

The highly respected research firm of Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz and Associates (FM3) recently completed a community survey in the San Jose-Evergreen Community College District. **The survey found strong support for a potential local education bond up to \$880 million for the November 2016 ballot, with 78 percent indicating they would vote “yes.”**

Additional findings show that seven in ten (70%) respondents recognize that the District has a significant need for additional funding. In addition, a remarkable 90 percent can name their local colleges unaided – and two-thirds (66%) have personal connection to one of the colleges, demonstrating the public’s understanding of the colleges’ role in their communities. Lastly, 69 percent rate the colleges as doing an “excellent” or “pretty good” job.

Among the survey’s key findings were the following:

- **Nearly four in five (78%) of District respondents say they would vote “yes” on a potential bond measure.** 45 percent say they would “definitely” vote yes – demonstrating a very strong committee from supporters. Overall, more than four times as many residents say they would vote “yes” than “no.”
- **At least seven in ten see a need for additional funding.** Asked whether they believe the colleges and District need additional funding, seven in ten said there was “great” or “some need.” Just one in ten saw little or no need for funding.
- **Nearly 90 percent correctly identify their local community college unaided, and two-thirds have a personal connection to the colleges.** Ask to identify the community college that served their area, 61 percent said San Jose City College and 28 percent named Evergreen Valley College; just 5 percent declined to offer a response. This suggests a nearly universal level of awareness of the colleges in the communities they serve, and is driven in part by the fact that 66 percent said they have or someone in their family that has attended or taken a course at one of the colleges.
- **More than two-thirds (69%) of residents rate the colleges as doing an “excellent” or “pretty good” job.** Six times as many residents who offered an opinion on the colleges’ job performance say it is “good” or “excellent”, versus that it is only “fair” or “poor” (11%).

- **A variety of potential bond-funded projects appeal more than three-quarters.** Significant shares rate a variety of projects as “extremely” or “very important,” including:

- Upgrading classrooms and labs (83%)
- Improving vocational programs (81%)
- Preparing students for transfer (82%)
- Improving educational resources for veterans (78%)
- Removing asbestos and lead paint (77%)
- Improving campus security (77%)

In conclusion, survey results suggest that San Jose-Evergreen Community College District residents recognized the importance of the colleges to the community and understand the financial needs of the Colleges. Consequently, they strongly support a bond that would help keep classrooms and labs up-to-date for students preparing for careers or transfer to four-year colleges, and place a priority on veterans’ services as well as basic safety needs. **Overall, survey results indicate that a potential bond of up to \$880 million is conformably viable in November 2016.**

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