

**November 4, 2003 Consolidated Districts Election**

**Total Yes Votes: 510 61.7%**

**Total No Votes: 316 38.3%**

**STRATHMORE UNION HIGH SCHOOL  
TERRITORY TRANSFER**

(required to pass: majority of votes cast)

**Measure K**

Shall the Strathmore Union High School District and all of its territory be transferred to the Porterville Unified School District?

Reorganization of School Districts - YES

Reorganization of School Districts – NO

**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL  
TRANSFER OF TERRITORY TO  
THE PORTERVILLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MEASURE K**

The measure, if adopted, will approve the transfer of the Strathmore Union High School District, and all of its territory, to the Porterville Unified School District. The Strathmore Union Elementary School District and the Sunnyside Union Elementary School District shall remain independent and become feeder districts into the high school program operated by the Porterville Unified School District. The governing Board of the Strathmore Union High School District will be disbanded. The governing Board of the Porterville Unified School District will continue as presently constituted, and future elections of members of that Board will continue to be held at-large within the new boundaries of the district, including the existing boundaries of the Strathmore Union High School District.

All employees of the Strathmore Union High School District, including certificated employees and non-certificated employees, shall become employees of the Porterville Unified School District with the same employment and tenure status, and shall receive the same salaries and benefits that are received by comparable employees of the Porterville Unified School District, subject to the right of the governing Board of the Porterville Unified School District to make reasonable reassignment of duties. The real property, personal property and fixtures of the Strathmore Union High School District shall become the property of the Porterville Unified School District.

The bonded indebtedness of the Strathmore Union High School District shall continue to be paid by taxes levied only within the existing boundaries of the Strathmore Union High School District, and any and all revenues from such bonds shall be used only for the benefit of the existing Strathmore High School and/or Frazier (Continuation) High School located within the existing boundaries of the Strathmore Union High School District.

The effective date of the transfer for all purposes shall be July 1, 2004, and until that date the governing Board of the Strathmore Union High School District shall continue to have all of its existing powers and duties and property tax revenues and developer fees will continue to accrue to the benefit of the Strathmore Union High School District.

The measure will make no change to existing law. The electors entitled to vote on the measure are the registered voters within the existing boundaries of the Strathmore Union High School District. If the measure is not approved by a majority of the votes cast, the measure will fail and the Strathmore Union High School District and its territory will not be transferred

KATHLEEN BALES-LANGE  
Tulare County Counsel

By: James G. Line  
Deputy County Counsel

### **ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE K**

Voting "Yes" on Measure "K" is good for kids. The transfer of the Strathmore Union High School District into the Porterville Unified School District is the right thing to do and is in the best interest of Strathmore High School students. We live in a diverse and challenging world, and Strathmore High School has developed a rich and great tradition meeting these needs. However, the Porterville District can offer additional support, resources and options for students that currently are not available at Strathmore. Strathmore High School will maintain its name, it will maintain its rich traditions, and its students will remain the Spartans.

By passing Measure "K," we will stop wasteful duplication. Operating as two separate districts requires that every administrative task performed must be

done twice: two budgets; two audits; double mailings; double State and Federal paperwork; two school boards; two superintendents; and many other duplications. We need to stop this expensive waste and put our resources in the classroom for our students.

Your YES vote on Measure "K" will have a lasting, positive impact on our children's schools and on our community.

The children in southeastern Tulare County have received an excellent high school education for over 100 years in the Porterville system. We know this system will offer the same programs and opportunities for our Strathmore students.

As taxpayers, we all agree about the importance of our children's education and the value of quality schools. Quality schools spur business development, attract professionals to the community and improve local property values.

Measure "K" will improve our high schools, allow for an improved quality education for our children and add to the value of our homes and community.

To continue and enhance the Spartan traditions of Strathmore High School  
**VOTE YES on MEASURE "K"!**

To invest in our community's future **VOTE YES ON MEASURE "K"!**

The undersigned proponents or authors of the primary argument in favor of ballot proposition Measure "K" at the November election for the Strathmore Union High School District to be held on November 4, 2003 hereby state that this argument is true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief.

s/ Pete Lara, President, Strathmore Union High School District Board of Trustees

s/ Dave DePaoli, Chairperson, Strathmore Town Council

s/ Rebecca Haley, Principal, Strathmore High School

s/ John Snavelly, Superintendent, Porterville Unified School District

### **REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE K**

Everything the Porterville District can offer in the way of resources and options for students is also available via computer classes and community colleges.

Yes, Strathmore will maintain its name, traditions, etc., but this could be only temporary and could change at anytime at the discretion of the P.U.S.D. board, with no representation from Strathmore.

The wasteful duplication argument was one that was used, in hopes of unifying Strathmore Elementary, Sunnyside Elementary, and Strathmore High schools. Now some of the very people who vetoed that are using the same argument to join the high school with Porterville.

Yes, the Porterville System offers a high school education, but consider these points:

1. Strathmore requires more units for graduation than Porterville
2. Strathmore has a higher percentage of gradates going on to secondary education than Porterville high schools.
3. Strathmore has received a six year accreditation from WASC - the highest a school can receive

As taxpayers, we must also be concerned about the need for an additional high school in Porterville in the near future. As taxpayers of the P.U.S.D. we would be helping to build and maintain that school in addition to the obligation bonds that property owners are now paying.

We urge you to VOTE NO on MEASURE K to keep our school under local control and maintain our current high standards for the education of our students.

Remember, in this case, smaller is smarter!

s/ Barbara Crocker, Concerned Taxpayer  
s/ Kuyler Crocker, SUHS ASB Vice-President  
s/ Ted Iles, Concerned Citizen  
s/ Bruce Ward, Concerned Citizen

## **ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE K**

BIG IS BETTER. A concept that has seen its time. Enron, and the California Budget, are two examples. In my opinion unification does not work for the students of Strathmore. The dynamics of the District have drastically changed over the last ten years.

We don't have a Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, or an organization to disseminate information throughout the District. We do have three Companies, Strathmore Ladder, Strathmore Machinery, and Vollmer Excavation, all owned, or operated by Strathmore Graduates.

Strathmore students have names, not a number. We have a School Board, and Administration, who decided they can no longer run the school to the best advantage of our students. Strathmore has many qualified residents that would happily prove them wrong.

Part of the problem is the Tulare County School Board has approved approximately seventy students to transfer to a High School of their choice, causing a financial hardship on the district.

Students have succeeded in occupations, such as a coach at the University of Las Vegas, then to coach Portland Trail Blazers. One, a Navy officer became a Nuclear Expert, serving his government in many areas. Strathmore students are noted for their many scholarships, including the Prestigious Military Academies

During World War II, from a student body of less than 130 students, at least ten graduates became officers in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Air Corps. One of these men served as the Pilot Of Air Force One for President Eisenhower. All flew in combat in various theaters of the world. There were, All American Football Players, a County Supervisor, County Department Heads, Educators, and in Arts, Medicine, Law, Engineer and Aviation. It has been reported, that percentagewise, there are more Strathmore Servicemen in Iraq, than from any other city or town in the United States.

The advantage of a small student body, is the close personal attention the students receive in the classroom, and the opportunity to participate in student activities, such as Student Government, Drama, Debating, and Athletics. Assuming a Studentbody of four hundred, one hundred in each class there would be one Studentbody President for each hundred students. In a studentbody of sixteen hundred, four hundred in each class, there would one Studentbody President for each four hundred students.

This School experience, is manifested in later years, as these graduates, grow in their professional careers.

This background is evident, by farmers who are serving in Farm Bureau, California Citrus Mutual, Sunkist, and other Farming Organizations, Statewide, and Nationally. The confidence they gain in speaking, or acting in front of their

peers, helps them to conduct meetings, and express themselves, as chairpersons in organizations they will be elected or appointed to.

After eighty three years in this community, and having served on the High School Board, it is my opinion, when referring to a Student's education.

**SMALLER IS SMARTER.**

s/ Bruce C. Ward

## **REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE K**

It is well known that Strathmore loses 60-80 students every year to other high schools because of programs that are not available here. Even larger schools have to pool resources to offer specialized programs in selected areas. Parents deserve choice for their children and this transfer will give that.

Strathmore has produced some outstanding scholars and leaders. What we, as concerned citizens who deeply care about our students, want to ensure is that we continue to be able to offer our students the educational and extra-curricular opportunities they deserve. Should our students be limited with the availability of college preparation classes? Should our students be limited with the number of clubs and other organizations on campus? Should our students be limited by the number of athletic programs offered? The answer to these questions is no. We want our students to have access to every option possible that will provide the means for our students to soar to new heights. We want our students to be able to compete in a global economy. We want our students to have the same opportunities as all other students.

We no longer live in a world like what existed in the 1940's or even the 1980's. Just as we can be too big, we can also be too small. We are not Enron or the California state budget. We are small communities who care about our children. Please vote Yes on Measure "K." It is the right vote for Strathmore students.

The undersigned proponents or authors of the primary argument in favor of ballot proposition Measure "K" at the November election for the Strathmore Union High School District to be held on November 4, 2003 hereby state that this argument is true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief.

s/ Pete Lara, President, Strathmore Union High School District Board of Trustees

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