

**Gonzales Unified School District
Argument in Favor of Measure J**

Elementary School Construction and Improvement Bond

Recent events have forced us to take a more critical look at the most important aspects of our community, particularly our local elementary schools. When the COVID-19 crisis forced classrooms to suddenly close, we all realized the true significance of our local schools. **They are more than buildings—they are centers of our community where our children explore, feel connected and thrive.**

Now more than ever, we need to ensure that our schools are safe environments where all children can excel.

Measure J will help us achieve this goal by providing our schools with financial tools to make essential safety improvements and create the space necessary for high-quality learning.

Building a new elementary school will be our top priority, in order to relieve overcrowding. We are currently in a unique position to do this **without spending a single tax dollar on land, as it is being donated by the current owners.**

Additional projects to be funded by Measure J include:

- Repairing leaking pipes and roofs
- Renovating playground and fitness equipment structures
- Upgrading school emergency preparedness and improving student safety
- Improving access to computers, the internet, and modern technology
- Meeting Americans with Disabilities Act requirements in restrooms, classrooms and playgrounds

We must also protect taxpayers by watching over and managing every tax dollar. So, Measure J also comes with iron-clad taxpayer protections, including:

- Requiring a rigorous independent Citizens' Oversight Committee and third-party auditor
- Qualifying for state matching funds
- Guaranteeing that all bond money will be spent locally, not taken by the state for use elsewhere

Our schools are our community's most valuable public resource. They provide our children with a place to thrive, they protect local property values, and they make our community a better place to live. Let's make sure they remain that way.

Vote Yes on Measure J.

Signers

Word count: 299

Sandra Dominguez	LGE Parent
Maury Treleven	Small Business Owner
Erin Askew	Gonzales 4-H Community Leader
Ana Hernandez	Heart Monitor Tech
Fatima Amador	Proud Parent & GHS Grad