



SAN FELIPE DEL RIO CISD

Press Release – November 5, 2019

SCHOOL BOND MEASURE ON THE NOVEMBER 5 BALLOT

At the close of early voting last Friday, 1,638 registered voters (an estimated 5.91% of 27,713 registered voters in the District), have cast their ballot. Proposition A, the \$19 million school bond measure on the November 5 ballot, would fund the construction of a new elementary school in the northern sector of the District. If Proposition A is approved by the voters, the District would be eligible to receive over \$9 million in state aid; thus reducing the District’s portion of the bond to an estimated \$9.6 million for a new elementary school.

Since the election began, the District has made several efforts to share factual information at community and campus presentations and press releases, which include radio and television ads. During these presentations, the District received public endorsements from various known groups, including the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce and the Del Rio Police Officers Association. Election Day has arrived. We encourage everyone in the community who hasn’t had the opportunity to go to the polls to take a few minutes of their day to exercise their right to vote. We also hope to provide our readers with a small sample of the most popular questions we've received throughout this election cycle which will help clarify some common misconceptions.

Frequently Asked Questions and Facts

<p>Q. Why is the SFDR CISD Board of Trustees calling for a bond election?</p>	<p>A. There are three primary reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Over the past several years, SFDR CISD has experienced expanding housing developments which has created enrollment increases within the Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary and Buena Vista Elementary attendance zones. In spite of efforts to adjust boundaries and provide other solutions, SFDR CISD schools continue to be affected with shortages of classrooms. 2. Due to these shortages, SFDR CISD was required to request waivers for classrooms that exceed the state required 22:1 teacher to student ratio during the 2018-19 school year and the current 2019-2020 school year. 3. For this current year, the District is eligible to receive 49.2% in state aid for the cost of the bond, or an estimated \$9.3 million for the \$19 million bond.
<p>Q. Why can't the District repurpose and utilize vacant schools?</p>	<p>A. Texas law requires square feet per room measurements. Districts reviewing vacant buildings must first consider the net square footage of a room that will house 22 students at the elementary level which</p>

	includes storage space. Additionally, the District must consider the age of the structure, and whether it is in compliance with building codes. Finally, the District must take into account demographic studies and enrollment trends. The District has considered the use of current vacant buildings, however, the cost to renovate these facilities which include the cost to bring these buildings up to code, and the cost to transport students across attendance zones significantly outweighs the cost of building a new facility.																		
Q. What if the bond election fails? Will the District be able to receive state aid in the future?	A. In this two-part question, the District will continue to seek measures that will help alleviate overpopulated attendance zones. The quick answer and most common measure is to redraw attendance zones. However, rezoning provides only a temporary solution to the issue. Districts always rely on demographers to provide real-time data and information so that trends can be studied. While housing development is inevitable, the school district must always keep constant with the changes in the population and trends of the community. Finding space for students will continue to be a challenge if the bond fails. To answer the second part of the question, state aid has historically fluctuated, but appears to be trending downward. For example, in the previous bond election (2017), the state's share of the debt would have been 55%; if approved, the state's share of this year's \$19 million bond is 49.2%, or an estimated 6% less than the previous bond.																		
Q. What will the District's tax rate be?	A. In 2018, the school tax rate was set at \$1.1598 per \$100 valuation of your property. This summer, House Bill 3 required the compression, or reduction of the tax rate; and is now set at \$1.06173. If the bond is approved by the voters, the property tax rate will increase by \$0.0570 (slightly over 5 cents), bringing the new overall tax rate to \$1.11873. However, HB3 will require that the school tax rate to be compressed once more in 2020 by \$0.0135 (slightly over 1 cent) bringing the estimated school tax rate down to \$1.10524. If the 2019 bond is approved, the cost of the debt remains to be just over 5 cents; but the total tax rate in 2019 (\$1.11873) and in 2020, (\$1.10524) will be significantly lower than the school tax rate paid in 2018.																		
Q. Can the proceeds from the bond be used to fund other projects?	A. No. State law prohibits funds to be used for projects other than the purpose it is intended for. Proposition A specifically reads: THE ISSUANCE OF \$19,000,000 OF SAN FELIPE DEL RIO CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BUILDING BONDS FOR THE PURPOSES OF CONSTRUCTING, RENOVATING, ACQUIRING, AND EQUIPPING A NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND THE LEVYING OF A TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF. In essence, the legal language in the proposition is specifically written to convey that proceeds from the \$19 million bond is exclusively for the purpose of "constructing, renovating acquiring and equipping a new elementary school".																		
Q. If I am over 65 years of age or older, will my school taxes be increased?	A. If you aged 65 or older, and have claimed an exemption on your home, then the school tax rate on your property will not increase.																		
Q. Where do I go vote today?	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Precinct Nos.</u></th> <th><u>Location</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10, 11, 12, and 13</td> <td>Old County Court at Law</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20, 21, 22, 23, and 24</td> <td>Del Rio Civic Center</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30, 31, 32, and 33</td> <td>4-H Barns (V.V. County Fairgrounds)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40, 41, 42, and 43</td> <td>St. Joseph's Church (Parish Hall)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Branch Locations</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buena Vista Elementary School</td> <td>Planning Room</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lamar Elementary School</td> <td>Library</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Precinct Nos.</u>	<u>Location</u>	10, 11, 12, and 13	Old County Court at Law	20, 21, 22, 23, and 24	Del Rio Civic Center	30, 31, 32, and 33	4-H Barns (V.V. County Fairgrounds)	40, 41, 42, and 43	St. Joseph's Church (Parish Hall)	 		Branch Locations		Buena Vista Elementary School	Planning Room	Lamar Elementary School	Library
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Q. What time do the polls open/close?	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.																		