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Gregory-Portland Independent School District

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UNOFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS: Gregory-Portland ISD thanks Supporters following receipt of Bond 2022 Election Results

Tonight, Gregory-Portland ISD officials received notice of election results for Bond 2022 indicating those who voted did not approve the three (3) school bond propositions totaling \$242 Million for their school district. After receiving the unofficial election results from San Patricio County, Superintendent Dr. Michelle Cavazos expressed her gratitude for those who made the decision to vote in this election.

“We’ve provided many opportunities to learn about Bond 2022 since the board unanimously called for the bond in July,” Cavazos said. “During those meetings and discussions, we received a generally positive response and few (if any) questions. Many who took the time to learn about the bond came out to vote, and I’d like to thank all of those who made their decision at the polls regardless of the outcome. We believe in the right to vote, and encourage all to do so.

“At the same time, I would be remiss if I did not express how disappointing it is to receive the results of this bond election. We are in a unique period of time, financially, for G-PISD. Providing our community with the chance to consider school bonds is vitally important for our future as a school district – because, one day, we will no longer be able to offer bonds with no increase to the total tax rate. Our financial situation will inevitably change, as we’ve seen happen in countless other districts across the state, and our window of opportunity to have industry fund 89 percent of school bonds will close for us. It’s important for our community to understand that reality.”

Referencing the district’s status under current Texas Education Code (TEC) Chapter 49 “Robin Hood” law, Cavazos said she realizes that G-PISD’s state recapture payments will be increasing over time: “This is one important reason for us to offer bonds to our community while we can do so with no increase to the total tax rate. It’s also the primary reason for us to fund all that we can through school bonds, so those types of needs do not affect our operational revenue and we can continue to pay our teachers and staff among the highest wages in the region; maintain a healthy annual budget; and provide opportunities as we are able, like funding meals for students during times of high inflation – a decision the board made just this last school year as a benefit for our families. I’m so glad to see that more than 6,000 voters took the time to make their voices heard regarding one or more Bond 2022 propositions, however I was hoping for a far better final outcome for our students, staff, and community.”

School Board President Tim Flinn echoed this statement, stating his time on the board has included a ‘crash course in Robin Hood law’ and a number of financial planning sessions that included revenue and recapture projections through 2038. “It’s quite a wake-up call when you understand the complexity of the school finance system and the way that wealth equalization works in the state. It causes our School Board to have to weigh every possible circumstance and outcome before making key financial decisions.

“It’s not just approving the budget from one school year to the next anymore when you’ve become a Chapter 49 district; all of a sudden, it’s also knowing there’s a cliff at the edge of the road you’re on ... so you’ve got to make sure every financial decision will help our children and community decades after you’re gone. That’s a lot of responsibility, however I know our team and leadership are up for the challenge because we are consistently thinking about our students – what they need now, what they’ll need in the future, and how we can make sure our district can sail over that financial cliff when the time comes.”

Flinn cited these among the reasons the board unanimously approved a recommendation from two different committees (comprised of community members) to move forward with Bond 2022. “I am so proud to be a Wildcat every day of the week and every week of the year.

“Today, however, I am truly perplexed when I see these overall bond results. I want to sincerely thank every single voter who said “YES” to making our schools, the heart of our community, even better — which I believe is among the greatest reasons we have to be proud to be ‘G-P.’ This will not be our last bond opportunity. Knowing what lies ahead financially, we cannot afford NOT to hold bond elections. We can’t afford NOT to plan for the future of our children.”

FMI: www.g-pisd.org/bond ##