

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA MONICA EDUCATION FUND
Santa Monica Ballot Measures
November 4, 2008 Election

Measure AA: *Santa Monica College Career and Educational Improvements –Santa Monica Community College District*



This project

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Measure AA: Santa Monica College Career and Educational Improvements –Santa Monica Community College District

The Question: *Shall the Santa Monica Community College District be authorized to issue \$295 million in general obligation bonds to construct and modernize its facilities as part of its multiphase Facility Master Plan?*

The Situation: Santa Monica College is made up of the main campus and five satellite campuses: (1) The Performing Arts Center & Music Academy, (2) The Bundy Campus at Santa Monica Airport, (3) The Academy of Entertainment & Technology, (4) The Emeritus College in downtown Santa Monica, and (5) the Airport Campus at Santa Monica Airport. Each is linked by shuttle busses and offers a different focus. No college site exists in Malibu, but the college and the City of Malibu are currently having discussions to determine the needs of that community.

Santa Monica College adopted a multi-phase Facility Master Plan in 1998 to provide its students and the larger community with new and renovated state of the art facilities to replace those that are more than 50 years old and not up to current seismic, mechanical, electrical, energy and disability (ADA) codes. Phases I and II have been funded at a ratio of 65% local bonds and 35% other sources. Santa Monica College has stated its intent to adhere to the same funding ratio for Phase III.

In 2002, a \$160 million bond measure (Measure U) was passed with a 70 percent majority; in 2004, a \$135 million bond measure (Measure S) was passed with a 58.4% majority. Measure AA, which has been placed on the ballot under the requirements of Proposition 39 (passed by the voters of California in 2000), requires a yes vote of at least 55 percent of the voters to pass. It will help fund Phase III—Modernization.

The Proposal:

- Authorizes the Santa Monica Community College District to issue \$295 million of general obligation bonds.
- Requires bond money to be used only for projects included on the Measure AA Project List. (Required by Proposition 39)
- Requires the Board of Trustees to appoint a Citizens Oversight Committee. (Required by Proposition 39)
- Requires an annual independent performance audit and an annual independent financial audit to account for how the bond funds are spent. The results of the annual audits must be reported to the Board of Trustees and to the Citizens Oversight Committee at public meetings.
- Provides funding for major safety and modernization projects that would improve job and career training; provides up-to-date science labs and technology; renovates old buildings to meet current seismic and other safety standards; consolidates programs to provide more efficient education to students; provides underground parking on the Bundy and Academy Campuses, and assists in reducing traffic congestion by providing for a consolidated bus pull-out and bus shelter on Pico Blvd.

- Provides for development of community classrooms; sets aside 2.5 percent of bond funds for energy and resource efficiency to improve campus environmental performance; and includes joint use library and educational improvements in Malibu, working with the City of Malibu and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

The Fiscal Effect

The cost of the bond would be approximately \$1.12 a month for renters and \$7.34 a month for the average homeowner or condominium owner in Santa Monica and Malibu. The bonds would be repaid by a property tax levied upon real property located in the Santa Monica Community College District, and would be issued for a span of time no longer than forty (40) years at an interest rate that does not exceed the legal maximum rate, presently 12% per annum.

A Yes Vote Means: A YES vote means Santa Monica College can issue \$295 million of General Obligation bonds for uses specified in the project list for Measure AA.

A No Vote Means: A NO vote means that Santa Monica College cannot issue \$295 million of General Obligation bonds.

Supporters say:

The cost of higher education is skyrocketing and technological changes in the workplace constant. Access to high quality Community College education is more important than ever. Measure AA assures Santa Monica and Malibu residents access to high quality training needed for the jobs of the future.

Measure AA will allow SMC to renovate and replace facilities that are more than a half century old, not up to current seismic, mechanical, electrical, energy and ADA codes, and that no longer meet the needs of students in this technological era.

SMC provides community-based education for residents to sustain and improve their lives. Measure AA provides the facilities needed to fulfill this mission.

Measure AA will make environmental improvements resulting in more sustainable facilities. The college is the state leader in reducing car trips, through free access to public transit and online classes.

SMC serves about 8,000 residents annually and two out of three families in Santa Monica and Malibu report attending classes at the College in the last five years.

College improvements add value for local homeowners, according to local realtors.

The College has already secured about \$40 million in state funding for the Replacement Math and Science Building, and has identified three other projects that could be eligible for additional state funding.

Opponents say:

Support for education is not the issue. The issue is 25,000 Los Angeles area students commuting to Santa Monica in their cars. This construction and development bond will promote more commuter traffic.

The College's costly marketing campaign is aggressively targeting those who do not live in Santa Monica or Malibu. These commuters live in close proximity to 10 other excellent community colleges.

Fully 80% of Santa Monica College students are commuters. Their parents won't pay this bond, you will!

Santa Monica College has not spent the \$295,000,000 in bonds we approved in 2002 and 2004. They have money to spare. We should not approve more.

Approving this bond means that future efforts to fund our local, underserved Santa Monica school children will be severely undermined for years to come because residents whose generosity and support has been taken for granted feel "there is only so much water in the well."

SMC is now a regional commuter school ignoring its impact on neighborhoods, breaking promises, grabbing property for development and looking to bank your money for undisclosed purposes.

The political campaign to promote this development scheme is paid for by Los Angeles residents who will not be paying the taxes. You will pay the taxes.

Supporters include:

Sharon Barovsky (Councilmember, Malibu City Council)
Robert Rader (chair, Santa Monica College Board of Trustees)
Herb Katz (Mayor City of Santa Monica)
Fran Pavley (Former California State Assemblymember)
Patricia Hoffman (Co-chair, Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights)
Julia Brownley (California State Assemblymember)
Ken Genser (Santa Monica City Councilmember)
Jefferson Wagner (Malibu City Councilmember)
Joel C. Koury (Santa Monica Rent Control Board Chairperson)
Shari Davis (Chair, Community for Excellent Public School).

Opponents include:

Douglas R. O'Brien (Malibu Homeowner)
Donna Alvarez (Republican Women Federation of Santa Monica)
June Coleman (Santa Monica Homeowner)
Philip Hendricks (25 years SMRR Member)
Lorraine Sanchez (Former SMC Bond Oversight Committee)
Ramona Flores Marquez (Santa Monica College Student)
Marilyn Goodrich (Alumni and SMC Employee)
Thomas E Fakehany (Malibu Homeowner)
Jody Grant-Gray (Children's Book Publisher)
Mathew L. Millen (Civil Rights Attorney).

For More Information:

Yes on Measure AA: www.YesonMeasureAA.com

No on Measure AA: <http://www.bondfatigue.com/>

SMC Citizens Oversight Committee: <http://www.smc.edu/apps/pub.asp?Q=546&B=1>

SMC Audit Information: <http://www.smc.edu/apps/pub.asp?Q=548&B>

City of Santa Monica 2008 Election Information:

<http://www01.smgov.net/cityclerk/Election2008/English/English%20index.htm> 9/15/08