

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE L

Our State Government is near financial collapse as a result of unchecked borrowing and spending. The ballot before you today contains initiatives with massive borrowing totaling billions of dollars. Now the Tustin Unified School District (TUSD) Board is asking you to tax yourself even more with a \$95 million bond.

Six years ago, TUSD was given \$80 million dollars by the taxpayers. The Board promised they would fix all of our schools but, before they have spent all that money, they are asking for \$95 million more for a total of \$175 million in debt plus millions more in interest. The debt on these bonds wouldn't be paid off until 2035, outliving the proposed repairs.

We do not question the need for excellent school facilities or quality education. We do question the business sense of the current Board. For example, TUSD had six years since 2002 to make repairs to Tustin High. Six classes of seniors have graduated, bond funds remain unspent, and the school is still in disrepair. The current bond proposal offers no guarantees on which schools will actually be repaired or when!

By comparison, the City of Tustin is building a \$35 million library without any bonds or tax increases and it will be open in 2009.

The fact is TUSD can educate our children very well without adding to your property taxes. Under Proposition 98, they already receive a guarantee that they will never receive less money from the State than the previous year, a guarantee that no other local government receives. Still they ask for more taxes. One must ask ... why have they failed to fund reserves for repairs? Don't they realize that regular maintenance saves money?

We urge you to Vote No on the Tustin Unified School District Bond Measure.

s/ Jerry Amante
Tustin Mayor

s/ Lou Bone
Tustin Council Member

s/ Scot Proud
Chairman, Tustin Chamber of Commerce

s/ Erin Moore
TUSD Parent