

**Springville Union Elementary School District  
Measure O**

**Ballot Text**

“To improve the quality of education, shall Springville Union Elementary School District be authorized to acquire, improve and construct school facilities, including a cafeteria/multipurpose room for school and community use, new classrooms to relieve overcrowding, modernization of facilities, new community and student sports fields and qualify the District for State matching funds, by issuing \$6,735,000 of bonds at interest rates below legal limits with an independent citizens’ oversight committee and NO money for administrative salaries?”

**FULL TEXT OF MEASURE O**

**BOND AUTHORIZATION**

"To improve the quality of education, shall Springville Union Elementary School District be authorized to acquire, improve and construct school facilities, including a cafeteria/multipurpose room for school and community use, new classrooms to relieve overcrowding, modernization of facilities, new community and student sports fields and qualify the District for State matching funds, by issuing \$6,735,000 of bonds at interest rates below legal limits with an independent citizens’ oversight committee and NO money for administrative salaries?"

This proposition may be known and referred to as the Springville Union Elementary School District General Obligation Bond of 2009 or Measure O

**FINDINGS**

The Springville Union Elementary School District (the “District”), which serves the community of Springville 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 surpass those expectations.

In order to provide our students with the same classrooms, school facilities and educational opportunities as other California school districts, major repairs, upgrades, and construction are necessary to ensure these buildings and facilities will support the expectation of excellence for current and future generations.

The Board has prepared a facilities plan and identified significant repairs, upgrades, and construction needs 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 the multipurpose room/cafeteria which will be used by students and the entire community and for identified school facility upgrades, modernization and expansion projects to address student needs.

By approval of this proposition by at least 2/3 of the registered voters voting on the proposition, the district shall be authorized to issue and sell bonds of up to \$6,735,000 in principal at interest rates below the legal limit, to provide financing for the school facilities projects stated in the Measure.

Approval of this Bond Measure \_\_ (the 'Measure') does not guarantee that the proposed projects in the District which 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 facilities projects stated in the Measure. The District's proposal for the projects assumes the receipt of matching state funds, which could be subject to appropriations 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.

**Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee.** The Board shall establish an Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee to ensure bond proceeds are expended only on the school facilities projects stated in the Measure.

**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 the 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 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.

### **IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY TULARE COUNTY COUNSEL MEASURE O**

Section 1(b) of Article XIII A of the California Constitution permits a school district to seek voter approval to increase the ad valorem taxes above the 1 % limit when used to pay for debt service on certain bonded indebtedness. The Springville Union Elementary School District is seeking approval of two-thirds of the qualified electors. This means that if two-thirds of the voters voting on the measure vote in favor of the measure, the District will be authorized to incur debt by issuing general obligation bonds for the acquisition and improvement of real property for general school purposes. The proceeds may not go to any other purpose, including teacher or administrator salaries or 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 law.

The proposal includes promises by the board of trustees to establish an Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee, to have the superintendent of the District file an annual report with the board as long as any proceeds of the bonds remain unspent, and to seek matching funds from the state and other sources. The District will not be legally limited to certain specific school facilities projects, but instead will have the flexibility to acquire and improve real property in accordance with the needs of the District. The District currently plans to spend the funds on a multipurpose room/cafeteria and other identified school facility upgrades, modernization and expansion projects to address student needs.

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 bond cannot exceed \$6,735,000. Education Code section 15102 limits the total bonded indebtedness for an elementary school district to 1.25 percent of the assessed value of the taxable property of the District.

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 bond cannot exceed 25 years. The exact effect on tax rates cannot be determined until after the bonds are sold.

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 two-thirds of the votes cast, the measure will fail and the bonds will not be issued.

KATHLEEN BALES-LANGE  
TULARE COUNTY COUNSEL

By: Arlene F. Silva  
Deputy County Counsel

### **TAX RATE STATEMENT MEASURE O**

An election will be held in the Springville Union Elementary School District of Tulare County on November 3, 2009, to authorize the sale of \$6,735,000 in general obligation bonds. The following information is submitted in compliance with Sections 9401 and 9404 of the California Elections Code.

1. The best estimate of the tax rate which 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 6.84 cents per \$100 (\$68.38 per \$100,000) of assessed valuations in fiscal year 2009-10.
2. The best estimate of the highest tax rate which would be required to fund this bond issue, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of filing this statement, is 6.84 cents per \$100 (\$68.38 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation in fiscal year 2009-10.
3. The best estimate of the tax rate which 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 6.84 cents per \$100 (\$68.38 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation in fiscal year 2009-10.
4. 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 governed 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 1, 2009

s/ Connie Owens  
Superintendent  
Springville Union Elementary School District

## ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE O

Just five (5) months ago, the voters in the Springville School District overwhelmingly defeated this exact same tax increase. Then, it was “Measure L”, now it is “Measure O”. Those who want to raise your property taxes didn’t hear you the first time when you said “NO NEW TAXES” and they are trying it again! It is very important to confirm our “NO NEW TAX” stand by voting NO on Measure O . . . AGAIN!

For over 40 years, Springville School has produced top scholar-athletes without a \$12,000,000 (yes, that’s Twelve Million Dollars) mega sports complex.

Measure O would put our children in debt into their retirement years.

Measure O is a self imposed \$6,735,000 NEW TAX.

Measure O raises property taxes for up to 40 years!

Measure O compounds California’s massive budget deficit.

We need to teach fiscal responsibility by example!

Once again, tell our elected officials “NO NEW TAXES”. Perhaps this time, they will get the message!

I am a former Springville School Board President, and I can assure you that there is no “overcrowding” at Springville School. If there were, then the solution would be to limit the number of inter-district transfer students who come from out of the school district. They represent about 20% of the attendance at Springville School, and none of them would pay any property taxes to support the school because they don’t live in the district.

This is a foolish tax increase for many reasons, and we urge you to vote NO on Measure O.

s/ Rick McIntire  
Former School Board President