



32 days until Election Day!



## Weekly Campaign Newsletter

*On the 2017 general election ballot, Mecklenburg County voters have the opportunity to approve a \$922 million bond referendum for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. The bonds will fund 29 high-need projects to relieve overcrowding, upgrade aging facilities and deliver more academic options for students.*

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## School Bonds In The News: Media Highlights

The Vote Yes for Bonds campaign committee is grateful to be earning attention from local media outlets. The bond measure will have impacts countywide and news coverage is imperative to getting relevant information out to all stakeholders.

Here's a few select hits from this week that share an in-depth look at the school bond, priority projects and this county-wide impact.

**["What would the CMS bond do for your school and neighborhood? Here's the scoop."](#)**  
**[Charlotte Observer, Oct. 3](#)**

**Snippet:** Ann Doss Helms gives a comprehensive review of the 29 projects included in the school bond. Her approach groups the projects into four categories: new neighborhood schools, new/changing magnet schools, replacements/renovations and new special school.

**["The Bigger Picture" editorial, Lake Norman Citizen, Oct. 4](#)**

**Snippet:** "So keep caring. Keep talking. And keep standing up for our kids. But just don't forget people all across the county are standing up for their children, too, and they have needs as well, some of which, believe it or not, are more severe than ours. Every child has the right to a safe, healthy learning environment. And that's what CMS leadership is saying it wants."

**[VIDEO: "Collinswood is too old, too crowded -- and in high demand. CMS has plans."](#)**

**Snippet:** Vote Yes for Bonds committee member Michelle Crouch gives a behind-the-scenes look at the language immersion magnet built in 1959. The original building was an elementary school built to house 350 students. Today, Collinswood is a K-8 with more than 800 students enrolled. Included in the bond package is \$44.2 million to build a replacement school for Collinswood near the Smith Family Center.

## Project Spotlight

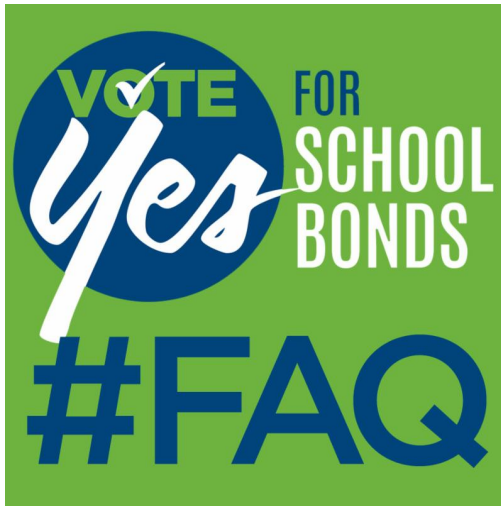
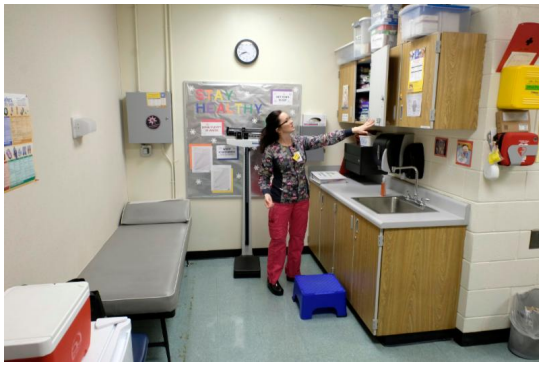


Included in the bond package is \$29.1 million to build a replacement school for Shamrock Gardens Elementary School. Built in 1954, the east Charlotte school would be replaced with a 45-classroom school, much larger than the current 30-classroom building. The new school will be built on the Country Club Drive site with completion set for January 2023.

Shamrock Gardens Elementary School serves the Country Club Heights, Plaza Shamrock and Plaza-Midwood neighborhoods as well as a partial magnet school focused on gifted learning. Our children and teachers need modern classrooms and learning spaces to excel. Aging facilities and substandard buildings can be a burden on our teachers. School bonds will provide the much-needed upgrades and resources to create the best learning environment for our kids, including those students at Shamrock Gardens.

Vote YES this election to give our children their best opportunities to learn and succeed.

[Click here](#) to learn about the 29 projects included in the bond package.



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** Can bond money be used to pay teacher salaries or other operating expenses?

**A:** No. By law, bond funds cannot be used to pay for teacher salaries or any other operating expense -- they can only be used for capital projects. That said, the needs of our students, families and community are real. Bond funding is part of a diversified funding model to satisfy all ongoing needs. While only elected officials can decide issues like teacher pay, we as voters decide funding for building new schools and updating aging facilities.

[Visit our website's FAQ page](#) for more frequently asked questions.

## Yard Sign Pick-Up Locations

If you have already submitted your request to pick up a sign through our website's [Get Involved page](#), please visit one of the following locations to claim your sign:

### **Allen Tate SouthPark**

6700 Fairview Road  
Charlotte, NC 28210  
Hours: M-F 8:30-5:30; Sat. 11-2; Sun. 1-4

### **Allen Tate University**

145 West W T Harris Boulevard  
Charlotte, NC 28262  
Hours: M-F 8:30-5:30; Sat. 9-6; Sun. 12-6

### **Allen Tate Steele Creek**

2130 Ayrley Town Boulevard, Suite A  
Charlotte, NC 28273  
Hours: M-Sat. 9-5; Sun. 1-5

**Allen Tate Ballantyne**  
15640 Don Lochman Lane  
Charlotte, NC 28277  
Hours: M-Sat. 9-5:30; Sun. 12-5



To request a yard sign, please complete the [website form](#). For campaign materials, you can download printable flyers (English and Spanish), printable label stickers and social media icons on our website's [Resources page](#).

Please remember to follow your city or town's yard sign ordinance. [Click here](#) for ordinances in Mecklenburg County.

## Absentee Ballot Request

Today, Oct. 6, is the first day to request an absentee ballot by mail. The request form is available on [Mecklenburg County Board of Elections](#).

Here's an outline of the election schedule:

- October 6:** First day of absentee voting (by mail)
- October 13:** Deadline for voter registration
- October 19:** First day of early voting
- October 31:** Last day of absentee voting (by mail)
- November 4:** Last day of early voting
- November 7:** Election Day



*We must continue to invest in our public schools to give our children their best opportunities to learn and succeed, to support our teachers so they can be effective and to keep the local economy and quality of life strong.*

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