

## ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE O

"Westminster School Safety, Teacher Recruitment/Fiscal Responsibility Bond"

The Westminster School District currently has three debt instruments outstanding, which total \$25,290,000. These debts were incurred in 2003, 2006, and 2007. The largest one, \$17,790,000, will not be paid back until 2034. These loans required that the Westminster School District provide collateral in the form of district property. This means your schools are mortgaged for more than \$25 million. These three previous loans were incurred to provide technology support, capital infrastructure, and various capital facilities projects including a food services warehouse and more office space. Now there is a "Bond Project List" which lists 71 "repair, upgrade and improvement" projects for another \$130 million that the School District wants all the taxpayers in Westminster to pay for.

Please consider the continuing indebtedness that approval of this measure would place upon the taxpayers of Westminster. When Westminster School District enrollment numbers dropped, the district offered "free pre-school" and all day kindergarten which increased enrollment numbers. These things are not "free", the taxpayers pay for this. You are the Taxpayers. The School District needs to explain why they need \$130 million more (in bonded indebtedness) and why they do not have a comprehensive plan that is conservative and accountable with a timetable, and indicating why these projects are required. The name "...Fiscal Responsibility Bond" is confusing and misleading. During these times of financial instability in our state and country we must not continue incurring even more debt. We urge a "no" vote on this measure.

s/ Gus Sifuentes  
Concerned Citizen

s/ Stephanie Erickson  
Concerned Parent

s/ Judith Ahrens  
Concerned Citizen

s/ Vaughn Becht  
Concerned Citizen

s/ Vivian Kirkpatrick-Pilger  
President, Citizens for Government Accountability