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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE CHICO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ENDORSES BUTTE COLLEGE BOND AND CHICO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND**

Tuesday, August 30, 2016: Last week, the Chico Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted to endorse Measure J, the Butte-Glenn Community College District bond, and Measure K, the Chico Unified School District bond. Both bonds will be on the ballot on November 8, 2016.

Measure J, the Butte College Repair, Safety, Job Training Measure is a \$190 million education bond that would make repairs and upgrades to the College in order to increase opportunities for local students and veterans to earn college credits, transfer to 4-year universities, or learn valuable skills to obtain good paying jobs in our community.

Measure K will make critical repairs and upgrades at schools in the Chico Unified School District, with a focus on elementary schools. Many elementary schools were built several decades ago, have not been updated since then, and are in great need of significant structural repairs and upgrades.

Toni Scott, Chair of the Chico Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, says, “The Chamber Board is committed to supporting businesses, all of which rely on an increasingly qualified workforce, particularly in emerging sectors in Chico like manufacturing, agriculture, and technology. Endorsing efforts that increase our overall investment in the quality of our educational system and facilities is an investment in our future workforce and aligns perfectly with our vision for Chico.”

Tom Lando, Chair of the Chico Chamber of Commerce Legislative Action Committee, says, “Clearly the future we depend on are those we educate today. Our investment in education is our investment in the future.”

Samia Yaqub, PhD, President/Superintendent of the Butte-Glenn Community College District, says, “Butte College has been training our local students and veterans for nearly 50 years, and many Chamber

members depend on the highly-skilled workers that Butte College provides. Measure J provides the safe, repaired, and updated learning facilities necessary for programs such as automotive technology, nursing, paramedic and 9-1-1 emergency medical training, agriculture trades, firefighter technology, law enforcement, welding, construction, engineering, and technology. Measure J allows Butte College to continue the critical workforce education our communities rely upon to keep our economy thriving.”

Kelly Staley, Superintendent for Chico Unified School District, says, “Economists agree, there's a significant financial return for improving the quality of K-12 education. Local businesses need a well-educated and skilled workforce. This attracts new businesses bringing new professionals to our area, too. These professionals want to know ‘What are the schools like for my kids?’ Strong local economies require high-quality schools equipped with the infrastructure needed to maximize 21st-century learning opportunities. Most of our elementary schools are over 40 years old and in desperate need of updating. Measure K provides these improvements for increased safety and a more productive learning environment.”

For further information regarding the Chico Chamber of Commerce contact Katie Simmons, President & CEO, katie@chicochamber.com, 530.891.5556 x 303.

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