

**LARKSPUR-CORTE MADERA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOND MEASURE A**

<p>A BOND MEASURE A: To relieve overcrowding in the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District by reopening the San Clemente School site; make essential fire and earthquake safety upgrades to existing facilities; improve access for the disabled; repair or replace outdated heating, ventilation and electrical systems; and enhance classroom technology infrastructure, shall the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District be authorized to issue up to twenty-six million dollars in bonds and establish a Citizens' Oversight Committee to ensure all expenditures are made according to approved plans?</p>	BONDS YES
	BONDS NO

**COUNTY COUNSEL'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS
OF BOND MEASURE A
LARKSPUR-CORTE MADERA SCHOOL
DISTRICT BOND MEASURE A**

If this Measure is approved by 55% of the vote, the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District will be authorized to incur bonded indebtedness of Twenty-Six Million Dollars (\$26,000,000) with an interest rate not to exceed the limit set by law. The proceeds of the proposed bonds must be used for the purposes set forth in the Measure and for no other purposes, and will be subject to oversight by a citizens' oversight committee and annual independent audits to assure that the funds are spent only for the school facilities projects listed in the Measure.

s/PATRICK K. FAULKNER
County Counsel

TAX RATE STATEMENT OF BOND MEASURE A

An election will be held in the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District (the "District") on November 8, 2011, to authorize the sale of up to \$26,000,000 in bonds of the District for the specific school facilities projects listed in the Bond Project List established by the District, as described in the proposition. The District expects to sell the bonds in one series. Principal and interest on the bonds will be payable from the proceeds of tax levies made upon the taxable property in the District. The following information is provided in compliance with Sections 9400-9404 of the Elections Code of the State of California.

(1) The best estimate from official sources of the tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue during the first fiscal year after the sale of the bonds, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is \$30.00 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation in fiscal year 2012-13.

(2) The best estimate from official sources of the highest tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is \$30.00 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation in fiscal year 2012-13.

(3) The best estimate from official sources of the average tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is \$27.10 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation.

Voters should note that estimated tax rate is based on the ASSESSED VALUE of taxable property on Marin County's official tax rolls, not on the property's market value. Property owners should consult their own property tax bills to determine their property's assessed value and any applicable tax exemptions.

Attention of all voters is directed to the fact that the foregoing information is based upon the District's projections and estimates only, which are not binding upon the District. The actual tax rates and the years in which they will apply may vary from those presently estimated, due to variations from these estimates in the timing of bond sales, the amount of bonds sold and market interest rates at the time of each sale, and actual assessed valuations over the term of repayment of the bonds. The dates of sale and the amount of bonds sold at any given time will be determined by the District based on need for construction funds and other factors. The actual interest rates at which the bonds will be sold will depend on the bond market at the time of each sale. Actual future assessed valuation will depend upon the amount of value of taxable property within the District as determined by the Marin County Assessor in the annual assessment and the equalization process.

Dated: August 9, 2011

s/VALERIE PITTS, Superintendent
Larkspur-Corte Madera School District

**FULL TEXT OF BOND MEASURE A
LARKSPUR-CORTE MADERA
SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2011/12-02**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE LARKSPUR-CORTE MADERA SCHOOL
DISTRICT ORDERING A SCHOOL BOND
ELECTION, AND AUTHORIZING NECESSARY
ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District (the "District"), within Marin County, California (the "County"), is authorized to order elections within the District and to designate the specifications thereof, pursuant to sections 5304 and 5322 of the California Education Code (the "Education Code");

WHEREAS, the Board is specifically authorized to order elections for the purpose of submitting to the electors the question of whether bonds of the District shall be issued and sold for the purpose of raising money for the purposes hereinafter specified, pursuant to section 15100 *et seq.* of the California Education Code;

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 18 of Article XVI and section 1 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution, and section 15266 of the California Education Code, school districts may seek approval of general obligation bonds and levy an *ad valorem* tax to repay those bonds upon a 55% vote of those voting on a proposition for the purpose, provided certain accountability measures are included in the proposition;

WHEREAS, the Board deems it necessary and advisable to submit such a bond proposition to the electors to be approved by 55% of the votes cast;

WHEREAS, such a bond election must be conducted concurrent with a statewide primary election, general election or special election, or at a regularly scheduled local election, as required by section 15266 of the California Education Code;

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2011, a general election is scheduled to occur throughout the District;

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 15270 California Education Code, based upon a projection of assessed property valuation, the Board has determined that, if approved by voters, the tax rate levied to meet the debt service requirements of the bonds proposed to be issued will not exceed \$30 per year per \$100,000 of assessed valuation of taxable property;

WHEREAS, section 9400 *et seq.* of the California Elections Code requires that a tax rate statement be contained in all official materials, including any ballot pamphlet prepared, sponsored or distributed by the District, relating to the election; and

WHEREAS, the Board now desires to authorize the filing of a ballot argument in favor of the proposition to be submitted to the voters at the election; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, determined and ordered by the Board of Trustees of the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District as follows:

Section 1. Specifications of Election Order. Pursuant to sections 5304, 5322, 15100 *et seq.*, and section 15266 of the California Education Code, an election shall be held within the boundaries of the District on November 8, 2011, for the purpose of submitting to the registered voters of the District the following proposition:

BOND AUTHORIZATION

By approval of this proposition by at least 55% of the registered voters voting on the proposition, the District shall be authorized to issue and sell bonds of up to \$26,000,000 in aggregate principal amount to provide initial financing for the specific school facilities projects listed in the Bond Project List attached hereto as Exhibit A, subject to all of the accountability safeguards specified below. Bonds will be issued in one series.

ACCOUNTABILITY SAFEGUARDS

The provisions in this section are specifically included in this proposition in order that the voters and taxpayers of 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 section 15264 *et seq.* of the California Education Code).

Evaluation of Needs. The Board of Trustees has updated its facilities plan in order to evaluate and address all of the facilities needs of the District, and to determine which projects to finance from a local bond at this time. The Board of Trustees hereby certifies that it has evaluated safety, class size reduction and information technology needs in developing the Bond Project List contained in Exhibit A.

Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee. The Board of Trustees shall establish an independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (section 15278 *et seq.* of the California Education Code), to ensure bond proceeds are expended only for the school facilities projects listed in Exhibit A. The committee shall be established within 60 days of the date when the results of the election appear in the minutes of the Board of Trustees.

Annual Performance Audits. The Board of Trustees shall cause to 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.

Annual Financial Audits. The Board of Trustees shall cause to 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.

Special Bond Proceeds Account; Annual Report to Board. Upon approval of this proposition and the sale of any bonds approved, the Board of Trustees 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 shall cause a report to be filed with the Board no later than January 1 of each year, commencing January 1,

2013, 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 into the annual budget, audit, or other appropriate routine report to the Board.

BOND PROJECT LIST

The Bond Project List attached to this resolution as Exhibit A 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.

The Bond Project List, which is an integral part of this proposition, lists the specific projects the District proposes to finance with proceeds of the Bonds. Listed repairs, rehabilitation projects and upgrades will be completed as needed. Each project is assumed to include its share of costs of the election and bond issuance, architectural, engineering, and similar planning costs, construction management, and a customary contingency for unforeseen design and construction costs. The final cost of each project will be determined as plans are finalized, construction bids are awarded, and projects are completed.

FURTHER SPECIFICATIONS

No Administrator Salaries. Proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized by this proposition shall be used only 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, and not for any other purpose, including teacher and administrator salaries and other school operating expenses.

Single Purpose. All of the purposes enumerated in this proposition shall be united and voted upon as one single proposition, pursuant to section 15100 of the California Education Code, and all the enumerated purposes shall constitute the specific single purpose of the bonds, and proceeds of the bonds shall be spent only for such purpose, pursuant to section 53410 of the California Government Code.

Other Terms of the Bonds. When sold, the bonds shall bear interest at an annual rate not exceeding the statutory maximum, and that interest will be made payable at the time or times permitted by law. No bond shall be made to mature more than 25 years (if issued pursuant to the provisions of the California Education Code) or 40 years (if issued pursuant to the provisions of the California Government Code) from the date borne by that bond.

Section 2. Abbreviation of Proposition. Pursuant to section 13247 of the California Elections Code and section 15122 of the California Education Code, the Board hereby directs the Registrar of Voters to use the following abbreviation of the bond proposition on the ballot:

“To relieve overcrowding in the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District by reopening the San Clemente School site; make essential fire and earthquake safety upgrades to existing facilities; improve access for the

disabled; repair or replace outdated heating, ventilation and electrical systems; and enhance classroom technology infrastructure, shall the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District be authorized to issue up to twenty-six million dollars in bonds and establish a Citizens’ Oversight Committee to ensure all expenditures are made according to approved plans?”

Section 3. Voter Pamphlet. The Registrar of Voters of the County is hereby requested to reprint Section 1 hereof (including Exhibit A hereto) in its entirety in the voter information pamphlets to be distributed to voters pursuant to section 13307 of the California Elections Code. In the event Section 1 is not reprinted in the voter information pamphlets in its entirety, the Registrar of Voters of the County is hereby requested to print, immediately below the impartial analysis of the bond proposition, in no less than 10-point boldface type, a legend substantially as follows:

“The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure A. If you desire a copy of the measure, please call the Marin County Registrar of Voters at (415) 499-6456 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.”

Section 4. Required Vote. Pursuant to section 18 of Article XVI and section 1 of Article XIII A of the State Constitution, the above proposition shall become effective upon the affirmative vote of at least 55% of those voters voting on the proposition.

Section 5. Request to County Officers to Conduct Election. The Registrar of Voters of the County is hereby requested, pursuant to section 5322 of the California Education Code, to take all steps to call and hold the election in accordance with law and these specifications.

Section 6. Consolidation Requirement: Canvass.

(a) Pursuant to section 15266(a) of the California Education Code, the election shall be consolidated with the general election on November 8, 2011.

(b) The Board of Supervisors of the County is authorized and requested to canvass the returns of the election, pursuant to section 10411 of the California Elections Code.

Section 7. Delivery of Order of Election to County Officers. The Clerk of the Board of Trustees of the District is hereby directed to deliver, no later than August 12, 2011 (which date is 88 days prior to the date set for the election), one copy of this Resolution to the County Superintendent of Schools and the Registrar of Voters of the County together with the Tax Rate Statement (attached hereto as Exhibit B), completed and signed by the Superintendent, and shall file a copy of this Resolution with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County.

Section 8. Ballot Arguments. The members of the Board are hereby authorized, but not directed, to prepare and file with the Registrar of Voters of the County a ballot argument in favor of the proposition contained in Section 1 hereof, within the time established by the Registrar of Voters of the County.

Section 9. Further Authorization. The members of this Board, the Superintendent, and all other officers of the

District are hereby authorized and directed, individually and collectively, to do any and all things that they deem necessary or advisable in order to effectuate the purposes of this resolution.

Section 10. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of August by the following vote:

AYES: Julia Ritter, Susan Christman, Kevin Mangan, Phil Wade, Sheri Mowbray

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

APPROVED:

s/KEVIN W. MANGAN

President of the Board of Trustees of the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District

Attest:

s/JULIA RITTER

Clerk of the Board of Trustees of the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District

EXHIBIT A
LARKSPUR-CORTE MADERA
SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOND PROJECT LIST

The Board of Trustees of the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District evaluated the District's urgent and critical facility needs, including safety issues, enrollment trends, the desire to preserve neighborhood schools, class size, and computer and information technology, in developing the scope of projects to be funded. Teachers, staff, community members and the Board have prioritized the key health and safety needs so that the most critical facility needs are addressed. The Board concluded that if these needs are not addressed now, the problems will only become more pressing. The capital improvement plan will be financed in two phases. In approving this Project List, the Board of Trustees determines that the following items are to be included in the Capital Improvement Plan:

- Accessibility improvements as required by the Division of the State Architect (DSA)
- Improvements to fire safety systems including alarms and sprinklers in buildings where needed
- Essential fire and earthquake safety upgrades to existing facilities
- New construction at San Clemente School site including demolition, site development and field restoration
- Modernization at Hall and Neil Cummins Schools including renovated and new toilet rooms, classroom upgrades, mechanical and electrical system upgrades, replacement of worn finishes and weather protection including reroofing
- Replace outdated heating and ventilation systems where required

- Replace old campus plumbing systems for water, gas, sewer systems and storm drainage
- Twenty-first century school improvements including reconfiguring teaching spaces and technology improvements
- Site improvements including outdoor teaching spaces and playground improvement and expansion
- New construction at Hall and Neil Cummins Schools including demolition and site development
- Relocate student services facilities
- Install solar photovoltaic systems
- Remove and dispose of hazardous materials in buildings to be demolished or remodeled
- Update or replace outdated telecommunications systems
- Provide energy efficient lighting systems in buildings where remodeled
- Improvements to clock, bell, security and emergency lighting systems where required
- Replace old deteriorating windows and doors where needed
- Paint exterior of renovated buildings
- Install new sustainable flooring systems, interior finishes, casework and acoustical treatments in buildings to be remodeled
- Resurface, rebuild and re-stripe parking areas, pedestrian walkways and internal fire access roads, as needed
- Improvements to interior courtyard surfaces and landscaping
- Remove old portable classrooms
- Repair covered walkways as needed

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE A

Please join us in voting **YES on Measure A** to relieve our overcrowded schools.

The Larkspur-Corte Madera School District is facing unprecedented overcrowding. Neil Cummins Elementary is serving 250 more students than it was originally designed to handle. Fifth graders already have been relocated to Hall Middle School. Portable classrooms intended as a temporary solution overwhelm the playgrounds of both campuses, housing almost a third of students at Neil Cummins and isolating many students from the main campus buildings. The last time our District served as many students, it operated three schools.

Measure A is a no-frills solution that will meet the basic needs of our schools for adequate space to educate our students. Measure A will relieve our serious overcrowding problem and make other essential upgrades, including meeting accessibility requirements for the disabled, improving fire and earthquake safety, and repairing and replacing electrical, plumbing and ventilation systems.

The District took a very inclusive and fiscally responsible approach in developing the Measure A plan. A citizens committee, following the District's approved 2008 Facilities Master Plan, identified only the highest priority work that needs to be done.

Measure A also establishes a Citizens' Oversight Committee whose sole responsibility will be to make sure that the District does only the work that's included in the approved project plan and that it stays on budget. And all of the money will directly benefit our students and our community – none of it can be taken by the state and none can go to District administrator salaries.

The District has been doing everything it can to manage our overcrowding problem in the most cost-effective way. But temporary fixes will no longer work. We've simply maxed out our school space.

For more information about Measure A, please visit www.relieveschoolovercrowding.org. And please vote **YES on Measure A** to relieve our overcrowded schools.

s/ANDREA PIERPONT

Campaign Chair, Citizens for Relieving Overcrowded
Larkspur-Corte Madera K-8 Schools

s/KEVIN MANGAN

President, Larkspur-Corte Madera School District
Board of Trustees

s/ALICIA KEPLER

President, SPARK, Larkspur-Corte Madera
Schools Foundation

s/LARRY CHU

Mayor, Larkspur

s/ALEXANDRA COCK

Mayor, Corte Madera

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE A

We do not dispute LCMSD's need to modernize and expand its facilities. What we are questioning is why taxpayers should continue to fund an education system that insists on teaching an outmoded curriculum in a manner that doesn't prepare students for the real world and is causing many of them to lose interest all together. Marin's public high school dropout rate is a travesty – 12% for Latinos, 13% for African-Americans, and 5% countywide.

This might be understandable if school funding had been slashed, but funding per-student increased 27% while salaries and pensions per-student increased a whopping 40% – both adjusted for inflation – between FY2000 and FY2010. We are paying premium prices for results that would be unacceptable in the private sector.

Much of what the public schools teach is forgotten almost immediately. How many of us have benefitted from knowing the quadratic equation or the electron shells of an atom? Imagine, if instead, schools taught students how to save and invest, to plan nutritious meals, to market one's self, to set goals and achieve them, to negotiate, or to make a persuasive argument. These skills actually would benefit students and help them lead happier, more productive lives.

Unless public schools first control their labor costs, modernize their curriculum, and introduce technology and more effective teaching methods, approving Measure A will only perpetuate an outmoded and ineffective education system and waste the \$1,500 per student per year this measure will cost taxpayers. Please vote NO on Measure A.

s/MARIN UNITED TAXPAYERS ASSN.

By Fielding Greaves, President

s/MICHAEL ERICKSON

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE A

Voters historically have supported public schools, but should we continue to support a system that, because of politicians' agendas and teacher unions' self-interests, no longer is responsive to our children's needs, but rather resembles something out of a totalitarian state?

- No Child Left Behind incentivizes teachers to focus on slower students and to 'teach to the test' rather than educating and inspiring all students.
- Labor contracts and laws make firing incompetent teachers protracted and prohibitively expensive.
- Students routinely are prohibited from transferring out of poorly-performing schools.
- State bureaucracies require schools to teach a curriculum essentially unchanged from the 1950's and doesn't teach kids the knowledge and life skills needed for a modern economy.
- Entrenched special-interest groups resist attempts to bring labor-saving technologies and teaching methods into the classroom that can provide individualized instruction and keep students engaged.

Lack of funding is not the issue. LCMSD spent roughly \$10,600 per student in FY 2010. That is more than the tuition of some excellent parochial schools and is 27% more – adjusted for inflation – than LCMSD spent in FY 2000 . . . yet enrichment programs were cut. The reason is total compensation (i.e., salaries, pensions, and benefits) ballooned 82% in real terms versus just a 30% increase in students. An appalling 88% of the FY 2010 budget, in fact, was simply compensation. That left just 12% (vs. 27% in FY 2000) to fund books, services, technology, and other capital outlays.

Citizens support public education, but writing a \$26,000,000 check to a system that the self-interests of politicians and unions have rendered essentially ineffective won't benefit our children. It only will forestall needed changes and waste taxpayer money. Please vote 'No' on Measure A.

s/MARIN UNITED TAXPAYERS ASSN.

By Fielding Greaves, President

s/MICHAEL ERICKSON

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE A

The purpose of Measure A is simple: to ensure safe, adequate learning environments for our children. While our opponents may mean well, their arguments have nothing to do with the serious overcrowding and infrastructure issues that threaten our local public schools. Measure A provides a reasonable, financially responsible plan for addressing our exploding student population.

Consider the facts:

- Student enrollment continues to climb and has far exceeded the District's already strained capacity. More classroom portables are not the answer. We need a long-term, permanent solution to address our growing enrollment problem.
- The District has exercised financial responsibility by refinancing its current bond debt to save taxpayers money and by limiting new bond debt to \$30/\$100K of assessed value per property. The District's AAA credit rating speaks to its record of fiscal prudence.
- State law mandates that Measure A bond funds be used only for facilities expenses detailed on the voter approved Project List – including critical fire and accessibility upgrades – and not on administrative salaries or educational programs.
- A Citizens' Oversight Committee will monitor the expenditure of every dollar raised. Our community can be confident that their tax dollars will be spent on the District's most pressing needs, not on lavish extras.

Larkspur and Corte Madera take pride in our outstanding public schools, and our residents regularly use and enjoy these facilities and grounds. Moreover, strong schools protect our property values and benefit the entire community.

Learn more by visiting www.relieveschoolovercrowding.org and join us in voting **YES ON MEASURE A.**

s/ROBERT BUNDY, M.D.

President, Corte Madera Flood Board

s/JANA HAEHL

Corte Madera Resident for 48 years

s/WENDY MEUNIER

Teacher/Corte Madera Resident,

2011 Marin County Golden Bell Award Recipient

s/HARRY SCHRIEBMAN

Corte Madera Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

s/ROBERT B. SINNOTT

Chief, Larkspur Fire Department