



11 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

STAY CONNECTED:



All Early Voting Locations Open Tomorrow

Early voting has been underway for more than a week at Hal Marshall in Uptown. Beginning tomorrow, all 18 early voting locations will open. Check out the [Mecklenburg County Board of Elections](#) for all the details on early voting including times and locations.

Project Spotlight

Included in the 2017 school bonds package is \$12.8 million for upgrades on the **East Mecklenburg High School** campus.

The money would fund much-needed renovations or replacement of three school buildings, which were originally constructed between 1949 and 1956. These buildings support exceptional children, world languages, arts and English classes.

East Mecklenburg High also received



bond projects in 2007 and 2013, including the addition of a new multi-story 30-classroom building, which is currently under construction (photo below).

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 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 are a few editorial hits from this week:

[Editorial: "It's tempting to say no to school bonds. Don't."](#)
Charlotte Observer, Oct. 24

Snippet: Like the process or not, the \$922 million plan is critically important to CMS, its students and families, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg as a whole ... Delaying bonds for critical school projects, which meet education needs throughout Mecklenburg County, would only punish the children and educators who would benefit most.

[Guest opinion: "Bond vote a chance to invest in a vital economic asset"](#)
Charlotte Business Journal, Oct. 25

Snippet: It is time for local businesses and the broader community to continue to do what it takes for the success of our public schools, our children and our economy. Simply vote YES for school bonds on Nov. 7.

[Guest commentary: "Our smartest investment: The \\$922 million school-bond package on the Nov. 7 ballot is about more than bricks and mortar; it truly speak to opportunity."](#)

Snippet: Too many of our children face tremendous odds against having productive and rewarding lives. As most of us know too well, education is a critical factor in overcoming barriers to the most basic opportunities. Substandard, overcrowded facilities are a drain on learning and have a cascading, negative effect on students, families and neighborhoods. They also burden our teachers and keep them from performing at their best.

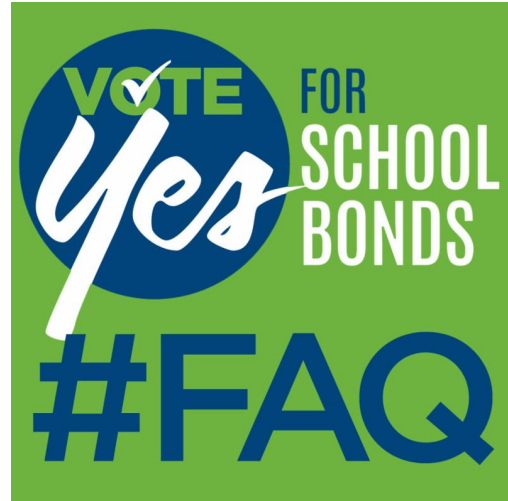
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Beyond just "bricks and mortar" needs, why is this vote important?

A: The quality of its public schools says a great deal about the health and vitality of a community. Inadequate facilities hinder learning and have a cascading, negative effect on students, families and neighborhoods. A 2013 study ranked Charlotte last out of 50 of the largest U.S. cities in economic mobility, or the ability of a child living here who is born in the lowest income category to rise to the top category by adulthood. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force, a group of 20 community leaders, spent 18 months in 2015 and 2016

focusing on this issue. Not surprisingly, among its findings was the importance of education in the "life trajectory" of impoverished children who face tremendous challenges and barriers to opportunity. The task force's "highest aspiration" was that our leaders and the public at large "rally around a vision of Charlotte-Mecklenburg as a community that cares about all our children and youth - regardless of income, race or zip code - and where all our children feel they belong, have big dreams, and find the opportunities to achieve those dreams." Simply put, the bonds vote on November 7 reflects this vision.

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



Volunteers Needed: Trick-Or-Treating Traffic Teams



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. Teams will be finalized by noon on Monday, Oct. 30.

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

[Click Here to Endorse](#)

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:

