



TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: JUDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND ELECTION

STATUS: ADOPTED

DATE: 9/23/10

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Directors of The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce adopt the following position statement:

STATEMENT: The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce supports passage of the three bond propositions for the Judson Independent School District, totaling \$198.8 million. These propositions are in keeping with sound financial planning that will serve the long term interests of Judson ISD students and taxpayers. Once passed, The Chamber urges the District to establish a citizen's bond oversight committee to provide public oversight and accountability in the implementation of the bond program.

BACKGROUND: The Judson Independent School District has added almost 4,000 students since 2005 and expects to have 7,000 high school students by 2019. Two elementary schools are currently over capacity.

The three propositions total a \$198.8 million Bond Package

Proposition #1: \$63.6 million for renovations

Proposition #2: \$63.5 million for two new elementary schools, land for future schools and technology upgrades

Proposition #3: \$71.7 million for new high school and an Education Support Center which will house a community library, indoor swimming facility, community center and professional development center.

Reasons for supporting this statement:

1. Judson ISD is one of the fastest growing school districts in the greater San Antonio area.
2. All 2006 bond projects were completed without using maintenance and operating funds.

3. A Bond Committee comprised of community members, school district staff and professional consultants will review the needs of the district and create a 10-year long range plan for Board approval.

Reasons for opposing this statement:

1. If all three propositions are approved, the average homestead in Judson ISD would see a \$4.20 tax increase in five years. Taxpayers will see no tax increase in the first one to two years.

IMPLEMENTATION: The Chamber will communicate the Judson ISD Bond Election at membership meetings as well as to the media, the business community and Chamber members through publication in *The Chamber Today*.