



Speaker's Guide

Hello. Thank you for allowing me to talk about the 2018 Santa Fe Community College Bond. It's been eight years since we asked Santa Fe to support the college through a bond issue in 2010. I appreciate the opportunity to talk about why we're asking for community support this year.

First I'd like to take a moment to tell you about how the bond will work.

- There are two questions on the ballot that affect Santa Fe Community College.
- Combined, both questions would allow the college to restructure its finances by raising the amount of the bond charged for our operations while decreasing the amount of the bond charged for our debt service.
- The first question would allow us to raise the portion of the bond we use for operations.
- The second question would allow \$17 million in bonds which would lower the portion we use for capital costs, including debt repayment.
- **We did this deliberately so that tax rates would not increase.** So even though the language is confusing, voting on both questions will result in **no changes to the total tax rate.**

Now, let me tell you why we're asking for the bond funding.

We've carefully earmarked the bond funding for a number of areas that will improve educational opportunities for our students and help us better serve the community.

- The largest portion of the bond, \$7 million, would go to a new 17,000-square-foot automotive center which would include classrooms and a customized training area to prepare students for high-demand careers in the automotive industry and double the number of students we can educate annually (*for more details on this, see page 4*).

- The next largest portion of the bond, \$5 million is needed for critical infrastructure improvements throughout the campus. As you know, Santa Fe Community College was founded in 1983. While we've made additions since then, we need to improve roads, parking, sidewalks, roof systems, HVAC systems, our wastewater treatment plants and lighting and power systems. Our students and faculty deserve classrooms and facilities that meet health, safety and code standards.
- We would spend \$2 million dollars to renovate the William C. Witter Fitness Education Center. This Center offers affordable classes and fitness/exercise opportunities to the entire community, including discounts to seniors. We would repair the pool, install a new rooftop thermal system for heated pools, new fitness equipment, a new floor and seating in the gym, and give the Center a long overdue exterior and interior facelift (*for more details on this, see page 5*).
- We would spend another \$2 million on technology upgrades to serve our students and faculty better. These would include enhanced security infrastructure, modernizing our information systems, upgrading to industry standard server solutions and finally, to the delight of many on our campus, improving wireless (Wi-Fi) capabilities.
- Last but by no means least, we'd spend \$1 million on improvements to classrooms and learning spaces at our main campus. We would renovate and upgrade classrooms in the fashion design, arts and media arts and metal fabrication lab with new furnishings and fixtures. We would also expand and upgrade our film program facilities, which are more important now than ever due to the closure of the Santa Fe University of Art and Design. These improvements are also needed to meet code, health, and safety concerns in some areas of our campus.

Community Colleges are different than four-year Institutions.

I'd like to take a moment to explain the role they play in our community and our economy.

- Community colleges focus on degrees and occupational training programs for middle skills jobs, which require education beyond high school but not a four-year degree.

- These jobs make up the largest part of New Mexico's job market.
- The fact is, more than half of all jobs in New Mexico – 51 percent – are middle-skills jobs.
- Santa Fe Community College also focuses on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs that lead to higher-paying jobs that are in great demand. Half of all STEM jobs don't require a four-year degree and pay an average of \$53,000.
- Finally, we focus on LOCAL needs for middle-skills jobs, such as CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center for health care and Los Alamos National Laboratory for the STEM jobs I was just talking about.

We provide students with a place to get the education they need to start a career or go on for a more advanced degree – right here in our own local community.

- In fact, more than 4 out of every 5 Santa Fe Community College graduates, or 88 percent, are placed in jobs or transfer to a four-year institution.
- Plus, we've doubled the graduation rate in the past three years and doubled the number of graduates in the past five years.
- We've also increased the associate degrees awarded by 52 percent in the past five years and increased certificates awarded by 154 percent in the past five years.

An investment in Santa Fe Community College is an investment in our community.

- For every one dollar spent at our College, students receive \$2.60 in benefits, taxpayers gain \$1.70 and society benefits by \$6.10 according to an economic impact survey.

We hope you've vote on this important bond measure.

- Absentee voting starts January 9th and goes through February 2nd.
- Early voting starts at six locations on January 17th and goes through February 3rd, and you can vote at any location Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

- And in-person voting is at 14 different locations from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 6th.

We need your support.

I've brought some information with me, and feel free to visit our website at votesfcc.com.

Thank you for your time. Any questions??

More information on Automotive Center

We're currently renting space that is cramped and inadequate.

- Our current 2,053 square-foot garage off campus is cramped, inadequate, and doesn't meet National Automotive Technician's Education Foundation standards.
- There are no existing facilities on the college campus or at the Higher Education Center that can accommodate the automotive program. It needs substantial power, special EPA-required building exhaust systems and special concrete thickness slabs and foundations to hold heavy equipment.
- There is no large automotive facility in Santa Fe County available for use or lease.

The job picture for this industry is bright.

- The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects jobs for automotive technicians and mechanics will grow by nine percent by 2022.
- In the Santa Fe area alone, there are at least 51 job openings a year.
- Salaries in this specialized field can range from \$38,000-\$47,000 a year all the way up to more than \$100,000 according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

More information on William C. Witter Fitness Education Center

- The Center, which was built in 1993, gives students, faculty, staff and community members an affordable way to exercise, assess their health and fitness levels or just relax.
- There is a gym for basketball, indoor soccer and volleyball.
- There is a weight/exercise room with equipment for strength, cardiovascular, resistance and suspension training.
- There are four outdoor tennis courts.
- There is an 8-lane lap pool, a 4-lane warm pool and an 8-person whirlpool.
- The Center also provides fitness assessments for individuals of all ages including a special assessment for seniors 70 and older.
- The Santa Fe Seals is a year-round program that helps individuals aged 5-20 develop competitive swimming skills in a fun, positive environment.

The bond improvements would include:

- Pool repairs and UV (ultraviolet) light filter replacements
- Renewal and replacement of power and utility equipment
- A roof-top thermal system for heated pools
- New gym seating and flooring
- New exercise/fitness equipment
- Exterior and interior facelift

