CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD REPORT

To: Board of Trustees

From: Clark Hampton, Deputy Superintendent, Business and Support Services

Ryan Burris, Chief Communications and Public Engagement Officer

Date: May 25, 2022

Board Item: Presentation on Results of Aliso Viejo School Facilities Improvement District Bond

Feasibility Survey

HISTORY

This is a subsequent information item only. The State of California provides certain matching funds for school district capital facility projects. To receive these funds, school districts must provide local matching funds. In most instances, school districts must pass local school facilities bonds in order to meet the matching requirements of the state funds. The District allocates over three percent of the annual budget for routine maintenance and repairs; however, District schools continue to age and the cost of repairs and maintenance continues to increase.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Board of Trustees has analyzed potential facilities bonds for the District during public meetings since the spring of 2016. At the December 15, 2021, Board of Trustee meeting, the Dana Hills High School boundary and the City of Aliso Viejo were identified for further study to include polling. In January 2022, the Board approved a contract with True North Research to conduct public opinion surveys in both areas. Timothy McLarney, President, True North Research, Inc. will be on zoom to present the results.

CURRENT CONSIDERATIONS

The District has completed polling for the Aliso Viejo boundary area, results are presented in the attached exhibit. Staff will present the results of the public opinion poll on the Aliso Viejo-School Facilities Improvement District.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for this item.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

District staff recommends the Board of Trustees receive the informational presentation on the results of the Aliso Viejo SFID bond feasibility survey. This is an information item only and no Board action is necessary.

APPROVED BY: Clark Hampton, Deputy Superintendent, Business and Support Services **APPROVED BY:** Ryan Burris, Chief Communications and Public Engagement Officer

ALISO VIEJO SFID BOND FEASIBILITY SURVEY

CONDUCTED FOR CAPISTRANO USD

PRESENTED BY
TIMOTHY MCLARNEY PH.D.

5/25/2022



PURPOSE OF STUDY

- Determine if a bond measure to repair and improve schools in Aliso Viejo is feasible
- Oldentify how to create a measure consistent with community priorities
- Gather information needed for communications & outreach

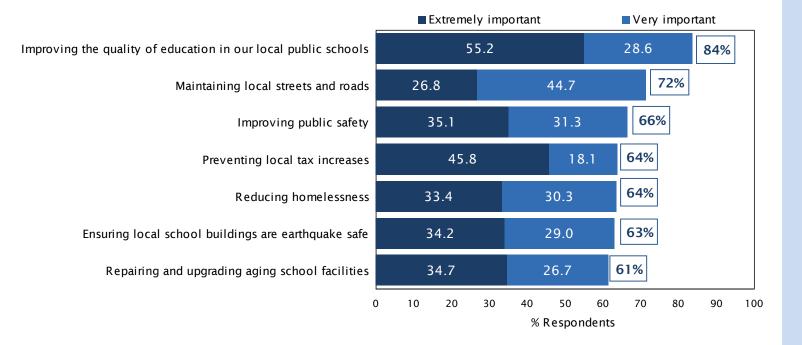


METHODOLOGY OF STUDY

- Conducted May 5th to May 12th, 2022
- Random Sample: 411 voters in Aliso Viejo School SFID likely to participate in November 2022 election
- OMixed-Method approach
 - o Recruited via email, text and telephone
 - Data collection via online and telephone
 - o 16 minute average interview length
- Overall margin of error is ± 4.8%



IMPORTANCE OF ISSUES





INITIAL BALLOT TEST

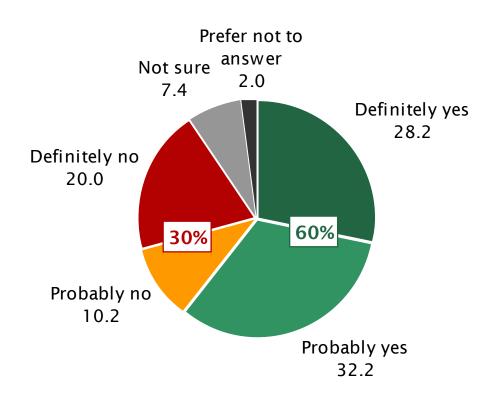
In order to:

- o Repair and improve Aliso Viejo's aging neighborhood schools
- o Fix deteriorating roofs, plumbing, sewer, and electrical systems
- And construct/acquire modern classrooms, science labs, facilities and technology that support college and career readiness in science, technology, arts, math, and skilled trades

shall Capistrano Unified School District's (SFID #3) measure authorizing 77 million dollars in bonds be approved, levying 3 cents per \$100 assessed value (4 million dollars annually) while bonds are outstanding, with independent citizen oversight and all money locally-controlled? If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this measure?

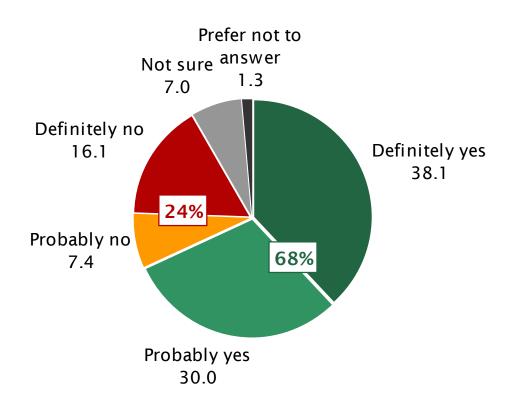


INITIAL BALLOT TEST



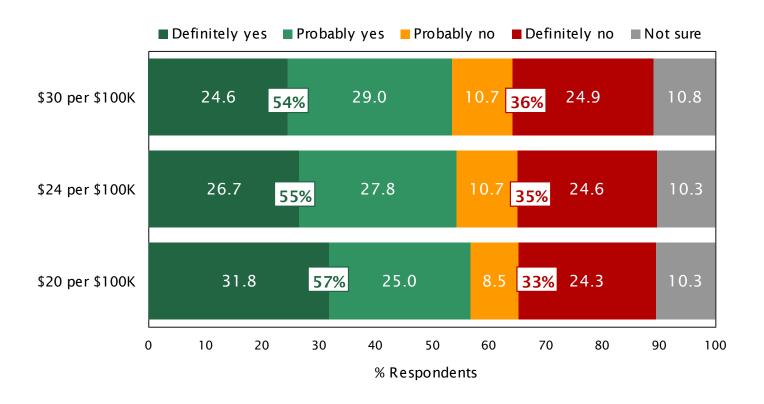


CLARIFYING MONEY STAYS IN ALISO VIEJO



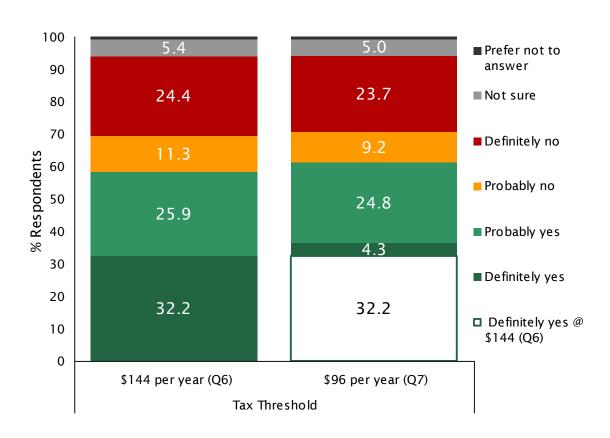


TAX THRESHOLD





SUPPORT FOR MEASURE AT RATES OF \$144 & \$96 PER YEAR FOR MEDIAN HOMEOWNER







PROJECTS & IMPROVEMENTS

Upgrade classrooms, labs, tech to support high quality instruction in math, science, engineering tech

Repair, replace leaky roofs, old rusty plumbing, dry rotted beams, aging sewer pipes, failing electrical systems

Provide science, engineering labs, career training facilities so students prepared for college, careers like healthcare, biomedical, computer science, robotics, skilled trades

Install, repair, replace AC in classrooms to improve air quality, keep classrooms from reaching 85 degrees or hotter

Upgrade older schools so they meet current health codes, building safety codes, provide proper access for students with disabilities

Keep computer systems, instructional tech up-to-date

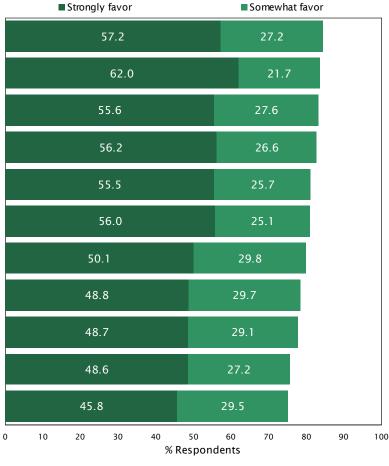
Create modern, multi-use classrooms to support hands-on science instruction, learning-by-doing

Improve student safety, campus security systems incl fencing, cameras, emergency comm, intruder protection, smoke detectors,

fire alarms, sprinklers
Replace aging portable classrooms that are expensive to repair,
maintain with safe, modern classrooms that meet today's academic
standards

Renovate bathrooms and water fountains to meet current health, safety, ADA standards

Upgrade classrooms, facilities, tech to support high quality instruction in music, visual, performing art







POSITIVE ARGUMENTS

If we want our kids to succeed in college, careers, must be skilled in use of today's tech, have background in science, math, engineering, tech; measure will make this possible

Measure requires clear system of accountability, project list, Citizens'

Oversight Committee, independent audits to ensure money spent

properly

All money raised by measure will stay local to support Aliso Viejo schools; it can't be taken away by State, used for other purposes

Even with no school-age children, supporting school bond is a wise investment; good schools improve quality of life in Aliso Viejo, protect value of homes

By law, no money from this measure can be used for administrators' salaries or benefits

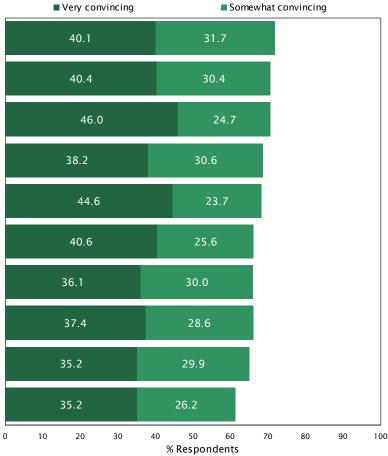
If voters approve measure, schools will qualify for millions of dollars in State matching money when it becomes avail that otherwise will go to other districts

Every other community in Orange County has passed bond measures over past 20 yrs to repair, modernize schools, except us

Every school in Aliso Viejo will be repaired and upgraded with this

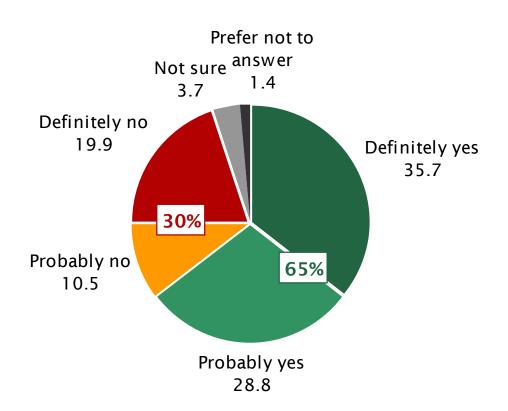
Passing bond now makes good financial sense; the longer we wait to repair, upgrade classrooms, school buildings, the more expensive it will become

Schools, classrooms built long before concern about school shootings; past few yrs have shown threat is increasing; measure will improve security, better protect students





INTERIM BALLOT TEST





NEGATIVE ARGUMENTS

District just received millions in pandemic relief funds, State has a \$30B surplus, which means schools will be getting even more money; we don't need to raise taxes

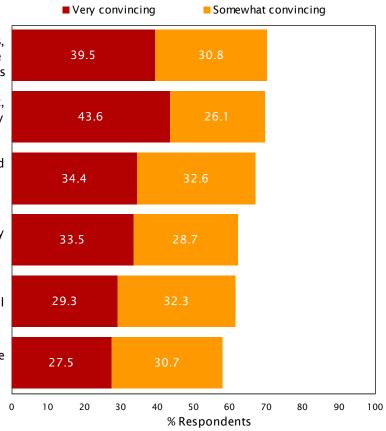
Residents, businesses have been hit hard by pandemic, inflation, rising gas prices; many are struggling to stay afloat; now is not the time to raise taxes

Measure isn't fair; students from Laguna Niguel also attend schools in Aliso Viejo, but property owners in Laguna Niguel won't have to pay a dime for bond

Including interest, this bond will cost taxpayers nearly \$130M, will take 30 yrs to pay off

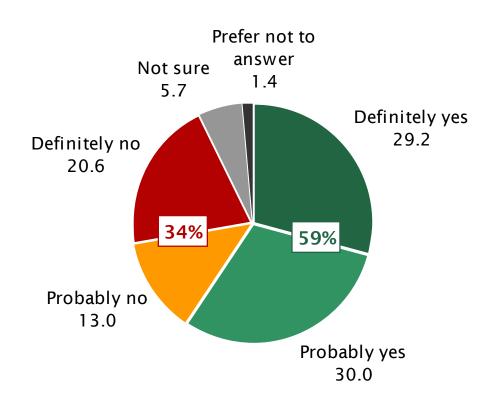
Area is an expensive place to live, especially for young families, seniors, those on fixed incomes; passing bond will make it even less affordable

We can't trust District with this tax, they will misspend the money, not build what they promise



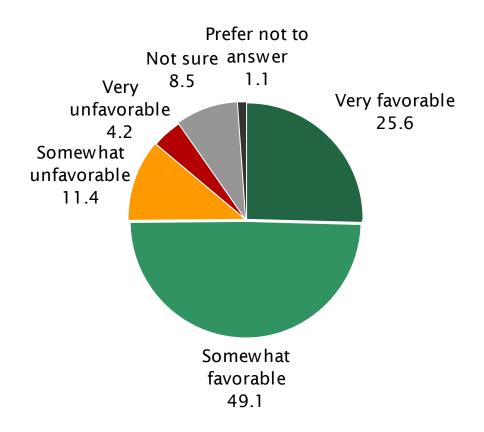


FINAL BALLOT TEST



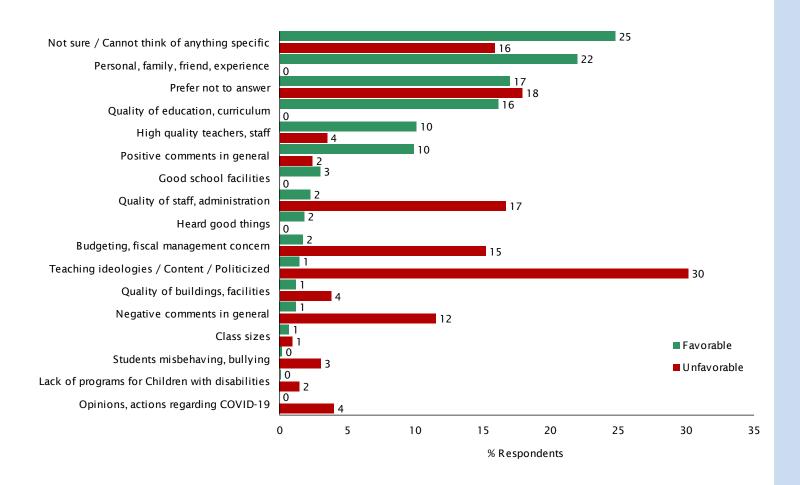


OPINION OF CAPISTRANO USD





REASONS FOR OPINION OF DISTRICT





KEY CONCLUSIONS

Does a bond appear to be feasible for November 2022? Yes, with careful planning and execution.

Positive Signs

- Voters rank improving the quality of education in local schools as the most important issue facing the community
- Solid natural support for bond (60%), which jumps to 68% with clarification that all funds stay local to improve Aliso Viejo schools
- Popular projects
- Strong positive arguments
- o All ballot tests are above 55%, even after opposition arguments

Challenges

- Boost from SFID doesn't come naturally in ballot statement needs clarification
- Tax rate sensitivity
- Negative arguments get some traction
- o Unknowns: trajectory of pandemic, inflation, international conflict



OBSERVATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- o Snapshot in time, not a crystal ball
- o Price Tag: Keep it in voters' comfort zone
- Project Priorities: STEM, career tech, instructional technology, fix older classrooms/facilities, HVAC, bring facilities up to code/ADA.
- District Communications: Expand the conversation with the community to build awareness of your facility needs and consensus on a bond proposal.
- o **Independent Campaign:** Need to have a robust independent campaign to build/sustain support and navigate through the election cycle.

