



OPINION  
RESEARCH  
& STRATEGY

**TO** Interested Parties

**FROM** FM3 Research

**RE:** Mt. San Antonio Community College District Issues Survey

**DATE** June 27, 2018

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Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) recently conducted a survey of 800<sup>1</sup> respondents within the Mt. San Antonio Community College District (Mt. SAC) to examine the local population's perspectives and priorities. **The study found that a majority of respondents have favorable views of Mt. SAC, believe there is a need for additional funding, and are supportive of a \$750 million bond measure to repair and upgrade the college's campus and improve its academic programs to better serve local students.**

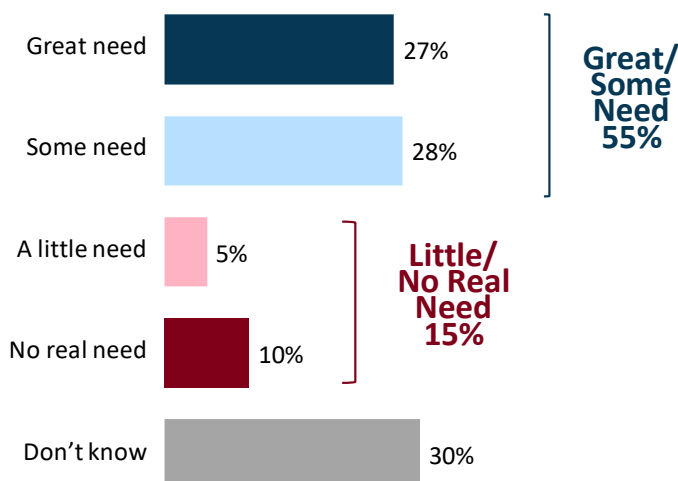
Key findings from the study include:

- **A majority of respondents have favorable views of Mt. SAC, believing that the College is a good neighbor and provides an affordable education.** Overall, more than eight in ten respondents (83%) agree that Mt. SAC provides their community “with an affordable, local alternative to four-year universities.” Another 85 percent of all respondents across the District also agree that Mt. SAC is “committed to be a good neighbor to local residents,” with over half (57%) saying they strongly agree with the statement. Respondents also understand that community college classrooms and labs must be “upgraded to provide students with up-to-date skills and access to modern technology” due to the changing economy, with a total of 87 respondents agreeing with the statement.
- **A majority of respondents believe Mt. SAC has a significant need for funding.** Across the District, 55 percent of all respondents indicated they believe Mt. SAC has “great” or “some” need for additional funding, compared to less than two in ten (15%) who believe the school has “little” or “no real” need. A significant number of respondents (30%) are not sure of Mt. SAC’s need for additional funding (See **Figure 1** on the following page).

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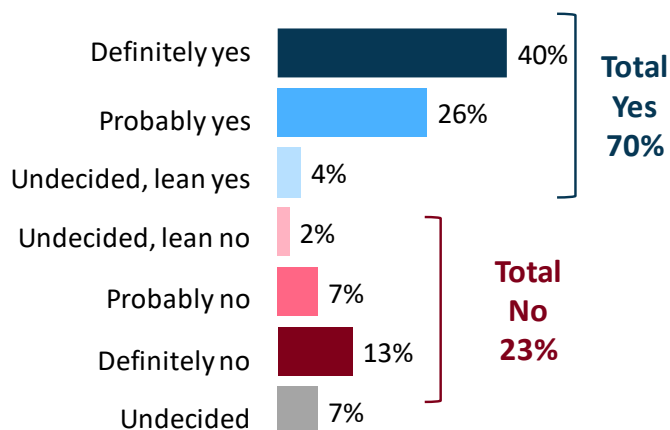
<sup>1</sup> Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) conducted a telephone (landline and cell phone) survey between May 21-24, 2018, among 800 registered voters in the Mt. San Antonio Community College District who are likely to vote in the November 2018 General Election. Interviews were conducted in English, Spanish and Mandarin. The margin of error for the full sample is +/- 3.5% with a 95% confidence interval. Margins of error for population subgroups will be higher. Some percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Figure 1: Perception of Mt. SAC's Additional Need for Funding**



- **Seven in ten (70%) respondents support a local community college bond measure (with a 55 percent requirement) to upgrade and improve classrooms, labs and buildings at Mt. SAC. (See Figure 2)** When asked about the potential bond measure, 40 percent of all respondents indicated they would “definitely” vote yes and an additional 26% said they would vote “probably” yes, indicating strong support. Despite a high percentage of voters who indicated they were unsure about Mt. SAC’s financial needs, it is clear that a majority believe the district should receive additional funds.

**Figure 2: Support for \$750 Million Bond Measure**



- **Respondents prioritize funding projects that focus on student outcomes, and on repairs.** Overall, respondents gave the highest priority to “preparing students to transfer to four-year colleges and universities,” with eight in every ten (81%) indicating it is an extremely or very important feature that the measure should fund. Another 81 percent of respondents prioritized removing asbestos and mold, while 77 percent agreed that improving student safety is an extremely or very important feature to fund. See **Figure 3** below for a list of projects and features that a majority of respondents prioritize funding.

**Figure 3: Top Priorities for Funding by Extremely or Very Important**

| Project or Feature                                                           | “Extremely/Very Important” |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Preparing students to transfer to four-year colleges and universities</i> | 81%                        |
| <i>Removing asbestos and mold</i>                                            | 81%                        |
| <i>Repairing deteriorating gas, electrical and sewer lines</i>               | 79%                        |
| <i>Fixing leaky roofs</i>                                                    | 78%                        |
| <i>Improving student safety</i>                                              | 77%                        |
| <i>Improving access for disabled students</i>                                | 77%                        |
| <i>Repairing decaying walls, drainage systems and leaking roofs</i>          | 78%                        |
| <i>Expanding vocational training programs for disabled students</i>          | 76%                        |

Overall, survey results indicate that a majority of respondents across the District have favorable views of Mt. SAC, believe that the school is a good neighbor, and that it offers an affordable alternative to four-year colleges and universities. While a significant percentage of participants are unsure about Mt. SAC’s financial state, a strong majority (70%) would vote in favor of a Mt. SAC bond measure to fund projects that focus on student outcomes and make necessary health and safety repairs and upgrades to classroom buildings.