

Talking Points on the Public School Building Bond Act

- I'm speaking to you today to ask you to support the Public School Building Bond Act (House Bill 866 and Senate Bill 542), legislation under consideration by the North Carolina General Assembly that would get a school construction bond placed on the ballot in November 2018.
 - Counties urgently need a bond to address over \$8.1 billion in needs for new facilities and renovations at public schools throughout North Carolina.
 - In X County...*add data here about local school capital needs – renovations, new buildings, etc. Discuss how delaying construction will only make the problem more expensive.*
 - If the bond is approved by voters, it will provide \$1.9 billion for public school facility grants to all 100 counties.
 - Historically, statewide school bonds have boosted construction every ten years, but the last one was in 1996 – over twenty years ago.
 - The last statewide bond approved in 2016 - Connect NC – didn't provide any funds for public school construction.
 - The school construction bond can help modernize school facilities to support the state's transition to digital learning, ensuring that North Carolina students have the tools to compete in the workforce of the future. *Add data here about technological shortcomings in your schools and the challenges this creates for students and teachers.*
 - The bond can help increase offerings for Career and Technical Education, which require modern learning environments. Expanding facilities that can support CTE training can help reduce North Carolina's skilled worker shortage.
 - The Associated General Contractors of America found that an investment of \$1 billion in nonresidential construction produces 28,600 jobs.
 - Public school capital needs will continue to soar – on top of needs that already existed – as school districts implement the new mandate to lower class sizes in grades kindergarten through third grade over the next four years.
 - *Speak about the effects of the class size reduction on your schools.*
 - The traditional public school population has grown 24.3% since the 1996 bond.
 - All counties have limited options to raise revenue to pay for school construction. Many counties have no room to raise property taxes and are seeing no growth in their sales and property tax bases.
 - *Give specifics here about how much revenue property tax and sales tax bring in your county and the limitations to raising those sources of revenue.*
 - Between 2011 and 2015, nearly 75% of the lottery funds allocated to counties were spent to pay off capital debt rather than for new construction or renovations.
 - Now is the time to act because interest rates are low and North Carolina currently has the debt capacity in the state budget to support a \$1.9 billion bond.
- Please contact our state legislators (*list names*) about the need to pass House Bill 866/Senate Bill 542 Public School Building Bond Act.
- Visit www.ncschoolbond.com for more information or to join the effort.