

**McLean Citizens Association
Resolution
2005 Bond Referendum**

WHEREAS, Fairfax County has placed a single bond issue on the ballot for referendum on November 8, 2005, and

WHEREAS, this bond issue would raise \$246,325,000, less \$1,399,000 for the cost of issuance, for construction (\$32.8 M), renovation (\$177 M), and infrastructure maintenance (\$35 M) for Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS); and

WHEREAS, \$11 M would be allocated for the renovation of Franklin Sherman Elementary School in McLean, with \$15 M allocated for the renovation of nearby Great Falls Elementary School and \$2 M allocated for planning future renovations to George C. Marshall High School; and

WHEREAS, \$18 M would be used for upgrading FCPS' technology network, which is used for both instruction and internal administration; and

WHEREAS, proper maintenance of infrastructure components, such as roofs, boilers and air conditioning, can help extend the useful life of school facilities; and

WHEREAS, FCPS proposes to allocate \$3.8 M for the purchase of modular classroom buildings (not trailers), for the expansion of classrooms, including in-building restroom facilities, in two locations and that, according to FCPS, "can be installed in half the time and realize a 50 to 60 percent cost savings over conventional structures"; and

WHEREAS, issuance of these bonds would not directly result in any increase in the real estate tax rate nor jeopardize the County's Triple-A credit rating, which is the highest rating possible for a local government's debt; and

WHEREAS, much of the need for additional classroom space, including new schools, is derived from new real estate developments; and

WHEREAS, Fairfax County is not permitted by state law to collect impact fees for public schools for all new construction, but is permitted by law to extract cash proffers for public schools for every residential rezoning request sufficient to recover the costs for additional public infrastructure to support such new construction; and

WHEREAS, Fairfax County's target cash proffer for public schools of \$7000 per home is generally regarded as being well below the FCPS' actual capital costs for obtaining new classroom space and is substantially below what both Stafford (\$15 K) and Loudoun (\$16 K) Counties were obtaining in 2001;¹ and

WHEREAS, had Fairfax County collected cash proffers for schools that either recovered FCPS' actual capital costs for obtaining new classroom space or, at least, matched the proffer targets sought by Stafford and Loudoun Counties in 2001, either this bond issue could be lower or more capital projects could be funded sooner.

¹ <http://www.renewinc.org/press/pr13.html>

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MCA:

- 1) Forcefully expresses its continued dismay that Fairfax County has failed to obtain sufficient cash proffers from real estate developers to meet the capital needs of FCPS caused by these developers' projects, which, in turn, has forced taxpayers to shoulder more of FCPS' capital costs;
- 2) Strongly urges the Board of Supervisor to adopt fully compensatory cash proffer targets for FCPS this year and in the future; and
- 3) Supports the approval of the bond issue, as proposed, but believes it could have been smaller had the County obtained sufficient cash proffers from developers.

Adopted: October 5, 2005

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