

**Request for support from the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce for 2 San Rafael School Bonds on November 2015 ballot.**

Requested by: Paul Cohen, PMCohen Public Affairs. Ph: (510) 719-8263 email [pmcohen1@gmail.com](mailto:pmcohen1@gmail.com)  
(Chamber member) On behalf of:

Committee For Strong San Rafael Schools 369-B 3rd Street #378 San Rafael, CA 94901

FPPC ID # 1378431 Michael Mink, Treasurer

**Description of the issue**

By unanimous vote of the San Rafael Board of Education on July 27<sup>th</sup> 2015, there will be two bond measures on the November ballot – one for the Elementary District in the amount of \$107,150,000 and one for the High School District in the amount of \$158,500,000. The registrar will issue the ballot letter designations on August 13<sup>th</sup>, and we will provide those as soon as they are published.

**Schedule for the issue to be voted on**

Election Day is November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. Mail ballots (expected to be at least 75% of all ballots cast) will be mailed to voters beginning October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**Why the SRCC should take such a position. The issue impacts:**

**i. The San Rafael business community**

The business community benefits from a local workforce trained and ready to succeed in the workplace.

Taken together, these two measures will ensure safe and modern classrooms for all of our students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. The funds will enable the Districts to upgrade our schools, classrooms, labs and instructional technology to help ensure that all our students are ready to go on to high school, college, good jobs and the careers of the future.

**ii. San Rafael Chamber of Commerce members**

In addition to the benefits above, the San Rafael Chamber and Chambers members have a strong history of support for education and partnership with San Rafael City Schools. Support for community investment in additional classrooms, labs and equipment needed to reduce school overcrowding and meet growing demand for hands-on science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) continues this tradition.

**iii. San Rafael residents**

The children of San Rafael will greatly benefit from improved, modern educational facilities. These measures ensure that all the money stays in our community and cannot be taken by the State. In addition, the quality of local schools also contributes to the value of our homes. Good local schools make our neighborhoods more desirable, protecting our property values and quality of life.

#### **iv. San Rafael business customers**

As San Rafael business continue to benefit from a trained local workforce, their customers will benefit as well through improved quality, efficiency, and level of service.

#### **Why the SRCC should advocate for the measures**

The business community in San Rafael is an important voice for quality education and investment in our community. The San Rafael Chamber of Commerce is a well-respected, influential voice for the business community, and your support will carry weight with the voters who will decide the outcome.

#### **A specific description of groups or individuals organized in opposition**

At this time, we are not aware of any organized opposition.

#### **Data and supporting documentation that the SRCC needs to effectively analyze the advocacy request.**

As presented to the Chamber's Education Committee, the need for investment in our schools has been extensively studied over the past couple of years. The result of that work has been development of a Master Facilities Plan for the Districts. Details about the planning process can be found on the web at <http://www.srcs.org/facilitiesmeasures>

A copy of the adopted Master Facilities Plan is available on request, and can also be found as an attachment to the agenda for the School Board's special study session on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Visit <http://www.srcs.org/agendaonline> click on the link to the agenda for that meeting, and scroll to the bottom for the attachment.

#### **To whom (which party) the requestor would like the SRCC to advocate**

The SRCC's endorsement of the bond measures would carry weight with voters as they consider how to cast their ballot. We request permission to publicly list the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce as an endorser on all campaign materials and communications. We also request that the Chamber communicate to Chamber members and to the general public support for approval of the bond measures. Should we receive your support, we would also request consideration of a campaign contribution from your Issues PAC.