

Argument Against Measure K

In 1998 and 2012, Chico Unified School District voters passed bonds totaling \$126 million, plus interest. The district superintendent reports this \$152 million bond will cost taxpayers \$270 million with interest.

Chico Unified School District board proposes this bond money be used solely for improvements to infrastructure, but a past history of poor spending decisions would indicate they want to free up other money to pay increasing salary and pension deficits. Reports of declining enrollment also beg the question - why are we paying more for a steadily decreasing number of students?

Despite near-bankruptcy, threat of state takeover, and program cuts in 2009, the board gave nine percent raises spread over the 2014-15 school year. In April 2015, Assistant Superintendent Bob Feaster told the Chico Enterprise Record the district was "stretching itself financially to offer the raises, which is one reason why the second-year raise begins in January rather than the beginning of the school year. In the third year, the district faces a \$2.5 million deficit and would need to make cuts. "

In June 2015 Assistant Superintendent Kevin Bultema told the Enterprise Record the district would be deficit spending again in 2016-17 and 2017-18, citing an ongoing decline in enrollment. The district expected to lose 135 to 185 students over the next two years, Bultema said, adding, "It has lost 1,763 students over the past decade."

Meanwhile, district residents are seeing unprecedented cost of living increases. Utility companies have dramatically raised rates over the past few years and announced further rate increases to come. The City of Chico's pending garbage franchise deal is expected to raise rates as did the county's previous deal.

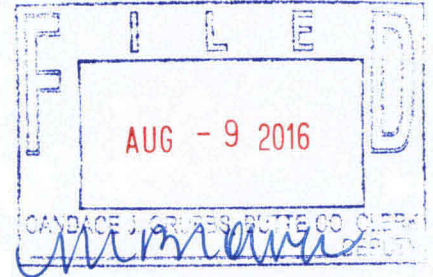
Is this school bond really necessary at a time when district residents are already under increasing pressure in an unsteady economy?

## Ballot Argument Signature Statement

The Butte County Elections Office requires this statement be completed and submitted with the argument. Names and titles listed will be printed in the order provided, and will appear as indicated. In addition, no more than 5 names may be printed following the written argument statement in the Sample Ballot Voter Information Booklet.

**Argument/Rebuttal Filed by** (Check any of the following that apply)

- Board of Supervisors or any member(s) of the Board
- Individual voter who is eligible to vote on the measure
- Bona Fide Association of Citizens



The undersigned author(s) of the:

- Argument in Favor of
- Argument Against
- Rebuttal to the Argument in Favor of
- Rebuttal to the Argument Against

Ballot measure letter   K  , to be voted on at the (Primary or General) election to be held on   November 8, 2016   in the County of Butte, and hereby state that this argument is true and correct to the best of his/her/their knowledge and belief.

**Each person must clearly print and sign as indicated below. Printing will be in the order as submitted.**

	Print Name clearly	Print Title and Name of Organization	Signature	Date
1	Juanita Sumner		<i>Juanita Sumner</i>	8/9/16
2				
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