

VOTER'S BOOKLET
MEASURES, ANALYSES AND ARGUMENTS

(whichever is applicable to your ballot)

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

**BIGGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEASURE E**

BIGGS SCHOOLS SAFETY AND REPAIR MEASURE. To improve the quality of education, qualify for \$4,000,000 state matching funds, fix leaky roofs, improve fire safety, repair and modernize classrooms, upgrade electrical, plumbing, heating/ventilation systems for energy efficiency, and update science and computer technology, shall Biggs Unified School District issue \$6,900,000 of bonds at legal rates to renovate, acquire, construct and equip neighborhood schools, sites and facilities, with required independent financial audits, citizens' oversight and no money for administrators' salaries?

**BIGGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS
IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE "E" BY
BUTTE COUNTY COUNSEL**

This analysis of the general obligation bond measure for the Biggs Unified School District ("District"), Measure E, is prepared and submitted in accordance with Elections Code Section 9500. Measure E does not propose to amend or add to existing law. If approved, the issuance of the bonds will be in conformance with the laws of the State of California.

If fifty-five percent (55%) or more of the votes cast by the qualified voters in the District on the measure are "Bonds-Yes," the measure will be approved, and the District will be authorized to incur a bonded indebtedness in the principal amount of up to \$6,900,000 and to levy ad valorem taxes on taxable property within the District to pay for the amount of bonded indebtedness plus interest. If the measure is not approved by at least 55% of the votes cast, the measure will fail and the bonds will not be issued.

The bonds will bear interest at a rate not exceeding the legal limit. Interest will be established at the time of sale, depending on the market rates at that time. If issued under the Government Code, the maximum duration of the bonds cannot exceed forty (40) years. If issued under the Education Code, the maximum duration of the bonds cannot exceed twenty-five (25) years. The exact effect on tax rates cannot be determined until after the bonds are sold.

Proposition 13, approved in 1978, amended the California Constitution by adding Article XIII A limiting ad valorem taxes on real property to one percent (1%) on the value of the property. Article XIII A was amended in 1986 by adding an exception providing that the 1% limitation does not apply to taxes used to pay interest and redemption charges on certain bonds.

Taxes levied to pay the interest and principal of these District Bonds would be within this exception and not subject to the 1% limitation.

The funds derived from the sale of these bonds could be expended by the District only for the purposes specified in the ballot measure, including to: repair and replace leaky, deteriorated roofs, plumbing, sewer and ventilation systems, renovate student restrooms, improve fire safety, emergency communications and security systems, repair and upgrade classrooms and update science, computer and instructional technology. The proceeds will not be used for any other purpose, including payment of teacher or administrator salaries or other operating expenses. To assure that funds are spent only as specified in the measure, Measure E requires the appointment of a citizens' oversight committee and completion of independent financial audits.

/s/Bruce S. Alpert
Butte County Counsel

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure E. If you desire a copy of the measure, please call the Election Official's Office at 800-894-7761 or 530-538-7761 and a copy will be mailed to you at no cost.

**Biggs Unified School District
Tax Rate Statement for
Bond Measure E Election to be held November 4, 2008**

An election will be held in the Biggs Unified School District (the "District") on November 4, 2008 to authorize the sale of \$6,900,000 in general obligation bonds. The following information is submitted in compliance with Sections 9400-9404 of the California Elections Code.

1. The best estimate of the tax rate that would be required to fund this bond issue during the first fiscal year after the sale of the first series of bonds, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is \$.06000 per \$100 (\$60.00 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation in fiscal year 2009-10.
2. The best estimate of the tax rate that would be required to fund this bond issue during the first fiscal year after the sale of the last series of bonds, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is \$.06000 per \$100 (\$60.00 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation in fiscal year 2012-13.
3. The best estimate of the highest tax rate that would be required to fund this bond issue, based on estimated valuations available at the time of filing this statement, is

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MEASURE E - TAX RATE STATEMENT CONTINUED

\$0.06000 per \$100 (\$60.00 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation.

These estimates are based on projections derived from information obtained from official sources. The actual tax rates and the years in which they will apply may vary depending on the timing of bond sales, the 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 needs of the District. Actual assessed valuations will depend upon the amount and value of taxable property within the District as determined in the assessment and the equalization process.

Dated: July 17, 2008

/s/ Bill Cornelius
 Superintendent
 Biggs Unified School District

Biggs Unified School District
 General Obligation Bonds
 Tax Rate Estimates

Estimated Issue & Issue Date	Assumed Interest Rate	Assumed Term	Amount
Series A FYE 2009	5.00%	25 years	\$3,300,000
Series B FYE 2012	5.00%	25 years	\$3,600,000
Total Authorized			\$6,900,000
Total Assessed Valuation FY 2007-08			\$453,707,359
Historical Assessed Valuation Growth Rate: Last 5 Years 7.71%			
Assessed Valuation Growth Projections			
Fiscal year 2009-10			6.50%
Fiscal year 2011-14			5.00%
Fiscal year 2015-18			3.25%
Fiscal years 2019 and later			3.00%
Estimated Average Cost Per Year on Assessed Valuation		Dollar Cost Per \$100 A.V.	Dollar Cost Per \$100,000 A.V.
Tax Rate 1 st Year after 1 st Series (FY 2009-10)	\$0.06000		\$60.00
Highest Year Tax Rate (FY 2012-13)	\$0.06000		\$60.00
Tax Rate 1 st Year After Last Series (FY 2012-13)	\$0.06000		\$60.00
Average Tax Rate	\$0.06000		\$60.00

I have reviewed and accepted the above assumptions that were used in preparing the tax rate statement.

/s/ Bill Cornelius, Superintendent

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE E

Everyone knows the importance and value of having quality schools. From higher achieving students, to greater neighborhood safety, to improved property values, quality schools make a difference. Teachers and staff do their best in educating our children, but classrooms and facilities in the Biggs Unified School District are old and inadequate to provide students with the schools they need to succeed.

While the District has done a good job of maintaining our neighborhood schools over the years, the amount of needed repairs and renovations has reached a critical point. The average age of our schools is over 50 years old. Today our classrooms and facilities need major improvements.

The only way to fix our aging classrooms is to pass a local school improvement measure like Measure E. If passed, Measure E funds will be used to upgrade, renovate, and modernize Biggs Elementary, Richvale Elementary, Biggs Middle, and Biggs High School.

Measure E will improve District classrooms and school facilities by: Repairing and replacing leaky roofs; Upgrading electrical systems to improve student access to computers and modern technology; Upgrading 50-year-old plumbing and sewer systems; Renovating and repairing outdated restrooms; and Replacing and upgrading heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems.

Measure E makes financial sense and protects taxpayers: Passing Measure E will qualify Biggs Unified to receive approximately \$4.0 million in matching state funds; By law, spending must be reviewed and annually audited by an independent citizens' oversight committee; Funds can only be spent to improve schools, not for administrative salaries.

Measure E deserves our support because it brings our tax dollars back from the State, fixes outdated neighborhood schools, improves the education of local children, and maintains the quality of our community – and that's something we can all support. Please, vote Yes on Measure E!

/s/ Curt Josiassen, Farmer/County Supervisor
 /s/ Michael Felkins, BUSD Trustee/Local Farmer
 /s/ Vi Sheppard, Senior citizen, Long-time resident
 /s/ Bob Hetherwick, Banker/Director, Chamber of Commerce
 /s/ Amy M. Smith, Alumni/Community Volunteer/Parent

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ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE E

It's back! Less than one year after this school bond was defeated by the voters, Biggs Unified School District has reintroduced this measure on the ballot once again.

We are facing hard economic times here in Biggs/Richvale. Fuel prices have reached a historic high, rising costs of all goods and services continue to escalate, foreclosures and bankruptcies threaten many of our neighbors and local businesses, and real wages of working men and women have gone down. Many families are hurting financially.

Providing quality education for our children is one of the most important gifts we can give them. Bonds do not provide an education. Instead of spending more money on construction and renovation, why not look for ways to improve the quality of education? It has been shown over and over again that the two most important factors in quality education are parental involvement and good teachers, in that order. Everything else pales in comparison.

Bonds are not free money! Consider how this will affect you. Those who rent will find their rent raised. Homeowners will bear an increase in taxes that many simply cannot pay. Business owners who are already struggling to keep their doors open may just see this as the final straw that breaks the camel's back.

This \$6,900,000 debt will come from your pocket and must be repaid over the next 25 years. What a legacy to leave your children and grandchildren.

Remember - You can be for students, for schools and against Measure E.

Join us in opposing this tax increase, please vote no.

/s/ Dean Richins, Resident/Former BUSD Trustee
/s/ John Walton, Resident/BHS Spanish Teacher
/s/ Charles Sheppard, Life-time Resident/Farmer
/s/ Bridgit James, Resident/Parent
/s/ Barry Smith, Resident/Former BUSD Trustee

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE E

Measure E is a new tax! Don't be misled, as everyone living in the Biggs Unified School District will be directly affected by this new taxation for 25 years.

There is no dispute that our schools need repairs and renovations. Measure E is not the "only way to fix our aging classrooms" as its proponents claim. A good start to repairing

and renovating our schools is through community efforts. Who in the community would not be willing to donate supplies, their time and/or expertise if asked?

Are new taxes the answer? Bonds are the government's equivalent of a high-interest credit card. The government borrows money, then taxpayers pay back that debt. Even worse, our children will be paying off this bond/debt long after the money has been spent. Is this prudent? Is this going to be the end or is this just the beginning of a bond cycle?

Our State has squandered away the taxpayers' money and there is no guarantee of tax dollars or matching funds that "brings our tax dollars back from the state". Bureaucrats seeking higher taxes always point to buildings in disrepair. It's a standard pitch for more money. It's not the "only way". Involvement can provide so much more than mere money can ever do; and costs a lot, lot, less.

No Bonds required in Biggs Unified School District!

Vote No on Measure E. No new tax.

/s/ Dean Richins, Resident/Former BUSD Trustee
/s/ John Walton, Resident/BUSD Spanish Teacher
/s/ Charles Sheppard, Life-time Resident/Farmer
/s/ Bridgit James, Resident/Parent
/s/ Barry Smith, Resident/Former BUSD Trustee

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE E

Do not be misled by the "Argument against Measure E". Here are the facts:

Our schools are old, inadequate, and need major improvements. The average age of our schools is over 50 years old. By the State's own standards, our schools are so old they are eligible for \$4,500,000 in State grants – our tax dollars coming back home.

Updated and modern classrooms are critical to a quality education. Just as we invest in up-to-date equipment and facilities to remain competitive at our farms, businesses, and factories; modern and safe schools are crucial to helping our children remain competitive.

The only way to improve our schools is with a local bond. Nearly all neighboring districts have passed bonds to improve classrooms. 40 years ago in Biggs, our parents and grandparents approved a local bond to help build Biggs High School.

Measure E is affordable. By law, the tax rate is capped and most homeowners are estimated to pay less than \$5 per month – a wise investment in our kids and a boost to our local economy.

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MEASURE E – REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST CONTINUED

The fact is over 50 years ago our parents and grandparents left us a great legacy by building local schools to provide a modern education. Unfortunately, those schools remain unchanged and are now inadequate and old. It's our turn to provide the next generation the same opportunity we had with modern schools that meet today's technological, safety, and educational standards.

Please join us in voting Yes on Measure E.

- /s/ Clark Becker, Farmer/Director, Butte Co. Farm Bureau
- /s/Joshua Sheppard, Landowner/Community Leader
- /s/ Roger L. Frith, Biggs City Council/Business Owner
- /s/ Todd Tindill, Fire Captain, Biggs Fire Department
- /s/ Janet Smith, BUSD Teacher/Community Member

**EXHIBIT B
FULL TEXT BALLOT PROPOSITION
OF THE BIGGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOND MEASURE ELECTION NOVEMBER 4, 2008**

“Biggs Schools Safety and Repair Measure: To improve the quality of education, qualify for \$4,000,000 state matching funds, fix leaky roofs, improve fire safety, repair and modernize classrooms, upgrade electrical, plumbing, heating/ventilation systems for energy efficiency, and update science and computer technology, shall Biggs Unified School District issue \$6,900,000 of bonds at legal rates to renovate, acquire, construct and equip neighborhood schools, sites and facilities, with required independent financial audits, citizens’ oversight and no money for administrators’ salaries?”

PRIORITY SCHOOL PROJECTS LIST

The Board of Trustees of the Biggs Unified School District evaluated the District’s urgent and critical facility needs, including safety issues, enrollment trends, class size, energy efficiency and computer technology, in developing the scope of projects to be funded. The Board conducted a facilities evaluation in developing the scope of facility projects to be funded and concluded that if these needs were not addressed now, the problem would only get worse. **In approving this Priority School Projects List, the Board of Trustees makes six important policy determinations:**

- (i) in repairing aging schools, priority shall be given to basic repairs, such as leaky roofs and upgrading heating and ventilation systems to make them more energy efficient; and
- (ii) the District must install and upgrade fire prevention,

security and emergency response systems at every school so that all students are safe; and

- (iii) the District must maximize its resources through efficient facility and financial management, seek energy and utility cost savings, must aggressively apply for State matching funds, and must spend any local bond money on projects within the District and shall not allow bond monies to be transferred to the State or any other agency; and
- (iv) the District must replace deteriorating, school restrooms at 50-year old sites, with modern facilities; and
- (v) the District must improve technology in classrooms; and
- (vi) the District shall insist that all of its schools be healthy and safe from fire dangers, earthquake risks, hazardous materials such as asbestos and mold.

The Bond Project List is on file at the District Office of the Superintendent and includes the following projects:

PRIORITY SCHOOL PROJECTS

Project costs for repair and renovation of all existing school facilities include, but are not limited to, some or all of the following: renovate student restrooms; repair and replace heating, plumbing, sewer and ventilation systems; repair and replace worn-out roofs, windows, walls and doors; install electrical system wiring to safely accommodate computers, technology and other electrical devices; repair and replace fire alarms, emergency communications and security systems (including security cameras, outdoor lighting and fencing); interior and exterior painting; repair and improve portable classrooms; demolition; inspect for and abate any hazardous materials, including asbestos and mold; improve access for people with disabilities; and, construct classrooms and various forms of storage and support space.

Biggs Elementary/Middle School (Constructed in 1950)

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

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MEASURE E – FULL TEXT BALLOT PROPOSITION CONTINUED

- Upgrade aging and/or deteriorating restrooms.
- Upgrade classroom technology.
- Renovate, upgrade classrooms, buildings, including support areas, physical education facilities and auditorium, upgrade facilities to improve access for students and teachers with disabilities, remove hazardous materials, if any. Replace 30-year-old portable classrooms.
- Enhance student safety with improved security systems and emergency communication systems, outdoor lighting, fencing and upgraded field surfaces and play structures.
- Construct new gymnasium.*
* If there are sufficient funds after all health and safety repairs are completed.

Biggs High School (Constructed in 1963)

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

Richvale Elementary School (Constructed in 1965)

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

costs.

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

Community Day Schools 5-8 and 9-12 and District Office (Constructed in 1950)

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

District-Wide Projects

- Acquire instructional, maintenance and operational equipment.
- Enhance student safety with improved security systems and emergency communication systems, outdoor lighting, fencing and play structures.
- Upgrade District technology systems.
- Upgrade campus plumbing and sewer systems.

Listed building, repair and rehabilitation projects and upgrades will be completed as needed. Each project is assumed

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MEASURE E – FULL TEXT BALLOT PROPOSITION CONTINUED

to include its share of furniture, equipment, architectural, engineering, and similar planning costs, program management, staff training expenses and a customary contingency for unforeseen design and construction costs. In addition to the listed repair and construction projects stated above, the Priority School Projects List also includes the acquisition of facilities, the payment of the costs of preparation of all facility planning, facility assessment reviews, environmental studies and construction documentation, and temporary housing of dislocated District activities caused by bond projects. The allocation of bond proceeds will be affected by the District's receipt of State matching funds and the final costs of each project. In the absence of State matching funds, which the District will aggressively pursue to reduce the District's share of the costs of the projects, the District may not be able to complete some of the projects listed above. Certain projects may be undertaken as joint use projects in cooperation with other local public 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 will be determined as plans are finalized, construction bids 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 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, utility lines, trees and landscaping, redirecting fire access, and acquiring any necessary easements, licenses, or rights of way to the property. Bond proceeds shall only be expended for the specific 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. 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.

STATE MATCHING FUNDS

Approval of Measure E does not guarantee that the proposed project or projects in the Biggs Unified School District that are the subject of bonds under Measure E will be funded beyond the local revenues generated by Measure E. The school district's proposal for the project or projects may assume the receipt of matching state funds, which could be subject to appropriation by the Legislature or approval of a statewide bond measure.