

TO: JUDSON ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES & SUPERINTENDENT

FROM: SAN ANTONIO CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: 2016 JUDSON ISD BOND ELECTION

STATUS: APPROVED BY THE BOARD

DATE: April 28, 2016



RECOMMENDATION: The Board of Directors of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce has adopted the following statement as policy:

STATEMENT: The San Antonio Chamber of Commerce supports all 4 propositions under the \$265.83 million bond initiative for the Judson Independent School District (JISD). The largest proposition (Prop 1) includes improvement to current school facilities which will total approximately \$135.9 million. The second largest proposition (Prop 2) will tackle the consistent increase in enrollment and projected growth in the elementary levels to include 2 new elementary schools costing \$73.08 million. The next largest category (Prop 3) will focus on completing the second phase of Mackey High School costing approximately \$51.65 million. The final proposed expenditures (Prop 4) will pay off debt associated with repairs made to Kirby Middle School. JISD's approach to the 2016 Bond Program is to 1) provide equity between campus offerings and facility conditions throughout the district; 2) provide safe, healthy and collaborative environments for student engagement; and 3) provide innovative technologies for students and teachers.

BACKGROUND: JISD is the 4th largest school district in San Antonio/Bexar County with a student population of approximately 23,000 students. In late 2015- early 2016, JISD underwent a bond advisory visioning process that included a needs assessment of its facilities, technology, equipment, and other resource program areas. This visioning process included student, parent, faculty and community member engagement. Subsequently, the Bond Advisory Committee for JISD proposed a bond package comprised of 4 separate propositions that would:

- provide equity between campus offerings and facility conditions throughout the district;
- provide safe, healthy and collaborative environments for student engagement; and
- provide innovative technologies for students and teachers.

Through data collection, JISD evaluated the District's future facility and infrastructure priorities. JISD completed a facilities assessment to allow for ongoing operation and maintenance of district facilities and to evaluate possible additions, renovations, and new construction. Questionnaires were distributed to maintenance personnel and select directors for known deficiencies and problems, as well as suggestions for district-wide

initiatives. Questionnaires were also distributed to principals and site based stakeholders for known campus concerns.

After these questionnaires were completed, site assessment personnel visited high schools, middle schools, elementary schools, and support facilities to create a list of concerns and observations. This was followed up with the development of a comprehensive database of campus needs, including items from 2010 assessment that were used for the proposed 2010 Bond Program.

This Bond Visioning Process was done through community involvement, a student workshop, and Bond Advisory Committee meetings. This process began in December 2015 and lasted thru January 2016. JISD convened 3 Bond Advisory Committee Meetings that included parents, community members and business leaders who each assisted in providing feedback on the proposed bond package. The Bond Advisory Committee reviewed the District's resource needs and community feedback to prioritize a range of projects.

On January 26, 2016, the Bond Advisory Committee presented its bond program recommendations to the Board of Trustees. Following this presentation, on February 18, 2016, the JISD Board of Trustees voted unanimously to call a \$265.83 million bond election to be placed on the May 2016 ballot. The structure of this bond proposal is unique in that the bond program is divided into 4 independent bond proposals that can be voted independently on by the voters. The recommended projects/proposals are summarized as follows:

Projects Summary	Budget (millions)
Prop 1: Modernization	\$135.9
Prop 2: New Elem. Schools	\$73.08
Prop 3: Phase 2 of Mackey HS	\$51.65
Prop 4: Previous Bond Debt	\$5.2
Total	\$265.83 million

JISD schools range from 50 years old to the current construction on the new Mackey High School. Proposition 1 which represents the largest proposition amongst the 4 represents 51% of the total proposed bond program. This proposition will include facilities work at some level on every campus within the district. Improvements will include: new athletic fields, improved technology, career pathways redistribution amongst the campuses, ADA compliance work on the older campuses, security and indoor air quality improvements, and facility upgrades to plumbing and roofs at several campuses.

The second largest proposition includes the building of 2 new elementary campuses to address continued and projected student enrollment growth in the district. Current projections show that 4 of JISD's elementary schools will be at 101%+ capacity by the 2018-2019 school year. To address this continued growth, the Bond Advisory Committee has proposed 2 new campuses in the northern and southern regions of the district.

Proposition 3 is focused on Phase 2 of the newly constructed Mackey High School. The original bond program that funded Phase 1 of Mackey HS was voted and approved in 2013. At the time, the committee and board did not propose the full build out of the campus. This bond proposal includes facility improvements such as a new 3-story classroom addition that will allow for an increase in student enrollment by 800, a new auditorium, new black box theater and improvements to athletic fields on campus to meet UIL guidelines.

The final proposition, focuses on the repayment of bond funds used to repair damages incurred on Kirby Middle School.

If all 4 propositions are approved by voters, the entire 2016 Bond Program would improve health and safety amongst all of the campuses within JISD, bring aging campuses up to ADA standards including asbestos abatement, provide equitable opportunities for all JISD students to have diverse career exposure options, reduce overcrowding on campuses particularly at the district’s elementary schools, and address JISD’s deferred maintenance projects.

In preparation for the May 2016 vote, JISD is continuing to host community forums to answer any questions or concerns of JISD residents. Each of these forums is held by the JISD Superintendent Dr. Carl Montoya and the Bond Advisory Committee.

The projected tax impact for JISD residents if the entire 2016 JISD Bond Program is approved is the following:

<u>Appraised Value of Home</u>	<u>Cost per Month</u>	<u>Annual Increase</u>
\$109,000	\$5.00	\$60.00
\$125,000	\$6.67	\$80.04
\$150,000	\$8.33	\$99.96
\$200,00	\$11.67	\$140.04

The average appraised value of homes within JISD is \$150,000.00. Persons 65 years of age or older, who have a homestead exemption, will be exempt from tax rate increases unless new improvements are made to the home.

Pros:

1. The passing of the proposed bond would help JISD manage growth, improve and enhance much needed programs at all of their campuses, improve technology for both students and educators, maintain and improve current neighborhood schools that are aging, and add 2 new elementary schools to address increasing student enrollment in the district.
2. The ramifications of the proposed bond not passing could adversely impact families, businesses, educators, and the far north east sector of the community.

3. JISD has uniquely proposed 4 separate bond proposals to address each need identified by the Bond Advisory Committee that can each be voted on independently by the voters in May.
4. JISD's Bond Visioning process included community members, students, parents, faculty, and administrators providing a complete and diverse perspective on the needs for the district at all levels.

Cons:

1. Due to the current public school finance structure and pending school finance law case, JISD has no alternative plan if the entire 2016 bond fails to pass voter approval.

IMPLEMENTATION: The Chamber will help support the JISD Bond 2016 Initiative (Early Voting April 25th – May 3rd, Election Day May 7th) at membership meetings and other public opportunities. The Chamber will communicate this position to the media, the business community and other Chamber members through publication in The Chamber Today and any media releases as deemed necessary and appropriate.