



4 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 Ends Tomorrow

If you want to take advantage of early voting, you still have time! All 18 early voting locations are open today until 7 PM and tomorrow from 10 AM to 1 PM. Check out the [Mecklenburg County Board of Elections](#) for all the details on early voting including times and locations.

Before you go, know 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 a 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 125-classroom replacement school for **West Charlotte High School**. Built in 1954, the high school is old and woefully beyond repair. The current school has 96 classrooms in 15 different buildings and maintaining so many buildings can be challenging.

Over the years, the school has added a variety of courses and programs to expand

academic options for its students including Career and Technical Education, International Baccalaureate and performing arts offerings. The school buildings have not changed to accommodate these offerings and it's time the students and teachers get the modern school they deserve.

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's a few highlights from this week:

[VIDEO: "CMS bond package supporters using Halloween costumes to push agenda"](#)
WCNC (NBC), Oct. 31

Snippet: On Halloween morning, Vote Yes for School Bonds supporters fanned out across the county to raise awareness about the bonds on the ballot during the morning commute. Commuters may have seen enthusiastic volunteers waving bonds signs, dressed in their Halloween best.

[VIDEO: "CMS bond package on ballot for voters"](#)
WCCB (CW), Nov. 1

Snippet: CMS Board Vice Chairwoman Elyse Dashew says the bond package will take care of about half of the county's capital school needs. The \$922 million would pay for 29 projects including 17 new schools and 12 replacement schools. Dashew says there's an independent committee keeping watch so voters can be assured every dollar will go where

it's meant to.

OPINION: "Three reasons to vote 'yes' for school bonds"
Matthews-Mint Hill Weekly, South Charlotte Weekly, Nov. 2

Snippet: High school teacher Joanna Schimizzi shares her top three reasons to vote YES. "Nov. 7 (and early voting) is your chance to determine how YOU can support the students and staff of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. The school bonds represent an opportunity to make a much-needed investment in public schools without any raise in your county taxes."

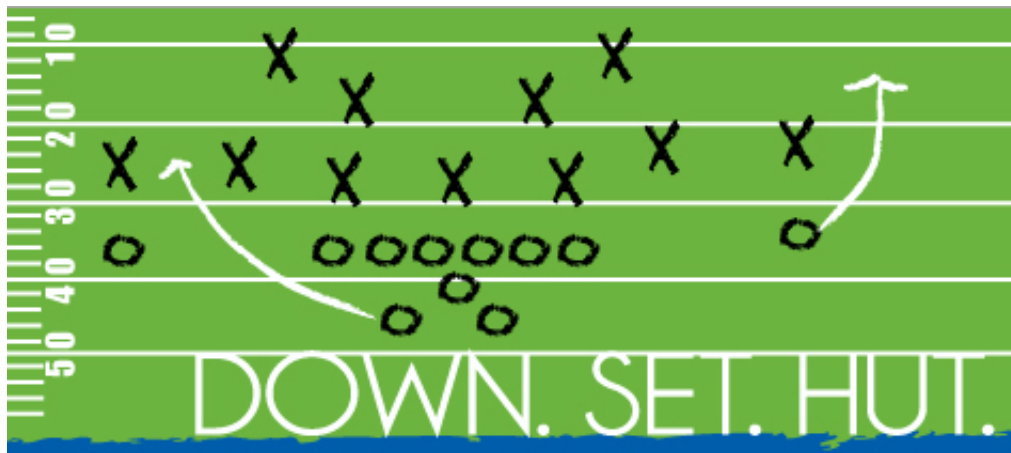
AUDIO: "Overcrowded school's replacement depends on bond vote"
WFAE (NPR), Nov. 2

Snippet: Briarwood Elementary School was built in the 1950s and is overcrowded. If the school bonds pass, Briarwood students and teachers will get a new 45-classroom replacement school. The school's principal shares: "The thought of Briarwood not getting a new school and more years of navigating through being in a building that is really old and not to mention it doesn't house all of our students. It's not 'oh, it would be nice to have a shiny new school.' There's definitely real need here."

OP-ED: "A parent's view on the vote for school bonds"
South Charlotte Weekly, Nov. 3

Snippet: Campaign co-chair and proud CMS parent Julie Cho shares her perspective on the importance of approving the school bonds. "YES means we're committed to improving educational opportunities for all students here because it helps them along the path to a bright future. The school bonds will support CMS in meeting wide range of needs, including adding more modern classrooms, gyms and cafeterias, replacing outdated facilities and upgrading career and technical education programs."

Tailgating for School Bonds



Hey Panthers fans! Come tailgate for school bonds before Sunday's Panthers vs. Falcons game. Our campaign will have a tent and tailgate spot set up in front of **229 W. Morehead Street**, in between S. Mint and S. Church streets. Stop by for some game-day grub and non-alcoholic drinks. Festivities kick off at **9 AM** and will wrap around **12:30 PM**.

Trick-or-Treating Traffic Teams

Thanks to all our campaign volunteers who participated in Tuesday's Trick-or-Treating Traffic

Teams event! We had teams located at seven high-traffic morning commute spots across the county and reached thousands of commuters with our #YesToInvest messages. Here's a few photos of the fun.



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:

