

Campaign Update: Early Voting Underway!

Vote Yes For School Bonds [info@voteyesforbonds.com]

Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 2:52 PM

To: [Steve Johnston](#)

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18 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 that will relieve overcrowding, upgrade aging facilities, modernize classrooms, support our teachers and deliver more academic options for students and families.

[Visit Our Website](#)

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Early Voting Underway: Know Your Ballot

Early voting kicked off yesterday at Hal Marshall in Uptown. Check out the [Mecklenburg County Board of Elections](#) for all the details on early voting including times and locations.

Before you vote, become familiar with your ballot. The school bonds referendum is on the last page. Make sure you get to the very end and check YES! Below is a preview of the school bonds ballot language. To view sample ballot by address, [click here](#).

REFERENDUM

MECKLENBURG COUNTY SCHOOL BONDS

SHALL the order authorizing \$922,085,000 of bonds secured by a pledge of the faith and credit of the County of Mecklenburg to pay capital costs of providing school facilities, including the acquisition and construction of new school facilities, the improvement and expansion of existing school facilities and the acquisition and installation of furnishings and equipment and the acquisition of interests in real property required therefor, and a tax to be levied for the payment thereof, be approved?



Yes



No

Project Spotlight

Included in the 2017 school bonds package is \$110 million to build a new high school in south west Mecklenburg to relieve Olympic High School.

The Steele Creek area is fast growing, which leads to overcrowded schools. Students at these schools deal with crowded hallways, media centers, gyms and cafeterias, which leads to accelerated wear and tear on the buildings. Some students even have lunch times as early as 10 a.m.



Additionally, Olympic will receive the first phase of Career and Technical Education (CTE) upgrades as part of the bond package. Upgrades will create specialized classrooms and learning spaces for automotive, carpentry, culinary, cosmetology and horticulture course offerings.

Overcrowded, substandard buildings limit our students and are a burden on our teachers. These bonds will remove these obstacles and optimize classrooms to help prepare our students for jobs in the modern economy.

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

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



School Bonds Endorsements

Last weekend, the Vote YES campaign received two high-profile endorsements worth sharing. Charlotte mayoral candidates and City Council representatives **Kenny Smith** and **Vi Lyles** both affirmed their support for the school bonds. [Click here to watch video on Facebook](#). Their names have been added to a growing list of organizations, individuals and elected officials who have officially endorsed the campaign.

Many thanks to each and everyone of our supporters:

ADW Architects	John Powell
Al Austin	Julie Chavez
Albemarle Corporation	Julie Eiselt, City Council
Allen Tate	Kenny Smith, City Council
Amy Kendall	Kevin Poirier
Bank of America	Kim Hanes
Bill Laughlin	Kim Tyson
Black Political Caucus of Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Larken Egleston
Bonitz	LaWana Mayfield, City Council
Braxton Winston	League of Women Voters
Brighthouse Financial	LeChase Construction Services
Brownstone	Little Diversified Architectural Construction
Carlenia Ivory, City Council	LS3P
Carolinas HealthCare System	Marand Builders
Casey Unger	Margaret Marshall
Catherine Monroe	Mary McCray, School Board
Charlotte Chamber of Commerce	McKinsey & Company
Charlotte Hornets	McMillan, Pazdan and Smith Architecture
Charlotte Regional Realtor Association	Moore & Van Allen
Chavon Carroll	Morris-Berg Architects
Christi Gray	Natasha Louder
Claire and John Tate	NC Realtors Association
ClarkNexsen	Northwood
Coca Cola Bottling Co.	Novant Health
Concrete Supply Co.	Pappas Properties
Courtney Stallmann	Parker Cains
Debbie Rubenstein	Pat Cotham, County Commission
Dee and Christina O'Dell	Premier
Deloitte	Robin McGettigan
Duke Energy	Rodgers Builders
Eileen Walsh-Miot	Ross Kirwan
Ella B. Scarborough, County Commission	Sarah Lang
Elyse Dashew, School Board	Sarah Shriver
Emily Hawks	Sean Strain
Eric Davis, School Board	Shelco
	Spangler Foundation

Ericka Ellis-Stewart, School Board
Foundation For The Carolinas
George Dunlap, County Commission
Greg Phipps, City Council
Heather Hoveland
Ingersoll Rand
Isabel Bader
James Mitchell, City Council
Jeremy Stephenson
Jermaine Vaughn
Jerry Richardson

Spencer Merriweather
SteelFab
Stephanie Leo
The Cato Corporation
Thelma Byers-Bailey, School Board
Tim Highstone
Tracy Russ
Trevor Fuller, County Commission
Vi Lyles, City Council
Wells Fargo
WHN Architects

Do you want to join the movement? Add your name by checking the "Endorse the bonds campaign" box on our Get Involved page.

[Click Here to Endorse](#)

School Bonds Trick-Or-Treating Traffic Teams



Now that we have your attention ...

On Halloween morning, we're deploying teams of Vote YES supporters across the county to raise awareness about the school bonds on the ballot. We're asking committee members, elected officials and education supporters to volunteer from **7:30-9 AM, Tuesday, Oct. 31**, at various pre-determined locations and hold up signs for passersby. Passion for our schools is required. Halloween costume is optional.

If you're interested in volunteering, please email info@voteyesforbonds.com.

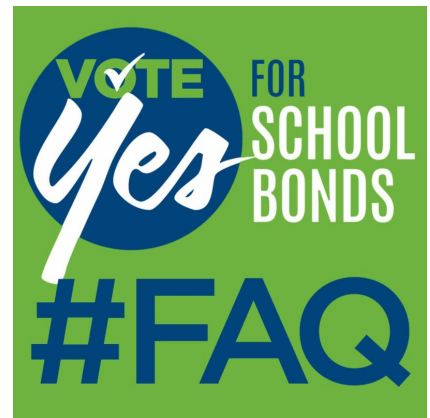
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I know that CMS will spend the bond money as promised?

A: The system has proven to be a trustworthy steward of prior bond funds. CMS officials regularly report to the Board of Education on the status of the capital building program. Additionally, CMS staff meets with County staff quarterly to review schedules and status of projects. A citizens group called "The Bond Oversight Committee" serves as an outside check on the district's spending to ensure funds are spent appropriately. Some

variations in planning may occur due to enrollment growth, economic conditions and other factors. However, CMS has been diligent in updating its projections and informing the Board of Education, county officials, school families and the public at large, accordingly.

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



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.

STAY CONNECTED:



Vote Yes For Bonds Campaign, 330 S. Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC 28202

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