

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE J

Vote Yes on J for Merced College to prepare local students and veterans to transfer to universities and get good jobs.

Merced College has provided excellent, affordable higher education to our community for generations. Local students who cannot afford the high cost of the University of California, California State University and other four-year universities rely on Merced College for affordable access to college and training for good jobs.

Merced College, including the Los Banos Campus, serves military veterans in our area, including those who have returned from war zones and face challenges including post-traumatic stress disorder and permanent disabilities. Merced College trains firefighters, paramedics, nurses and police officers to keep us safe in emergencies. Merced College provides the skills students need for jobs in agriculture, nursing, business, technology, engineering, early childhood education, and other high-demand careers.

Many of Merced College's classrooms, science labs and job training facilities were built over 40 years ago and are deteriorating and need repair.

Vote Yes on J to:

- Upgrade vocational and job training classrooms, facilities, technology and equipment to prepare students for good jobs
- Update classrooms and labs to help students transfer to UC and Cal State
- Upgrade and expand facilities for veteran services, agriculture and performing arts
- Improve access for students with disabilities
- Improve student safety and campus security systems
- Address basic repairs such as leaky roofs, old rusty plumbing and faulty electrical systems

Strict Fiscal Accountability Is Required:

- Every penny raised by Measure J must be spent locally to improve local community college facilities
- By law, no funds can be taken by the state or used for administrative salaries
- Measure J helps Merced College qualify for state matching funds that will otherwise go to other communities
- Independent citizens' oversight and annual audits ensure funds are spent properly

Please join our community's most respected leaders in voting **Yes on J for Merced College.**

/s/ Jim Cunningham, Farmer/Rancher
/s/ L. Carmen Ramirez, Business Owner/ Attorney
/s/ Mike Gallo, Business Owner
/s/ Mike Murphy, Mayor of Merced
/s/ Joe Gutierrez, Los Banos Business Owner

FILED

DEC 09 2019

FRESNO COUNTY CLERK
By  DEPUTY