

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE E

Vote Yes on Measure E, Opportunities for Richmond's Kids

Richmond's children, youth and young adults have long needed more life-changing services and opportunities.

A study conducted in West Contra Costa identified that nearly 87% of all low-income young people need services that are currently not available. The costs of enrichment programs for youth are substantially less than a typical stay in juvenile hall that can cost up to \$88,000 per year. To help children and youth arrive at school ready to learn, prepare for higher education and have access to high quality services, we must invest in local youth-serving organizations and City programs.

Local community based organizations, labor unions, and political leaders have come together to support Measure E. Nearly 14,000 Richmond residents signed petitions to qualify Measure E for the ballot.

This measure establishes the Richmond Fund for Children and Youth to more effectively invest in our community's young people. Measure E will ensure that Richmond's youth have opportunities to grow physically and emotionally, develop healthy social skills, and live in stable, safe and supported families and communities.

Measure E does not raise taxes but is a dedicated funding source from the City's general fund to support expanded youth services and establishes a City operated Department of Children and Youth.

Measure E is modeled after similar successful funds in San Francisco and Oakland with input from local youth and youth-serving organizations. Some of the opportunities created by Measure E include: Creating and expanding after-school and summer programs; Helping youth stay in school; Helping children deal with substance abuse issues; Helping youth stay healthy through expanded sports, recreation programs and enrichment programs.

We are coming together to lift up our community to provide the life changing opportunities our children and youth need. Please join us at www.kidsfirstrichmond.com

Each Argument may be up to 300 words.

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