Bonds Mean Big Improvements for BCCC

On November 7, North Carolina’s voters will go to the polls to make several decisions. Among those decisions will be whether or not to authorize the state of North Carolina to issue $3.1 billion in bonds to fund building construction and/or renovation on all of North Carolina’s university and community college campuses.

If the bond referendum passes, Beaufort County Community College will receive $7 million. Of that amount, $6 million will be used for new construction and $1 million for repair and renovation of existing buildings. The first priority for BCCC would be the construction of building number 10, a law enforcement/emergency medical/fire service personnel training facility. This center would not only provide up-to-date training facilities for these vital jobs, but would also free up much needed space for computer labs in the business department. The second priority will be the construction of a trades building that would house the cosmetology department and additional classrooms.

The following information is being provided to inform voters about the bond referendum. Informed voters are effective voters.

Key Points on Higher Education Bond Proposal

During the short session of the 2000 General Assembly, the legislature unanimously passed a bill authorizing a November referendum on a $3.1-billion bond issue for university and community college construction. These improvements are needed to meet skyrocketing enrollment demand and to ensure that our college and university buildings meet modern code requirements and are equipped to prepare graduates for today’s job market.

As called for by the General Assembly, both the community colleges and the university have conducted in-depth studies of their building needs. Our university and community college systems each anticipate enrollment growth of about 50,000 students over the next 10 years—a total of almost 100,000 new students. These growth estimates are based on a combination of factors: the number of students already in North Carolina’s elementary and secondary schools, historic college-tuition rates, and the escalating need for continuing workforce education.

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