

# SCHOOL BOND RECOMMENDATION

El Paso ISD Board of Trustees  
August 9, 2016



# Facilities Advisory Committee

Charged by EPISD School Board on February 16, 2016

- **Purpose:** Collaborative development of a bond package recommendation for presentation to the El Paso ISD Board of Trustees and ultimately to the El Paso ISD community in November 2016.
- **Membership:** Stakeholders from all sectors of EPISD -- parents, business owners, civic leaders and EPISD staff.
- **Action:**
  - Receive information on enrollment projections, state of facilities, educational programs and financial capacity.
  - Provide recommendation to the scope and frame of new and renovated infrastructure.



# Scope of Work

- Consider, analyze data for potential bond election
- Primer on Texas public school finance and EPISD financial strength
- Review of EPISD facilities, technology, transportation and safety needs
- Formulate recommendation of bond package
- Participate in follow-up activities that result from bond proposal



# Parameters

- Sound financial and facility-use stewardship
- Student needs
- Viability of referendum in the community
- Legislative mandates
- Established district processes and strategic plan
- Funding priorities
- Whole-district considerations
- Adequate and equitable communications
- Timeline for November 2016 bond election
- Board of Trustees action
- Agreed-upon ground rules, decision making and charter



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# Facilities Advisory Committee

- Public Information Meeting held March 23, 2016
- Public invited to attend every meeting
- All presentations posted online for community review
- FAC met 12 times, including three facility tours
- For info: [www.episd.org/community/fac.php](http://www.episd.org/community/fac.php)



# Considerations

- Average building age: 50 years
- Average annual enrollment decline of ~1,000 students
- Board of Trustees held 10 EPISD Trustee Community Meetings



# Athletics

- Turf replace (all high schools), track and tennis courts (8 HS), court/field lighting: \$26,059,000
- Playgrounds, shading, court renovations (outdoor learning environment): \$6,000,000.

# Safety & Security

- Perimeter Security (fencing/lighting/sensors): \$750,400





# Technology

- Student laptops, Middle School PowerUp Rollout 2017: \$4,065,000
- Teacher laptop refresh through 2019: \$2,500,000
- Neighborhood WiFi: \$500,000
- Network Infrastructure (cabling, controllers, routers, switches, access points): \$9,540,000



# Transportation

- 24 regular and 23 special needs buses (2016-17): \$4,831,061
- 12 special needs buses (2017-18): \$1,268,260
- 12 regular buses (2018-19): \$1,273,386
- 10 special needs buses (2019-20): \$1,099,588



# Elementary Schools

- Hughey (partial rebuild): \$13,160,886
- Crockett (major renovation): \$11,101,143



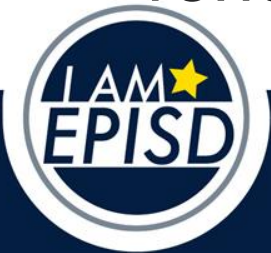
# Middle Schools

- Northeast Middle School replacing Bassett: \$34,628,127
- Ross (rebuild): \$39,522,843



# High Schools

- Austin (major renovation): \$32,082,302
- El Paso (major renovation, fine arts addition): \$21,084,597
- Andress (major renovation): \$23,307,049
- Coronado (partial rebuild): \$73,885,792
- Irvin (rebuild Phase 2): \$27,849,309
- Burges (partial rebuild): \$56,783,048
- Jefferson (partial rebuild), Silva (major renovation): \$39,631,708



# Consolidations

- Bradley ES consolidating Fannin ES: \$20,761,215
- Henderson MS PK-8 consolidating Clardy ES: \$42,344,101
- Lincoln PK-8 consolidating Bond ES and Roberts ES: \$47,822,384
- MacArthur PK-8 consolidating Bonham ES: \$19,874,484
- Morehead PK-8 consolidating Johnson ES: \$38,043,366
- Terrace Hills PK-8 consolidating Collins ES: \$38,291,809
- Dowell ES consolidating Schuster ES and Crosby ES: \$30,634,719

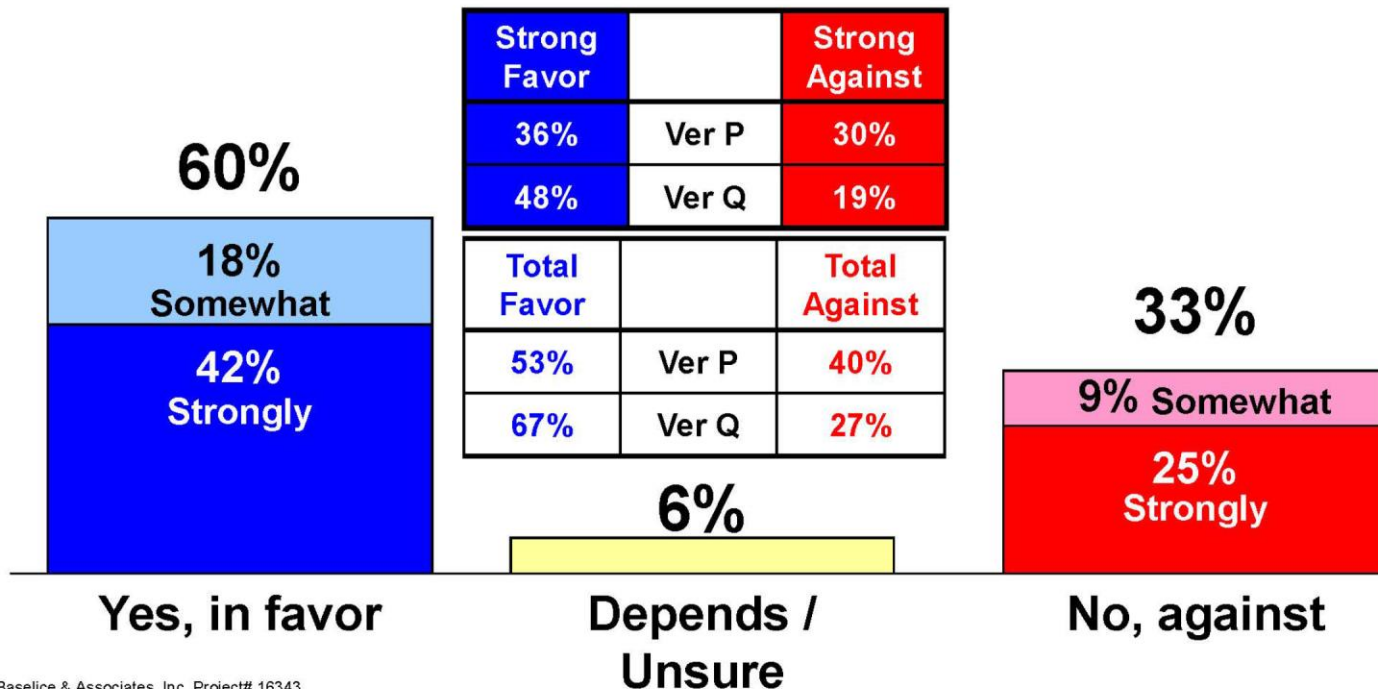


# Community-wide Professional Survey



# INITIAL BALLOT

Q7. El Paso ISD is considering calling a bond election for this November, however no amount has been set yet. If an election were held today, would you vote yes, in favor or no, against the issuance of \$600 million in bonds to construct, renovate, and equip school buildings, with the levying of a property tax in payment thereof?



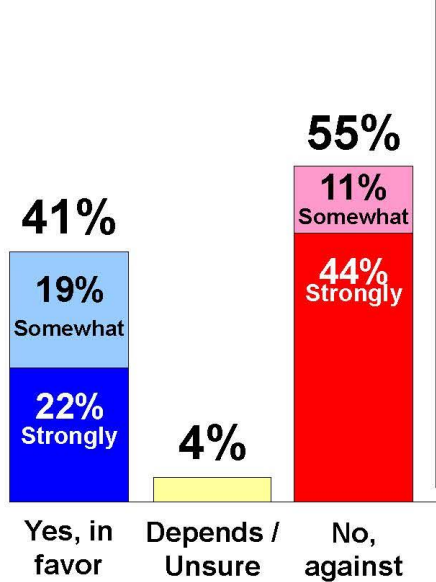


# BALLOTS WITH TAX IMPACT

Would you vote yes, in favor or no, against the issuance of \_\_\_\_\_ million in school bonds which would increase property taxes by approximately \_\_\_\_\_ per month for every \$100,000 of taxable property value.

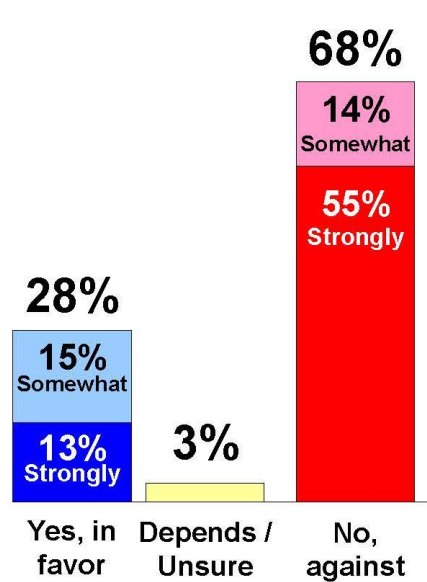
**\$450 M / \$8.66**

Favor		Against
37%	Read first	59%



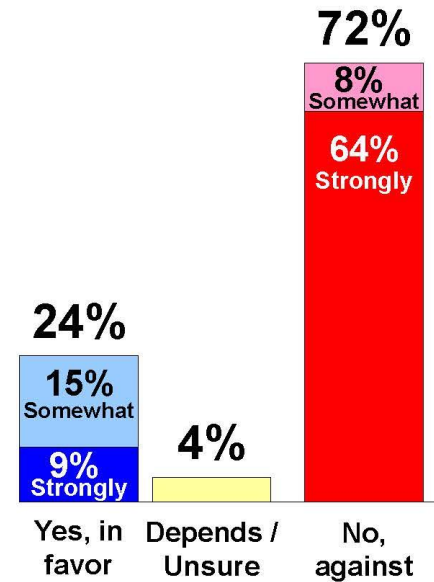
**\$600 M / \$10.77**

Favor		Against
22%	After \$450 M	75%



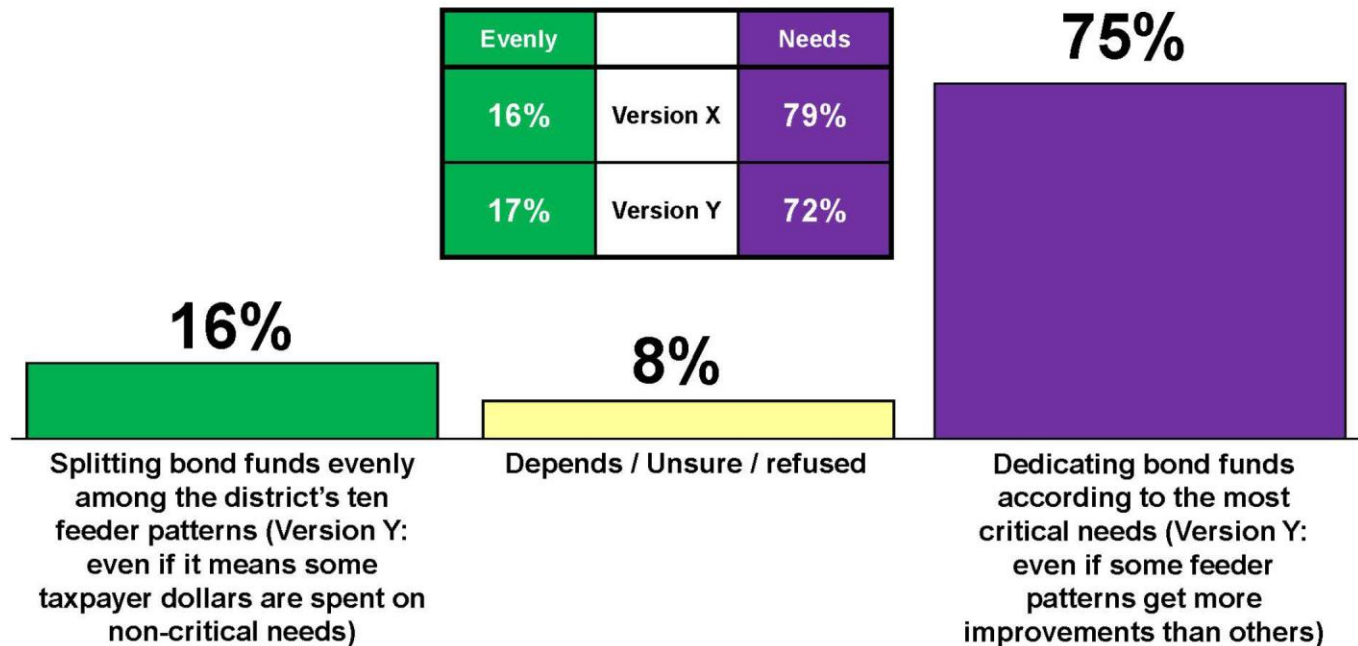
**\$750 M / \$13.36**

Favor		Against
18%	Read last	79%



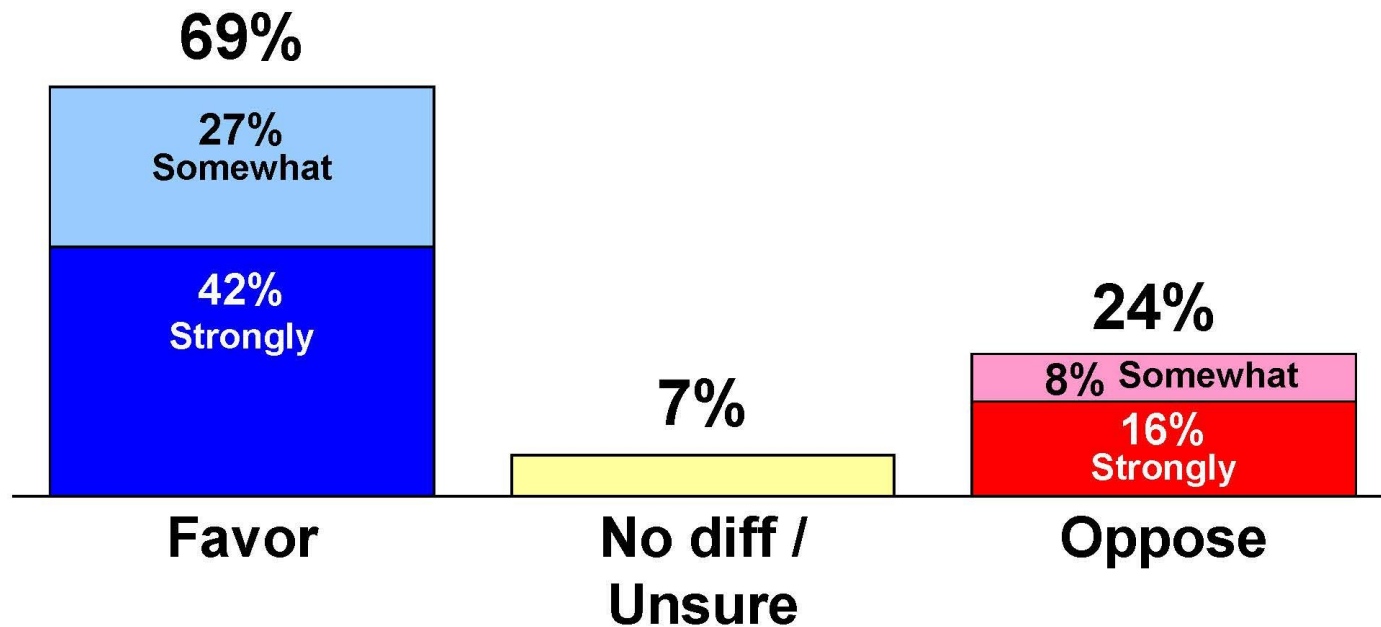
# EQUITY vs. NEEDS

Q12. Which one of the following do you consider most important?



# CLOSING / CONSOLIDATING SCHOOLS

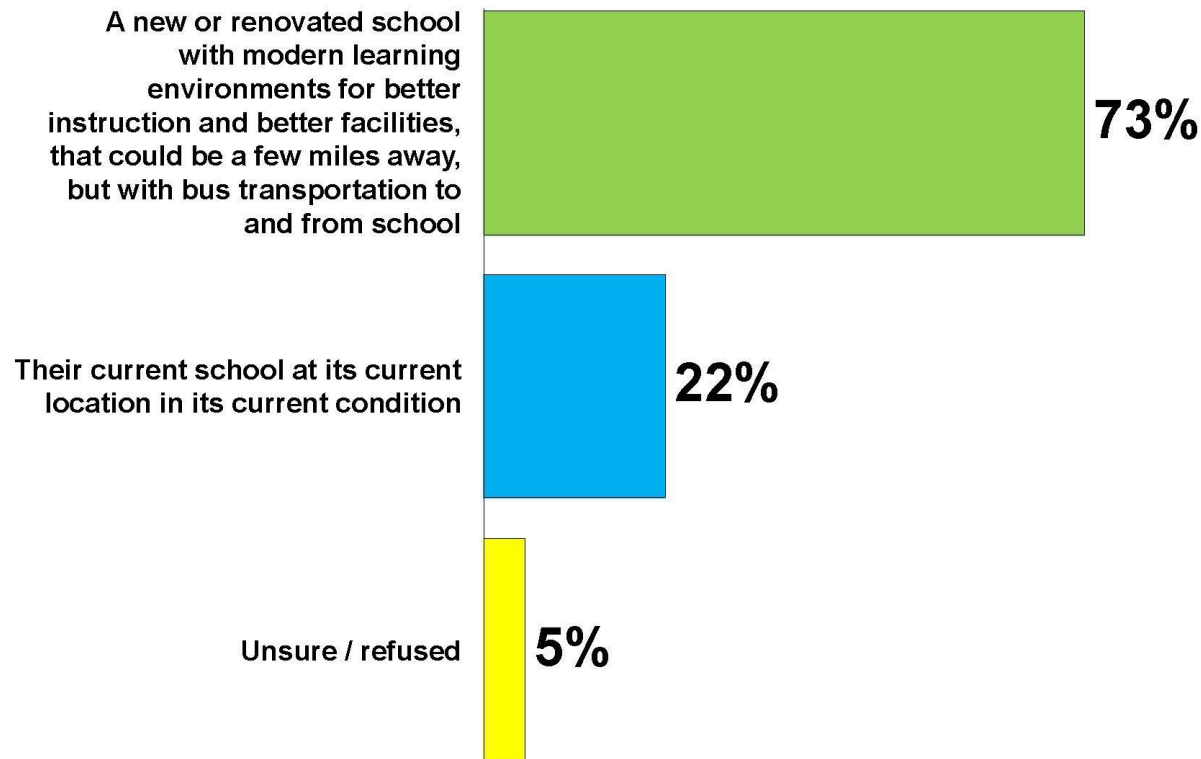
Q14. El Paso ISD is considering consolidating many of its elementary and middle schools over the next two to five years. Do you favor or oppose closing selected elementary schools and consolidating them into existing elementary schools, and closing selected middle schools and consolidating them into existing middle schools?



# NEW SCHOOL vs. RENOVATED SCHOOL

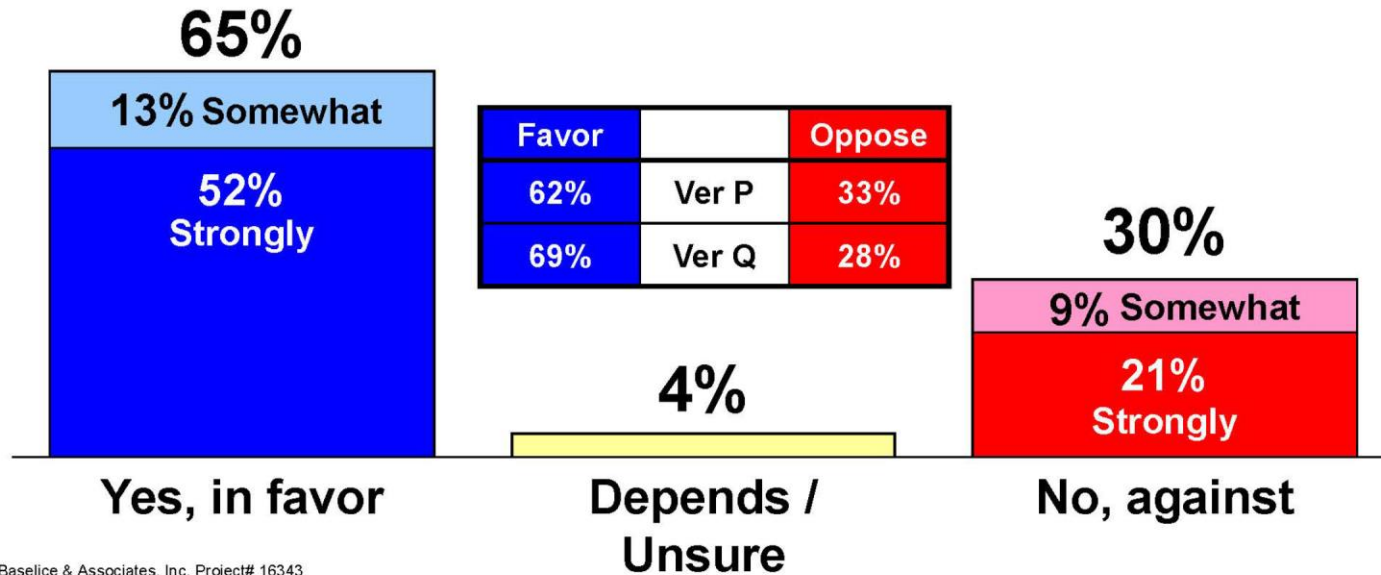
Q19. **IF PARENT OR GRANDPARENT:** If given the choice between the two, would you prefer for your child or grandchild...

n=122 parents and grandparents



# INFORMED BALLOT

Q41. Having heard more about it...if an election were held today, would you vote yes, in favor of or no, against the issuance of \$600 million in bonds to construct, renovate, and equip school buildings, with the levying of a property tax in payment thereof?



# CONCLUSIONS

**1**

Nearly one-quarter of respondents think the student population in EPISD is increasing (24%) and 58% of respondents are not aware that one-third of schools are less than half full. Only 41% are aware of this fact and only 36% of respondents say the population is decreasing.

**2**

A large majority of respondents favor (69%) closing and consolidating schools, and after respondents hear more about the benefits of consolidation 83% favor it. Two-thirds (66%) of respondents would support EPISD creating more PK8 campuses while 63% favor closing some elementary schools and consolidating them into existing middle schools.

**3**

A large majority of parents and grandparents (73%) would prefer their child or grandchild go to a new or renovated school with modern learning environments that could be a few miles away, but with bus transportation over their current school in its current condition at its current location (22%).

**4**

A large majority of respondents (75%) say a bond that addresses the most critical needs of the district is more important than splitting bond funds evenly by feeder patterns (16%).

# CONCLUSIONS

5

Three out of five respondents (60%) favor a bond of \$600 million on the initial ballot test, with a 17-point advantage in intensity. However, voters are sensitive to the tax impact. Two-thirds of respondents (68%) would vote against a \$600 million bond upon hearing the tax impact. Even the smaller bond amount of \$450 million registered more opposition (55%) than support (41%) when hearing the tax impact.

6

After respondents hear more about the bond elements, 65% would vote for and 30% would vote against a \$600 million bond. Regression analysis measures the elements that are most important to those who are supportive of the measure.

7

Of all the specific bond elements tested, a plurality of respondents said those projects would not impact their vote. In fact the specific projects tested worked to grow support of the bond rather than shrink it.

**Voters are supportive of consolidation and of the bond, but they are very sensitive to the tax impact. It will be critical to communicate bond elements to them so they know what their tax dollars are purchasing.**

# 2016 Bond Recommendations

*The FAC formally recommends that all of the above projects be placed in a single Proposition in the amount of \$668,695,577 on the November General Election Ballot.*





