational programs; and**
- (iv) **IMPROVE job training programs in technology, engineering, and clean energy; and**
- (v) **MAKE BASIC REPAIRS, such as fix leaky roofs; repair deteriorating gas, electrical and sewer lines, remove asbestos, upgrade security systems; and**





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- (vi) **REQUIRE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ALL SPENDING, INDEPENDENT AUDITS AND NO FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATORS' SALARIES OR PENSIONS.**

The types of projects which are authorized to be undertaken at Fresno City College, Reedley College, Madera Community College and Clovis Community College campuses and at the District's Education Centers include:

PROVIDE LOCAL STUDENTS AN AFFORDABLE EDUCATION:

Improvements Needed To Allow State Center Colleges to Provide

AFFORDABLE JOB TRAINING FOR CAREERS IN NURSING AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Goals and Purposes:

Our local community colleges offer an affordable alternative to the skyrocketing cost of four-year universities. This measure will increase opportunities for local students to earn college credits, certifications, and job skills at a reasonable price and then, if they choose, transfer to a four-year university to complete their degrees.

Our community colleges operate the largest registered nursing program in the region, which provides critical healthcare services at our hospitals, medical clinics, and nursing homes. This measure will be used to upgrade and expand nursing education and training programs to ensure that local residents have access to highly skilled healthcare workers.

Local community colleges are where our area's nurses, peace officers, firefighters, paramedics and 911 emergency responders are trained. This measure will expand the Police and Firefighter Academies, and improve health care education programs to ensure our local area has the well-trained first responders needed to keep our communities safe.

- Fix leaky roofs.
- Repair deteriorating gas, electrical, and sewer lines.
- Remove asbestos and lead paint.
- Upgrade pipes and plumbing to ensure access to safe, clean drinking water.
- Improve job training programs and facilities for nursing, peace officers, firefighters, paramedics and 911 emergency responders, agriculture and advanced manufacturing.
- Improve job training programs in technology, engineering and clean energy.





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- Expand career and vocational program classrooms.
- Prepare returning veterans for high-paying jobs.

In addition to the listed types of projects stated above, the types of authorized projects of the measure also include the acquisition of a variety of instructional, maintenance and operational equipment, including interim funding incurred to advance fund projects and the refinancing of outstanding lease obligations, payment of the costs of preparation of all facility planning, fiscal reporting, facility studies, assessment reviews, facility master plan preparation and updates, environmental studies (including environmental investigation, remediation and monitoring), design and construction documentation, connection fees, permit fees, and temporary housing of dislocated college activities caused by construction projects. In addition to the projects listed above, repair, renovation and construction projects may include, but not be limited to, some or all of the following: renovate student and staff restrooms; replace aging electrical and plumbing systems; improve handicap accessibility; repair and replace heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems; install building management systems; acquire vehicles, trucks; upgrade of facilities for energy efficiencies including the installation of solar panels or arrays, electric charging stations, chiller replacements and decarbonization programs; repair and replace worn-out and leaky roofs, windows, walls doors and drinking fountains; replace or remove outdated buildings and classrooms and construct new classrooms, facilities and support buildings; plan, construct, acquire or contribute to affordable employee and student housing units; upgrade wiring and electrical systems to safely accommodate computers, technology and other electrical devices and needs; upgrade facilities to meet current environmental sustainability, State compliance standards and earthquake safety; repair and replace fire alarms, emergency communications and security systems; upgrade, resurface, replacing or relocate hard courts, fields, turf and irrigation systems; replace turf on athletic fields; upgrade classrooms; build new or renovate existing facilities such as a career and technical education building, one-stop student services/student union building, parking structures; build new or upgrade sports fields, gymnasiums, pools and other athletic facilities, including Ratcliffe Stadium; upgrade, resurface and recondition existing parking lots, roads and sidewalks; improve vehicular access and circulation; improve drop-off zones; repair, upgrade and install interior and exterior lighting systems; replace water lines and valves and sewer lines; construct, upgrade, acquire or expand, multi-use classrooms and labs, swing space, student resources center, student library, police, firefighter and EMT training academies, police department facilities, fine arts, theater and visual arts, music and performing arts facilities, culinary classrooms, field lights, bleachers, press box, track replacement, collaborative office suites and administrative offices, purchasing and maintenance facility, and public safety facilities; improve water conservation and energy efficiency; acquire land; construct agriculture center and farm store at Reedley and a permanent child development center at Madera; upgrade central plant; construct or improve multi-purpose event center/range, truck driving training center, facilities for applied technology, classrooms, arts and instructional complexes; replace existing window systems with energy-efficient systems to reduce costs; improve insulation, weatherproofing and roofs to reduce costs; improve access for the disabled; install and repair fire safety equipment, including alarms, smoke detectors, sprinklers, emergency lighting, and fire safety doors; replace broken concrete walks, deteriorated asphalt; replace/upgrade existing signage to reflect better wayfinding, bells and clocks; demolition of unsafe facilities; install or upgrade new security systems, such as security (surveillance) cameras, burglar alarms, handrails, outdoor lighting, fencing, landscaping, gates, gateways and classroom key cards/door locks; replace sewer lines and improve drainage systems to prevent flooding; upgrade roadway and pedestrian paths and pathways and bridges for improved safety and access for emergency vehicles, site parking, utilities and grounds. The upgrading of technology infrastructure includes, but is not limited to, upgrading classroom technology, expanding wireless internet access throughout each college campus, acquire portable interface devices,





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servers, switches, routers, modules, sound projection systems, information systems, printers, digital white boards, upgrade voice-over-IP, communication systems, audio/visual and telecommunications systems, call manager and network security/firewall, Internet connectivity, wireless systems, technology infrastructure, acquire necessary software and other miscellaneous IT and instructional equipment, DATA storage, fiber/copper infrastructure, phones, identity access cards and the construction and installation of a data center in the cloud for District's enterprise systems, such as resource planning, websites, domain name systems, cloud applications and information security.

The listed projects will be completed as needed. Each project is assumed to include its share of furniture, equipment, architectural, engineering, legal and similar costs, connection fees, permit fees, program and project management, staff training expenses, a customary contingency, and costs associated with the Total Cost of Ownership of facilities and equipment. The allocation of bond proceeds may be affected by the final costs of each project. Some projects may be undertaken as joint use projects in cooperation with other local public or non-profit agencies. The budget for each project is an estimate and may be affected by factors beyond the District's control. The final cost of each project or decisions 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 budgets of projects or on the then current priorities of the District, certain of the projects described above may be delayed or may not be undertaken. Demolition of existing facilities and reconstruction of facilities scheduled for repair and upgrade may occur, if the Board determines that such an approach would be more cost-effective in creating more enhanced and operationally efficient campuses. Necessary on-site and off-site improvements, site preparation and restoration, including the acquisition and installation of temporary facilities (swing space) 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 traffic signals, sewer, irrigation, utility lines, trees and landscaping, relocating fire access roads, widening roads, and acquiring any necessary easements, licenses, or rights of way to the property. 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 Section 53410.

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

This bond measure has strict accountability requirements including:

1. All money will benefit our local community colleges and CANNOT BE TAKEN BY THE STATE.
2. NO MONEY can be used for ADMINISTRATOR SALARIES or pensions.
3. Require TAXPAYER OVERSIGHT and yearly audits to ensure all funds are used locally, effectively and as promised.
4. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ALL SPENDING.
5. 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, faculty and college administrator salaries, pensions and other operating expenses.





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5. **FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY.** 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.

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL

Voter approval of this Measure will authorize the governing board of the State Center Community College District (the “District”) to issue and sell bonds in the maximum amount of Six Hundred Ninety Eight Million Dollars (\$698,000,000.00), 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.

Exhibit B 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 in Exhibit B 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





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TAX RATE STATEMENT

An election will be held within the boundaries of State Center Community College District (“District”) on November 5, 2024 to authorize the sale of up to \$698 million in bonds to finance facilities as described in the measure. If the bonds are approved, the District expects to sell the bonds in multiple series. Principal and interest on the bonds will be payable from the proceeds of tax levies made upon the taxable property located within the District. The following information is provided in compliance with Sections 9400 to 9404, inclusive, of the California Elections Code.

1. The best estimate from official sources 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 assessed valuations available at the time of the election and a projection based on experience within the same jurisdiction and other demonstrable factors, is estimated to be \$20 per \$100,000 (2¢ per \$100) of assessed valuation. The final fiscal year in which the tax is anticipated to be collected is 2057-58.

2. The best estimate from official sources of the highest tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue, and an estimate of the year in which that rate will apply, based on assessed valuations available at the time of filing this statement, and a projection based on experience within the same jurisdiction and other demonstrable factors, is estimated to be \$20 per \$100,000 (2¢ per \$100) of assessed valuation first occurring in fiscal year 2025-26.

3. The best estimate from official sources 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 \$1,413,667,750.

Voters should note that the estimated tax rate is based on the ASSESSED VALUE of taxable properties on the Fresno, Kings, Madera and Tulare Counties official tax rolls, not on the property's market value. Property owners should consult their own property tax bills to determine their property's assessed value and any applicable tax exemptions.

Attention of all voters is directed to the fact that the foregoing information is based upon the District's projections and estimates only, which are not binding upon the District. The actual tax rates, 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.

Dr. Carole Goldsmith, Chancellor





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Argument in favor of Measure Q

Vote **YES** on Q for our LOCAL AFFORDABLE HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE TRAINING!

YES on Q increases opportunities for local students and workers to gain certifications, develop job skills, obtain affordable credits, associate degrees, and/or transfer to a four-year university.

The Valley is stronger and our local economy more prosperous by upgrading the State Center Community College District campuses that serve every community: **Fresno City College, Reedley College, Clovis Community College, Madera Community College, Fresno City College West Fresno Center, Fresno City College First Responders Campus.**

YES on Q for OUR Local Workforce & First Responders!
Local community colleges train/ educate our area's nurses, police, firefighters, paramedics, 911 emergency responders.
YES on Q expands the Police/ Firefighter academies, improves healthcare education programs.
YES on Q ensures our local area has well-trained first responders keeping our communities safe.

YES on Q to TRAIN LOCAL NURSES FOR OUR AREA
There are not enough nurses to serve the Valley's medical needs. Our community colleges operate the largest registered nursing program in the region, providing critical healthcare services to our hospitals, local health clinics and nursing homes.
Vote YES on Q expands nursing, education/ training programs, ensuring residents have access to highly skilled healthcare workers.

YES on Q makes urgent needed basic repairs/ upgrades ensuring local community colleges are clean/ safe.

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY: by law, Measure Q requires published independent annual financial and performance audits and oversight by an Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee ensuring all funds are spent efficiently, effectively and as promised.

- **NO money for administrators' salaries or pensions.**
- **NO money can be taken by the state.**
- **All funds must be spent on our local community colleges.**

Join Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer, Madera Mayor Santos Garcia, Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula, M.D., Nancy Hollingsworth, R.N., Farmer Harold McClarty, Police Chief Jose Flores, local veterans, nurses, healthcare workers, firefighters, paramedics, small businesses, teachers, Chancellor Carole Goldsmith, and a unanimous State Center Community College District Board of Trustees in voting **YES on Q!**

Learn more: www.MeasureQ.org

Jerry P. Dyer
City of Fresno Mayor

Joaquin Arambula
Assemblymember Dr.

Nancy Hollingsworth, R.N.
Former Healthcare CEO in Fresno

Harold McClarty
CEO HMC Farms

José Flores
Former City of Clovis Mayor & Chief of Police

Rebuttal to the Argument in favor of Measure Q

State Center Community College District is again coming for your money.

The requested amount of the bond is \$698 million dollars! Unfortunately, State Center District residents will be asked to repay a much greater sum for this bond over the years: **\$1.4 BILLION (with a 'B')** due to interest and other fees.

But let's talk about this tax too.

OVERSIGHT? It's a fraud. Citizen oversight ends when votes are cast. If you could trust the board, why would you need oversight?

STRICT ACCOUNTABILITY? Fraud number 2. There are no accountability police. When you're not looking, they do whatever they want.

PROJECT LIST? There is none. Measure Q includes everything under the sun. Read it.

ADMINISTRATOR SALARIES? Of course! Read the fine print!

Remember: You don't get your money back when they don't hold up their end of the bargain.

The arguments and rebuttals are written by agents of the school bonds cartel. The signers are just tools. <http://bit.ly/ElectionCheating>

The entire system is rigged to pass taxes. That's not just our opinion. <http://pfresno.org/GrandJury2021>

In 2016, State Center District voters approved a \$485,000,000 bond. If the college really needs to provide these essential programs and repairs every 8 years, why aren't these needs included in annual budgeting? It's time to demand that the college administrators live within their means and not take more money out of taxpayer pockets.

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

Vote NO this time on Measure Q (\$1,413,667,750 tax)

Matthew Hartwig
Chair, Libertarian Party of Fresno County

Kat McElroy
Vice Chair, Libertarian Party of Fresno County





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Argument against Measure Q

How has your cost of living fared over the last few years? What about that of your neighbors? Rather than cast a vote in favor of this bond measure for State Center Community College District we ask you to consider the following:

This bond measure, when accounting for interest, is estimated to impose **\$1,413,667,750** on the people of this district. Perhaps you think your share of that burden is well worth paying, given the promise of improved facilities for your local educational institute. We agree that education is important, and if you feel that this is a cause worth giving money towards, we applaud your generosity and your desire to contribute to your community. But we ask you to consider other options to fund these projects; if you are willing to contribute to these in the form of a tax, would you be willing to do so through voluntary charity instead?

Think again of your neighbors: many of them have struggled the past few years, and for some, even \$20 per \$100,000 of assessed property value will represent a substantial increase in their cost of living. That's less money available to put food on the table, pay those expensive medical bills, or even to save money for their own children's future higher education. And don't think that this will only impact property owners- higher property taxes for landlords often results in tenants paying higher rents. We applaud the community spirit of those who wish to raise money for a worthy cause; we simply ask that they turn first towards voluntary means to do so, especially given the difficult financial times that many find themselves in.

Allow your neighbors to decide for themselves which causes they choose to fund, and vote **NO on Measure Q**.

Join us: <https://lpfresno.org/NoStateCenterCCBond>

Matthew Hartwig
Chair, Libertarian Party of Fresno County

Kat McElroy
Vice Chair, Libertarian Party of Fresno County

Rebuttal to the Argument against Measure Q

Local students and families depend on State Center Community College District: **Fresno City College, Reedley College, Clovis Community College, and Madera Community College**, to ensure the future of our local economy, local workforce and the first responders needed to keep our community safe.

*"State Center Community College District has been an excellent fiscal steward of taxpayer dollars. **BY LAW EVERY PENNY of Measure Q MUST be accounted for and used to benefit local community colleges. Thank you for voting YES on Q so our local students have access to affordable education.**"* -Ivory Moua, Fresno City College, Nursing Student

YES on Q supports students earning college credits, certifications and job skills that they rely on now more than ever given this uncertain economy.

MEASURE Q IS DESIGNED BY COMMUNITY INPUT!

Over 1,500 residents participated in a recent community conversation and survey to discuss the Valley's higher education needs. Nearly 70% said our local community colleges need additional funding, their priorities identified include:

- Improving nursing, paramedic, firefighter, police, agriculture, manufacturing, vocational training
- Fixing leaky roofs/ sewer lines
- Removing asbestos/ lead paint
- Protecting drinking water
- Providing affordable alternatives to four year universities

MEASURE Q MONEY CANNOT BE USED FOR ADMINISTRATORS' SALARIES OR PENSIONS. Measure Q keeps your tax dollars here, keeping our local college education affordable for OUR students.

Join our supporters Scott Miller, business owner, Fresno Chamber of Commerce President; Fresno County Assessor Paul Dictos, CPA; Former/ Current Fresno County Office of Education Superintendents Larry Powell, Jim Yovino, Michele Cantwell-Copher; Madera Mayor Santos Garcia; Kerman Mayor Maria Pacheco; local students; families; veterans; nurses; healthcare workers; firefighters; paramedics; small businesses; teachers; and the community, who are depending on us. **YES on Q!**

Visit: www.MeasureQ.org

Jerry Dyer
City of Fresno Mayor

Dr. Joaquin Arambula
Assembly Member, Physician

Harold McClarty
Farmer, CEO of HMC Farms

Nancy Hollingsworth, R.N.
Former Healthcare CEO in Fresno

Jose Flores
Police Chief and Former Clovis Mayor

