



# SOLANO COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

## Update by Michael Nolan, President

February 28, 2018

It has been reported that at the recent "State of the City" event, Brian Dolan, Superintendent of the Dixon Unified School District, expressed his opinion that the role of the Measure Q Citizens Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) was only an advisory group without decision making authority. The creation of the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee is legally required by Section 1 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution. The School District wanted the passage of Measure Q to be approved with only 55% favorable local vote instead of the 2/3 vote of the people. This lesser voter approval created the CBOC. The Solano County Taxpayers Association is appalled that the Superintendent does not understand the role and nature of the Oversight Committee.

The CBOC IS NOT an **"advisory group"** to the School District. As stated in Education Code Section 15278 (b) "The purpose of the citizens' oversight committee shall be to inform the public concerning the expenditure of bond revenues. The citizens' oversight committee shall actively review and report on the proper expenditure of taxpayers' money for school construction. The citizens' oversight committee shall advise the public as to whether a school district is in compliance with the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 1 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution."

Measure Q was approved in November 2016 by 60.22 percent of the people who voted in the election. (YES 4,966 votes NO 3,281). According to the School District the Measure Q tax rate would be \$36.75 per \$100,000 of the assessed value of your home to repay this bond over 25 years.

Since construction and professional services contracts will represent the major expenditure, would you, as a homeowner that is paying for this **\$30.4 million school bond**, want to know if contracts are awarded with a competitive process? Is it important to know the process used to qualify prospective contractors? Why do you think the school district is opposed to the **"independent" oversight committee** reviewing the process and award of the contracts for the Measure Q Bond? (In September 2017 the CBOC "contract review" sub-committee requested to review the documents supporting the award of contracts. Nothing has been provided to date by the District.)

The District worked very hard to convince the Solano County Taxpayers Association to not oppose Measure Q. In order for SCTA to remain neutral and not oppose the bond the Resolution presented to the Voters included the District's Intention to comply with certain criteria:

- award construction contracts through competitive bid;
- prioritize projects;
- structure bond maturity consistent with project useful life;
- control soft costs;
- use non-bond funds for facility maintenance.

In the ballot argument SCTA promised that it would hold the District to these commitments until bond maturity, by ensuring that these criteria are followed. Thus, not only will we question the School District on the Measure Q expenditures, we will ensure the District will not interfere with the **"independence"** of the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee and their duty to provide oversight of the expenditure of bond funds. The SCTA will be providing regular updates to the citizens of Dixon that are repaying this \$30.4 Million with their property taxes.