

## Letter to Salinas City Council on ID #15-895 - Hartnell College Measure T Resolution - 10/4/16 Agenda

Sun 10/2/2016 8:22 PM

To: Council <council@ci.salinas.ca.us>;

Cc: Patricia M. Barajas <patricib@ci.salinas.ca.us>; \_legalwebmail <legalwebmail@ci.salinas.ca.us>; \_cmwebmail <cmwebmail@ci.salinas.ca.us>;

1 attachments (43 KB)

Hartnell Community College District - Measure T - Pro and Con Arguments.pdf;

Dear Salinas City Councilmembers:

At your October 4 meeting, you will consider a resolution to support Measure T, a ballot measure that authorizes Hartnell Community College District to borrow \$167 million for construction projects by selling bonds to investors.

Regrettably, information provided to the city council on this agenda item includes official and campaign arguments in support of Measure T but neglects to include ANY acknowledgement of official arguments in opposition to Measure T.

To serve the interests of ALL people who live in Salinas and engage in commerce in Salinas, your background information for this agenda item should have included official opposition arguments.

For your review, attached are the two pages from the Monterey County Official Voter Guide that provide ALL official arguments and rebuttals related to Measure T, as obtained by the Salinas Taxpayers Association from the Monterey County Elections Office.

These credible opposition arguments are highly relevant to the Salinas City Council vision to promote economic growth in the city, including in the downtown area.

As you consider this resolution to support Measure T, consider these questions:

How much interaction did the Salinas City Council and the city's appointed officials have with the Hartnell College board of trustees and administration as they developed the Measure T plan for future growth?

Is the city council supportive of shifting future growth and development of Hartnell College away from the main campus in Salinas to other cities in the county?

Are there alternatives to the current Measure T plan that would encourage growth and economic activity toward or within the Salinas downtown area?

Did anyone consider bold and creative possibilities for the \$167 million, such as the conversion of the historic old Monterey County jail or the burned-out Dick Bruhn building into Hartnell College facilities? (Converting a historic jail into an educational facility would be a human inspiration, a source of pride to the region, and worthy of national attention.)

How do the people of Salinas benefit when their tax money is spent to build conventional institutional structures in Prunedale, Soledad, and King City at a time when Salinas is trying to encourage development and commercial revitalization of historic properties near the main campus?

With the active input of Salinas government, business, and community leaders - and ordinary Salinas residents and taxpayers - this bond measure should be brought before voters again in 2018 with bold, creative proposals that will enhance and complement your vision for redevelopment and revitalization close to downtown and within the downtown area in Salinas.

Sincerely,

Kevin Dayton  
2016 President  
Salinas Taxpayers Association

attachment

## **MEASURE T HARTNELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOND**

### **ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE T**

**Vote Yes on Measure T to expand and upgrade Hartnell College classrooms, labs and technology.  
Help protect and increase access to affordable higher education and job training programs in the Salinas Valley.**

Hartnell College has served our community for nearly a century. Many of us and our family members attended Hartnell. Some families boast several generations of Hartnell graduates, and each year dozens of local Hartnell students become the first in their own families to attend college. Hartnell's specialized training, in fields like healthcare and agricultural science, support local students seeking careers, and help sustain homegrown businesses. Today, demand for our beloved local college is increasing as the University of California and California State University become more expensive and less accessible for members of the Salinas Valley communities. Hartnell is essential for adults as well: 40% of Salinas Valley adults over the age of 25 have not earned a high school diploma. We must protect and improve access to affordable higher education.

Measure T will upgrade Hartnell College classrooms, labs, technology and facilities, and expand access to training programs that teach modern career skills.

**Measure T will:**

- Add classrooms and labs for better job training, higher literacy rates and a skilled workforce
- Improve student access to computers and modern technology
- Improve nursing and skilled healthcare training
- Expand access to agriculture, engineering, math, science and technology labs
- Provide space for universities to offer four-year bachelor's degrees at Hartnell
- Expand facilities serving military veterans
- Renovate outdated classrooms and labs
- Improve health, safety, energy efficiency, and disabled accessibility

**Measure T Requires Strict Fiscal Accountability:**

- Every penny of Measure T will benefit Hartnell College
- Funds cannot be taken by the State
- Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee and annual audits are required
- Funds cannot be used on administrator salaries or benefits

Vote Yes on Measure T – so Hartnell College can continue serving our communities for decades to come.

/s/ Kurt Gollnick, Vice President, Hartnell Foundation Board of Directors

/s/ Alfred Diaz-Infante, President/CEO, C.H.I.S.P.A.

/s/ Bruce Taylor, CEO/Chairman, Taylor Farms

/s/ Natalie Rava, South Monterey County Community Leader

/s/ Carmen Gil, Board of Directors, Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System

### **REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE T**

We are part of the community that Hartnell College has served for nearly a century.

And we like what it does. We like the growth we've seen at the main campus.

But we don't agree with this vision - paid for by Measure T - to set up and expand satellite campuses in various parts of the county.

Salinas is the largest city in the county. More than 150,000 people live here. There is nothing wrong with coming to the main campus in Salinas for classes.

Our community leaders want to see the City of Salinas and its downtown area grow and prosper. So if we borrow \$167,000,000 from bond investors, let's spend it all on expanding the main central campus.

Let's see something different on the ballot in 2018. There's time to think about this.

Vote NO on Measure T.

/s/ Kevin Dayton, President, Salinas Taxpayers Association



## **MEASURE T HARTNELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOND**

### **ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE T**

Like you, Salinas Taxpayers Association members are local people who want Hartnell College to continue providing an education that improves our personal and professional lives. But we disagree with this \$167,000,000 Measure T plan to spread money around.

We don't think Hartnell College has proven a need to spend millions of dollars to build new facilities or expand existing facilities outside of the main Salinas campus, in places such as Soledad, King City, North Monterey County (perhaps in Prunedale), and the Alisal neighborhood. What's wrong with one main central campus in Salinas? Is Salinas too remote for people who want a decent, affordable education? Technology can provide distance education at a fraction of the price of a new building for students who truly can't get to the main campus. For hands-on education, people can drive or take public transportation to the main campus in Salinas. That's why we pay taxes to support transportation projects and public transit.

We also question the plan to expand the nursing program at multiple facilities instead of growing a central training program in Salinas. There is great local demand for nurses and great local demand to take nursing classes. Is building a campus in Soledad the best way to solve this need?

This \$167 million will be BORROWED money that must be paid back to investors, with INTEREST, over many years. Not everyone agrees that the future of Hartnell College should be new and expanded satellite campuses outside of Salinas.

The Salinas Taxpayers Association wants to see Hartnell College ask permission from voters again in 2018 to borrow money, in a smaller amount next time, for facilities at or around the Salinas main campus.

Vote NO on Measure T.

/s/ Kevin Dayton, President, Salinas Taxpayers Association

### **REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE T**

We encourage our opponents to take a closer look at the project list to see why Measure T is a well-developed plan to expand education access and to meet the workforce needs of our region's leading industries. You can read it too: [www.hartnell.edu/future](http://www.hartnell.edu/future).

Most of Measure T funds will be spent to improve and expand existing facilities at Hartnell College in Salinas, including classrooms, labs and technology. These repairs and upgrades are needed to ensure local access to affordable higher education, and to provide training programs for high demand, high wage jobs.

It's true Measure T adds classrooms and labs in South and North Monterey County: these are needed to create access to education programs and services throughout the Hartnell service area. Currently, students spend as much as four hours each day taking public transit to Salinas for classes and these classrooms will make Hartnell more accessible for our communities.

Our county has a severe nursing shortage. Measure T expands Hartnell's nursing program only at Hartnell College in Salinas (not at satellite facilities) to train nurses for our region.

The demand for high quality and affordable, local higher education at Hartnell College has never been higher. Thousands of adults in our area lack education beyond high school. They struggle with the rising cost of higher education and the rapid changes in skills needed to qualify for good jobs.

The improvements sought through Measure T strengthen the entire Salinas Valley. Please review the facts, and join us in voting YES.

/s/ Gary Tanimura, Vice President, Tanimura & Antle

/s/ Juan Uranga, Executive Director, Center for Community Advocacy (CCA)

/s/ Susan Gill, South Monterey County Community Leader