



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE LOWER CAPE FEAR
PO Box 4503 Wilmington, NC 28406**

www.lcflwv.org

The League of Women Voters believes that citizens have the power and duty to participate in shaping public policy. The League is nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but works diligently on issues of concern to members and the public.

The League believes that an equitable, quality public education is critical for all children pre-K through grade 12, which includes adequate and safe physical facilities that are properly equipped to carry out their educational mission. We also recognize that primary responsibility for public education resides with the states and local government who must develop adequate funding sources and mechanisms.

The Brunswick County Board of Education, exercising its authority and responsibility under North Carolina law, has determined that both increased enrollment and current school facility conditions necessitate addressing some of the District's most critical facility needs. The need to renovate or replace obsolete facilities is ongoing, and all 19 schools will see improvements, including the elimination of modular units as learning environments. Decreased capital funding over the past several years has resulted in deferred maintenance, repairs and replacement of essential building systems and components. Major renovations and additions are needed at schools that have not had any significant work for years. In addition new construction is necessary to accommodate increased enrollment particularly in the northern region of the County which has experienced the most growth. BCS wants to limit the enrollment size of schools believing that the size of the school is another factor that impacts student learning.

Funds from the Bond referendum can only be used for capital projects, they cannot be used for general operating expenses including staff salaries. There are no other local or State funding sources available to the school system to complete these building improvements and construction projects. The critical needs Brunswick County Schools face today can no longer wait without severely compromising our children's educations and the future of our community that depends on the success of our schools. It is also important to remember that continued growth, while putting a strain on school facilities, is likely to have a positive impact on the county's economy and ability to maintain a low tax rate.

The League of Women Voters of the Lower Cape Fear (which includes Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender Counties) recommends that all voters inform themselves about this important issue by visiting www.bcswan.net. After careful consideration, The League of Women Voters of the Lower Cape Fear endorses the Brunswick County Bond Referendum for Education and urges its passage.

Serving Brunswick, New Hanover, Onslow and Pender Counties, North Carolina