

OPPOSITION TO MEASURE J

Suppose your house could use new carpets. The bathroom sink has a small leak. Want new furniture? A flat-screen TV?

Would you mortgage your home to pay for repairs and for things that will be junk long before the note is paid off? Would you expect your children to make the mortgage payments?

We wouldn't! But the school district wants to stick us with the bill.

Look at the list. See how regularly the words "repair," "renovate," and "replace" appear. This is not a school construction measure. It's a maintenance measure! It's here because the district has not taken proper care of its facilities for years.

Instead of budgeting for maintenance, to keep buildings and equipment useful for a long time, the district has spent the overwhelming share – around 85 percent -- on personnel: salaries and wages; retirement plans; health care; junkets. There isn't enough left to take care of the buildings.

California law tries to provide accountability by requiring a Citizens Oversight Committee. That worked very well on the previous bond measure. But this time, there are no specific projects and no estimates of how much anything might cost. What's the citizens committee going to oversee?

Since there are no cost estimates, how did the school district come up with the \$249 million amount of the bond measure? Simple. It's just the maximum amount of debt the district could stick us with. Does that sound responsible?

So what are we to do?

Reject Measure J!

Tell the district to budget properly.

Take care of facilities that cost hundreds of millions of dollars to build.

Separate the "must-do" from the "nice-to-have."

Figure what each job will cost.

Then bring us a measure that we can understand and approve.

We're voting NO on Measure J