

**EXETER UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MEASURE U**

(Required to Pass: 55% of votes cast)

**Exeter Union High School District Repair and Upgrade Measure:** Shall the Exeter Union High School District repair and replace deteriorating roofs, upgrade aging electrical systems, classrooms and school facilities to meet current standards, make emergency structural repairs as necessary, add class rooms, and qualify for \$3.7 million in State bond funds, by issuing \$5,100,000 of bonds, at legal rates, with guaranteed annual independent financial audits, public oversight, and no money for administrators' salaries?

BONDS YES

BONDS NO

**FULL TEXT OF MEASURE U**

This proposition may be known and referred to as the Exeter Union High School District General Obligation Bond of 2006, or Measure U

**FINDINGS**

The Exeter Union High School District (the "District"), which serves the community of Exeter, a portion of the community of Lemon Cove, and unincorporated Tulare County, is a recognized leader in providing top quality education to Tulare County students.

The achievements have been accrued by the District as a result of the long history of visionary leadership from the Board of Trustees of the District (the "Board"), as well as from staff members, parents, and members of the District communities. During its long history, the District has benefited from a community, which supports its educational institutions by establishing high standards for academic achievement while at the same time providing the means required to meet and even to surpass those expectations.

Exeter Union High School, the oldest District school, has been serving students and the community for more than Ninety Five years.

In order to provide our local students with the same classrooms and school facilities as other California school districts, major repairs, upgrades, and classroom construction are necessary to ensure these buildings will remain functional for future generations.

The Board has prepared a facilities plan and identified significant repairs, upgrades, and classroom construction needs due to increased enrollment that are more than the District is able to fund from currently available sources or annual revenues

The District has sought, and continues to seek, all available outside sources of funding to improve our school buildings, including local, state, and federal grants and state bond funds. Historically, the state requires that local school districts provide local funds as a condition of receipt of state matching funds.

It is necessary to seek voter approval of a bond measure in order to provide the local funding for identified school facility repairs, modernization projects, and growth needs to address student enrollment.

**BOND AUTHORIZATION**

By approval of this proposition by at least 55 percent of the registered voters voting on the proposition, the District shall be authorized to issue and sell bonds of up to \$5,100,000 in aggregated principal at interest rates below the legal limit, to provide finance for the specific school facilities projects listed in the Bond Project List attached hereto as Exhibit A-1, subject to all the accountability requirements specified below.

**BOND PROJECT LIST**

The Bond Project List attached to this resolution as Exhibit A-1 shall be considered a part of the ballot proposition and shall be reproduced in any official document required to contain the full statement of the bond proposition.

Approval of this Bond Measure (the "Measure") does not guarantee that the proposed project or projects in the District that are the subject of bonds under the Measure will be funded beyond the local revenues generated by the Measure. If state matching funds become available, they will be used for and applied to the Bond Project List as per Exhibit A-1. The District's proposal for the project or projects assumes the receipt of matching state funds, which could be subject to appropriation by the Legislature or approval of a statewide bond measure.

**ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS**

The provisions in this section are specifically included in this proposition in order that the voters and taxpayers in the District may be

assured that their money will be spent wisely to address specific facilities needs of the District all in compliance with the requirements of Article XIII A, Section 1(b)(3), of the State Constitution and the Strict Accountability in Local School Construction Bonds Act of 2000 (codified at Education Code Sections 15264 and following.)

**Evaluation of Needs.** The Board, after a year long process involving staff members, parents, students, and community members at each school site throughout district, has prepared an updated facilities plan in order to evaluate and address all of the facilities needs of the District and determine which projects to finance from a local bond at this time. The Board hereby certifies that it has evaluated safety, class size reduction enrollment growth, and information technology needs in developing the Bond Project List contained in Exhibit A-1.

**Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee.** The Board shall establish an Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee pursuant to Education Code Section 15278 and following to ensure bond proceeds are expended only on the school facilities projects listed in Exhibit A-1. The committee shall be established within 60 days of the date when the results of the election appear in the minutes of the Board.

**Performance Audits.** The Board shall conduct an annual, independent performance audit to ensure that the bond proceeds have been expended only on the school facilities projects listed in Exhibit A-1.

**Financial Audits.** The Board shall conduct an annual, independent financial audit of the bond proceeds until all of those proceeds have been spent for the school facilities projects listed in Exhibit A-1.

**Special Bond Proceeds Account: Annual Report to Board.** Upon approval of this proposition and the sale of any bonds approved, the Board shall take actions necessary to establish an account in which proceeds of the sale of bonds will be deposited. As long as any proceeds of the bonds remain unexpended, the Superintendent of the District shall cause a report to be filed with the Board annually stating (1) the amount of bond proceeds received and expended in that year, and (2) the status of any project funded or to be funded from bond proceeds. The report may relate to the calendar year, fiscal year, or other appropriate annual period as the Superintendent shall determine and may be incorporated in the annual budget, audit, or another appropriate routine report to the Board.

## **FURTHER SPECIFICATIONS**

**No Administrator Salaries.** Proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized by this proposition shall be used only for the construction, reconstruction and/or rehabilitation of school facilities including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities or acquisition or lease of real property for school facilities and not for any other purpose, including teacher and administrator salaries and other school operating expenses.

The proceeds of the bonds will be deposited into a Building Fund to be held by the Tulare County Treasurer, as required by the California Education Code.

### **EXHIBIT A-1 BOND PROJECT LIST**

The specific school facilities projects to be funded are as follows:

1. Repair and upgrade aging Exeter High School campus classrooms and facilities.
2. Make emergency structural repair to the roof and ceilings of the Old Administration building and attached hallways.
3. Add classrooms by converting the old administration building.
4. Replace deteriorating roofs on the following Exeter Union High Campus buildings: 20's wing, Upper Smith Gym and patio area.
5. Replace electrical transformer and upgrade electrical power system to meet current standards and technology demands at Exeter High School Campus.
6. Repair and upgrade the Agricultural Farm complex classrooms to meet current standards.
7. Repair and upgrade Kaweah High School classrooms to meet current standards.
8. Pave and stripe parking lot at Independent Study and Community Day school to improve health and safety.

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

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

If 55 percent of the qualified electors who vote on the measure vote in favor of the measure, Exeter Union High School District (the "District") will be authorized to incur debt by issuing general obligation bonds to provide financing for projects listed in the measure. Proceeds may only be used for the stated purpose and not for any other purpose, including teacher and administrator salaries, or other

school operating expenses.

If the measure is approved, the District will be authorized to increase 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 is not to exceed \$5,100,000.00. The bond does not guarantee that state funds will be available. The interest rate will be established at the time of sale and will depend on market rates at that time. If issued under the Government Code, the maximum duration of the bonds cannot exceed 40 years. If issued under the Education Code, the maximum duration of the bonds cannot exceed 25 years. The exact effect on tax rates cannot be determined until after the bonds are sold.

An independent Citizens' Oversight Committee will actively review expenditure of bond revenues. 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, 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. 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

By: Judy Chapman  
Deputy County Counsel

#### **TAX RATE STATEMENT MEASURE U**

As shown on the enclosed official ballot, an election is being held in Exeter Union High School District (the "District") on November 7, 2006, for the purpose of submitting to the registered voters of the District the question of whether the District shall issue and sell bonds of the District in the amount not to exceed \$5,100,000. The bonds shall bear interest at a rate, or rates to be established at such time as the bonds are sold, not to exceed the maximum applicable statutory rate for such bonds. If such bonds are authorized and sold, the principal thereof and the interest thereon are a general obligation of the District payable from the proceeds of tax levies on real property in the District.

The following information regarding the tax rate is given to comply with Sections 9400 to 9404 of the Elections Code. Such information is based upon the best estimates and projections presently available from official sources and other experience within the District or demonstrable factors and is subject to change.

(a) The best estimate from official sources of the tax rate which would be required to be levied to fund the bond issue during the first fiscal year after the first and only sale of the bonds based on assessed valuations available at the time of the election or a projection based on experience within the same jurisdiction or other demonstrable factors is \$27.90 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation for tax year 2007-08.

(b) The best estimate from official sources of the highest tax rate which would be required to be levied to fund the bond issue during the term of the bond issue based on assessed valuations available at the time of the election or a projection based on experience within the same jurisdiction or other demonstrable factors is \$28.90 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. It is estimated that the highest tax rate would apply in the 2014-15 tax year.

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 any bond sales, the amount of bonds sold, and actual increases in assessed valuations. The timing of the bond sales and the amount of bonds sold at any given time will be governed by the needs of the District

Exeter Union High School District  
By Renee Whitson, Superintendent

#### **ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE U**

Exeter schools have provided quality education to students since 1908. Parents, teachers, community leaders and local businesses have an important role in maintaining these high standards.

When it was critical to provide modern technology and up-to-date science labs for our students, the community was there to help.

When it was critical to provide modern libraries, renovate deteriorating restrooms, replace outdated plumbing and electrical wiring, the community was there to help.

When it was critical to construct new classrooms to meet our growing enrollment, the community was there to help.

Today, new critical needs must be addressed to ensure our students continue receiving a quality education.

### **Measure “U” -A good solution**

Measure “U” will provide funding to address the following critical facility needs in Exeter U.H.S.D:

- Replace failed structures in order to extend our school buildings’ useful lives.
- Replace outdated electrical transformers and upgrade electrical and alarm systems to meet current standards and technology demands.
- Repair and upgrade the Agricultural Farm and Kaweah H.S. Classrooms to meet current standards.
- Provide 6 additional classrooms at Exeter H.S. and refurbish the auditorium and the Smith and Holaday gyms.

### **Citizen Oversight, Taxpayer Guarantees**

By law, Measure “U” expenditures and projects must be reviewed by a Citizens’ Oversight Committee to ensure that every penny is spent as voters approved.

### **Matching State Money**

The State will provide \$3.4 million in matching money for these projects, but only if voters approve Measure “U”. This is tax money we are paying to the State and have an opportunity to bring back into the community. If voters do not approve Measure ”U“, our tax dollars will go to repair and renovate other school districts in the state, like Los Angeles Unified.

Join parents, teachers, community leaders, local farmers, seniors and your neighbors and vote **YES** on Measure ”U” November 7, 2006.

Please visit [www.repairexeterschools.com](http://www.repairexeterschools.com).

s/ Bobby Todd, Board President, Exeter Union High School District

s/ Charles A. Norman, Mayor

s/ Madaline D. Norman, Concerned Citizen

s/ Cathy A. Tantau

s/ Sharon Johnston

**NO ARGUMENT AGAINST THIS MEASURE WAS SUBMITTED**