

Corcoran Joint Unified School District  
Measure Q

**Ballot Text**

“To improve the quality of education, modernize, upgrade and repair classrooms and school facilities in the District; improve energy efficiency; make health/safety improvements; construct new classrooms and restrooms; and renovate plumbing and sewer systems; shall Corcoran Joint Unified School District acquire, construct, repair, and equip school facilities by issuing \$24,700,000 of bonds at legal interest rates, have an independent citizens’ oversight committee and have NO money used for administrative or teacher salaries or be taken by the State?”

**FULL TEXT  
MEASURE Q**

The following is the full proposition presented to the voters by the Corcoran Joint Unified School District.

“To improve the quality of education, modernize, upgrade and repair classrooms and school facilities in the District; improve energy efficiency; make health and safety improvements; construct new classrooms and restrooms; renovate plumbing and sewer systems; and upgrade technology; shall Corcoran Joint Unified School District acquire, construct, repair, and equip school facilities by issuing \$24,700,000 of bonds at legal interest rates, have an independent citizens’ oversight committee and have NO money used for administrative or teacher salaries or be taken by the State?”

**PRIORITY SCHOOL PROJECTS LIST**

The Board of Education of the Corcoran Joint Unified School District evaluated the District’s urgent and critical facility needs, including safety issues, enrollment trends, class size, and computer and information technology, in developing the scope of projects to be funded. In developing the scope of projects, teachers, staff and community members have prioritized the key health and safety needs so that the most critical facility needs are addressed. The District conducted a facilities evaluation and received public input and review in developing this Priority School Projects List. This input concluded that if these needs were not addressed now, the problems would only get worse. **In approving this Priority School Projects List, the Board of Education determines that the District should:**

Bond proceeds will be expended to modernize, replace, renovate, construct, equip, furnish and otherwise improve the facilities of the District located at the following locations:

Bret Harte Elementary School (K-1 <sup>st</sup> grade)	John C. Fremont Elementary School (2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> grades)
Mark Twain School 4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> grades)	John Muir Middle School (6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade)
Corcoran High School (9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades)	Kings Lake Education Center (10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades)

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

The specific school facilities projects to be funded include, but shall not be limited to:

## **School Renovation, Repair and Upgrade Projects**

- Renovate, repair, and/or upgrade the interior and/or exterior of existing classrooms and school facilities throughout the District, including infrastructure and landscaping improvements.
- Repair outdated temporary portable classrooms or replace with permanent classrooms.
- Repair or replace roofs, walls, and floors.
- Replace existing wiring systems to meet current electrical and accessibility codes and increased capacity, including replacing raceways.
- Additional electrical service capacity to relieve currently overloaded electrical systems.
- Repair or replace existing plumbing and sewer systems to meet current codes.
- Upgrade outdated restrooms and increase their capacity.
- Replace older heating, ventilation, air conditioning and lighting systems with building code compliant, energy efficient systems.
- Modernize, repair, and equip labs, libraries, multipurpose rooms, food service facilities, auditoriums, gymnasiums, and other school facilities.
- Classroom interiors will receive improvements such as new paint, carpet/vinyl tile/asbestos abatement, white markerboards, tackable surfaces, increase secure storage capacity for instructional materials and equipment.
- Replace existing window systems with energy efficient systems.
- Improve and/or expand library services.
- Federal and State-mandated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility upgrades including site access, parking, staff and student restrooms, relocation of some existing electrical devices, drinking fountains, playground equipment, etc.

## **Health, Safety and Security Projects**

- Install, replace/upgrade safety and security systems, including security cameras.
- Improve campus safety by installing, repairing or replacing fencing throughout the District.
- Install energy efficient systems including “green” building projects and sustainable building practices to promote energy-efficiency (e.g., solar, high performance lighting, electrical systems panel, etc.).
- Relocate or improve student drop-off areas.
- Improve play area fields for safety and drainage.
- Upgrade school site parking, utilities and grounds.
- Abate and remove hazardous materials identified prior or during construction.
- Upgrade fire alarm systems.
- Repair, replace and/or upgrade paved surfaces, turf, and other grounds to eliminate safety hazards and improve outside instructional areas.

## **District-Wide Wiring and Technology for Instructional Support and Effective Learning Environment Projects**

- Upgrade and replace classroom equipment.
- Upgrade and replace computers, hardware and software systems.
- Upgrade and expand wireless systems, telecommunications, internet, and network connections.
- Upgrade media, audio/visual equipment, and other technology for effective learning environments.

## **Construction Projects at School Sites**

- Construct a new cafeteria at Corcoran High School.
- Add classrooms/classroom buildings and related school facilities at existing school sites, including restrooms and an enrollment center.
- Construct a new alternative high school education academy to replace the aging and outdated Kings Lake Campus.
- Construct new permanent classrooms to replace outdated portable classrooms.

## **IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL MEASURE Q**

Section 1 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution and Education Code section 15264 et seq. authorize an election to increase ad valorem taxes to pay bonded indebtedness for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities, including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities, or the acquisition or lease of real property for school facilities, if approved by 55 percent of the qualified electors.

If this measure is approved, the Corcoran Joint Unified School District will be authorized to incur debt by issuing general obligation bonds to provide financing to modernize, upgrade and repair classrooms and school facilities in the District; improve energy efficiency; make health/safety improvements; construct new classrooms and restrooms; and renovate plumbing and sewer systems. Proceeds may only be used for the stated purposes and not for any other purpose, including teacher or administrator salaries, or other school operating expenses.

If the measure is approved, the District will be authorized to increase the ad valorem taxes on property located within the District's boundaries to pay the bond principal, interest and associated costs. The maximum principal amount of the proposed bonds will not exceed Twenty-four Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$24,700,000). The bonds cannot bear interest at a rate above the maximum legal limit. Pursuant to Government Code section 53508, the maximum duration of the bonds cannot exceed 40 years from the date of the bonds. The interest rate will be established at the time of sale and will depend on market rates at that time. The exact effect on tax rates cannot be determined until after the bonds are sold.

Expenditure of bond revenues will be actively reviewed by an independent Citizens' Oversight Committee. An independent financial audit of the proceeds and an independent performance audit of the specific projects will be performed annually. An annual report will be prepared by the chief

fiscal officer of the District, indicating the amount of funds collected and expended, and the status of any project listed in the measure.

This bond measure makes no change to existing law. The electors entitled to vote on this measure are the registered voters within the boundaries of the District. If the measure is not approved by at least 55 percent of the votes cast, the measure will fail and the bonds will not be issued.

KATHLEEN BALES-LANGE  
Tulare County Counsel

s/ Barbara Booth Grunwald  
Deputy County Counsel

### **TAX RATE STATEMENT MEASURE Q**

An election will be held in Corcoran Joint Unified School District on June 8, 2010, for the purpose of submitting to the electors of the District the question on issuing bonds of the District in a principal amount of \$24.7 million (the "Bonds"). If such Bonds are authorized and sold, the principal thereof and interest thereon will be payable from the proceeds of tax levies made upon the taxable property in the District. The following information regarding tax rates is given to comply with Section 9401 of the California Elections Code. Such information is based upon the best estimates and projections presently available from official sources.

1. The best estimate of the tax rate which would be required to be levied to fund the Bonds for the first series sold in fiscal year 2010-11 based on estimated assessed valuation available at the time of filing of this statement is \$60 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation.
2. The best estimate of the tax rate which would be required to be levied to fund the Bonds during the last sale in fiscal year 2019-20 based upon estimated assessed valuation available at the time of filing of this statement is \$60 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation.
3. The best estimate of the highest tax rate which would be required to be levied to fund the Bonds and an estimate of the year in which that rate will apply, based on estimated assessed valuation available at that time of filing of this statement is \$60 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation for the year 2010-11.

Attention to all voters is directed to the fact that the foregoing information is based upon projections and estimates only. The actual times of sales of said Bonds and the amount sold at any given time will be governed by the needs of the District and other factors. The actual interest rates at which the Bonds will be sold, which in any event will not exceed the maximum permitted by law, will depend upon the bond market at the time of sales. The actual assessed values in the future years will depend upon the value of property within the District as determined in the assessment and the equalization process. Hence, there actual tax rates and the years in which such rates are applicable may vary from those presently estimated as above stated.

s/ Richard Merlo  
Superintendent  
Corcoran Joint Unified School District

**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR  
MEASURE Q**

Everyone knows the importance and value of having quality schools. From higher achieving students, to training for future jobs, to greater neighborhood safety, quality schools make a difference. While our teachers and staff do their best in educating our children, many classrooms and school facilities in the Corcoran Joint Unified School District are outdated and inadequate to provide students with the schools they need to succeed.

While our facilities have been well maintained over the years, our schools are old. The average age of our schools is nearly 50 years old. Corcoran High School, our oldest, was first built in the 1930s! These outdated classrooms need major upgrades and improvements to meet today's safety, technological, and educational standards.

If passed, Measure Q will provide funding to make critical facility improvements at each school in the District. It will also qualify the District to receive up to \$3.5 million in matching state funds to help pay for these improvements.

Measure Q will improve classrooms and school facilities by:

- Making health and safety improvements;
- Repairing/remodeling interior/exterior of school buildings and classrooms;
- Constructing new classrooms to replace aged portable classrooms;
- Improving energy efficiency by replacing outdated heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems; and
- Upgrading inadequate electrical systems and replacing deteriorating plumbing and sewer systems.

Measure Q makes financial sense and protects taxpayers. 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 teacher salaries. By law, all bond funds must be spent locally and cannot be taken by the State.

Measure Q upgrades and renovates old, inadequate classrooms, 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 Q!

- s/ Antonia Baltierra, Corcoran City Councilwoman, Owner of Baltierra Bookkeeping
- s/ Troy Van Velson, Owner of Pizza Factory
- s/ Daniel Leon, California Department of Corrections
- s/ Lora Cartwright, John C. Fremont School Principal
- s/ Mary Gonzales-Gomez, Corcoran District Hospital Board Member