

2016 AUG 24 AM 9:01:25

Vote No on Fresno Unified's Measure X!
Argument Against

There are two simple questions to ask when deciding whether to vote "Yes" or "No" on a school bond measure: "Has the school district earned the voters' trust?" and "Has the school district spent previous bond money in a transparent and responsible way?"

The public record clearly demonstrates that Fresno Unified has flunked both these tests in its management of Measure Q, the \$280 million bond measure that we, the voters, approved in 2010.

Fresno Unified has awarded hundreds of millions of dollars in Measure Q funds to one favored builder without competitive bidding. These dealings, hidden from the public, have triggered a yearlong FBI investigation. Even in the midst of this federal probe, Fresno Unified has refused to tell the public exactly how much money it has spent on attorney fees to defend the practice. The district has even lied to a state court that examined one of the improper construction contracts.

Now Fresno Unified is asking voters to once again sign over a blank check. The district has neither held community forums to determine how the new money should be spent, nor has it pledged a single reform. Rather, the district continues to show its disregard for transparency and fiscal accountability.

Simply put, Fresno Unified has not earned the right for a new bond measure that will only add to our tax burden. Until the FBI completes its investigation, it would be foolish for voters to give Fresno Unified a new infusion of bond money. Maybe in time, with proper reform and a real engagement with the public, the school district will once again deserve our trust. But not now. Not in the face of so many unanswered questions. We urge a "No" vote on Measure X.

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(Statement of Authors - Argument Against Measure X

The undersigned proponents or authors of the primary argument against Measure X at the statewide Presidential election for Fresno Unified School District to be held on November 8, 2016 hereby state that such argument is true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Signed _____

Date 8/24/16

Leslie Swan, Citizens for an Honest and Transparent Fresno Unified

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