

Dear Editor:

We are looking at two bond elections this November 5th. Both have been voted down before.

NCTC's bond proposal is much improved from previous attempts. It's half as much and is focused on education. The new Administration Building has been dropped. Dr. Hadlock took us on a tour. They are doing a lot of good and clearly have some needs in Health Sciences and Vocational programs.

Two years ago an NCTC Dean told me they were planning the bond election before I joined the NCTC Board in 2004. I find that interesting since they've spent tens of millions of dollars on other upgrades, the Performing Arts Center, (close to \$8 Million with repairs), two additional campuses, a fitness center in Corinth, (\$700,000 - now closed)... After the last bond election failed, they spent about \$2 Million converting shop classroom space that had been targeted for nursing to Administrative & Storage space, and demolishing a building. *Actions Speak Louder Than Words...*

It seems nursing is always a priority when they want to *Sell a Bond*. Why is it a low priority for the cash NCTC has on hand? According to the latest NCTC September Board Financial reports, they have \$10.7 Million in reserves and \$25.1 Million in the bank. It would seem they have sufficient funds to cover most of the debt they are asking taxpayers to take on. Do they want to use that spare cash for the new Administrative Building the voters rejected? Didn't Gainesville ISD pass a bond for the new high school and then magically find reserves to build a new athletic facility?

Dr. Hadlock sent me a report that shows *only One in Ten* Health Science graduates at the Gainesville Campus are from Cooke County. I'd be OK with Cooke County taxpayers paying one tenth of the new Health Sciences Center and a couple million for the vocational facilities. I don't think we should be paying the other 90%. That should be paid for with increased tuition and fees for out-of-county students, *since they don't pay NCTC property taxes*.

Contrary to what another letter said, it wouldn't have to be as big an increase as portrayed. Texas Law does allow tuition rates to be set by program, Texas Education Code 54.0513(b) "A governing board may set a different tuition rate for each program and course level offered by each institution of higher education." The added tuition per student could be a lot less if we could build the facility for \$150 per square foot fully loaded, vs. the \$257+/SF proposed. Does anyone outside of NCTC doubt we could get a very nice two story Health Sciences building for \$150/SF?

The Valley View ISD bond is essentially the same package of improvements the voters rejected six months ago. Security and safety seems to be the top priority for the bond but only a small part of the bond is for actual security. A fancy new sign, a new administration building, and a cafeteria renovation seem to be the priorities for spare cash or reserves, not security. *Follow the Money...*

Shouldn't higher taxes and debt be a last resort only when there are critical needs and all other options are exhausted? Why don't they spend the money they have on the top priorities they talk about for the tax bonds, rather than take Thousands from each taxpayer for the next 25 years?

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