



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gregory-Portland Independent School District

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UNOFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS:

Gregory-Portland ISD Community approves \$176 Million School Bond with No Change to the Total Tax Rate

Tonight, voters in Gregory and Portland have once again demonstrated their support of public education in their community with the unofficial election results showing reasonable indication that a school bond proposition totaling \$176 Million has been approved by approximately 65% (1,357 votes) in G-PISD. After receiving notice from San Patricio County in which 2,092 total votes were recorded, likely not including some absentee ballots yet to be counted before the final results are compiled in a few days, Superintendent Dr. Michelle Cavazos expressed her gratitude for those who made the decision to vote in this election.

“We’d been hearing a lot of positive feedback in the last few weeks regarding this school bond. These election results reveal that our community actively supports our students, staff, and the long-term advancement of public schools,” said Cavazos. “With this support, we’ll be able to access revenue generated for school bonds to implement several projects including the addition of hands-on learning opportunities at our four elementary schools that are aligned with learning models at the new Early Childhood Center; the construction of a replacement campus for T.M. Clark Elementary School, as well as baseball and softball turf competition fields; Cafeteria Renovations at two schools; a new G-P High School Band Hall; and more.

“We are extremely fortunate at this time in our history to be able to offer this bond with no increase to the total tax rate due to industrial growth in our area, and we know that these kinds of opportunities will not always be available in the future. It is important that we strategically plan to maximize student success right now through bond opportunities, and I am exceedingly grateful to our community for understanding that need and answering our call for election with their votes ‘FOR’ Bond 2023.”

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.” She emphasized that this ‘window of opportunity’ to have industry cover up to 90 percent of bonds with no total tax rate change is anticipated to last only about 10 years based on current industrial contributions.

School Board President Tim Flinn echoed this statement, saying his time on the board has included a ‘crash course in Robin Hood law’ and a number of financial planning sessions including 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 said this reality is among the reasons he’s thankful that the community approved Bond 2023. “I am so proud to be a Wildcat every day of the week and every week of the year. Today, you can really see why – because our community has once again decided to stand behind our kids. They are standing for teachers and school staff. They see that the future is bright and they want to be part of it. They’re voting “YES” to make our schools, the heart of our community, even better — and that gives us every reason to be proud to be ‘G-P.’”

Information about Bond 2023 is available online at www.g-pisd.org/bond, and questions can be directed to G-PISD Administration at bond@g-pisd.org or by calling 361-777-1091, ext. 1045. ##

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