

Measure I Gains Momentum in Final Stretch

Heading into the November election, Measure I, the bond measure to improve College of the Sequoias in Visalia, has gained promising ground.

"The amount of support we've seen locally for Measure I has been encouraging," said Harry Wood, committee chairman of Friends of COS in Support of Measure I. "We've worked hard to get the word out about the importance of Measure I and people are responding positively."

Measure I has received key endorsements from the following groups:

- Visalia Chamber of Commerce
- Visalia City Council
- Exeter City Council
- Farmersville City Council
- Tulare County Supervisor Allen Ishida
- Home Builders Association of Tulare/Kings Counties
- Kaweah Delta HealthCare District

- COS Teachers Association
- The California Teachers Association
- Tulare-Kings Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Tulare County Hispanic Roundtable
- Visalia Police Association
- Tulare County Sheriff Bill Wittman
- Tulare County District Attorney Phil Cline

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"We must support the Visalia campus, because it provides a quality, affordable college education," Aguilar said. "The campus is aging and needs repair and modernization, and we need current technology for training our students. This bond gives us local control, rather than waiting on the state."

Measure I will provide the local match allowing COS to receive state funds to make the following improvements:

Tulare County Hispanic Roundtable President Dr. Robert Aguilar is just one of the many people who are supporting Measure I.

- Nursing technology and equipment for the new nursing building. Nearly 75 percent of nurses in the area received their training at COS, yet a nursing shortage continues.

- State-of-the-art computers to ensure that students receive workplace-relevant training and to enhance distance learning options.

- Security upgrades including code blue emergency phones and exterior lighting.

- Funding for the required \$5.5 million local match of \$12.5 million in state funds for the modernization of social science, language arts and business/computer classrooms.

- Funding for the remaining \$4.3 million for the Science Building. The state funded \$11.447 million but COS had to finance the remainder.

- Construction of future parking facilities to meet long-term needs.

- Purchase of property south to Tulare Avenue for future growth.

- Lease of classroom space for use by the Health Professions Continuing Education program.

- Qualify COS for \$1.2 million in state matching funds for upgrades and repairs ranging from roofs to plumbing. This money will otherwise be lost to other colleges.

- Invest in energy-efficiency technology that will save as much as \$100,000 annually.

- Renovate the COS Theatre and replace or repair original, aging 1970s equipment.

- Fund the required local match of \$1.3 million for the new gym, so COS can receive \$14.4 million in state money.

For more information on Measure I, contact Committee Chairman Harry Wood at 559-732-1600.

