

OHLONE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Trustees  
FROM: Gari Browning  
DATE: February 11, 2009  
SUBJECT: Contract to Retain Political Consulting Firm

Consent Agenda Item

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The Ohlone Community College District passed a successful \$150 million general obligation bond measure in March 2002. Since that time the District has been engaged in completing capital construction projects to enhance the teaching and learning experience of our students, faculty and staff. Primary among these was the successful effort to construct the first LEED Platinum college campus in the world at Newark and the currently underway project to erect a new Student Services Building on the Fremont campus.

However, even with the financial resources provided by the past bond measure the District still has many capital construction needs that must be addressed. It is thought that another general obligation bond measure would provide an infusion of financial resources to allow the District to continue to upgrade and modernize our outdated facilities.

With that objective in mind, District staff solicited proposals from two reputable firms that engage in managing bond campaigns for community college and K-12 school districts. Each firm was individually interviewed by the President's staff and reference checks were performed to gather information from former clients. In addition, an analysis was prepared to compare and contrast several key factors of the proposals including cost, experience, location, staffing, etc.

As a result of this analysis, the District recommends contracting with the Lew Edwards Group to perform pre-election bond planning services for the District. The services to be provided are contained in the attached proposal. Funds for this contract are budgeted in Fund 10 (Unrestricted General Fund).

RECOMMENDATION

The President/Superintendent recommends the Board of Trustees approve the issuance of a professional services contract with the Lew Edwards Group for providing pre-election bond planning services to the District.