

Bing backs \$500M school bonds

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Detroit Mayor Dave Bing officially announced his full support of Proposal S, a \$500-million school construction and renovation bond that will appear on the Nov. 3 ballot.

Bing held a joint news conference with Detroit Public Schools Emergency Financial Manager Robert Bobb in the mayor's conference room at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center.

"We face many of the same challenges in city government as he faces in Detroit Public Schools," Bing said, declaring his support for the proposal and urging "all supporters to show support for our schools and our children."

Bobb said the proposal -- funded with federal stimulus money, to build eight schools, renovate 10 others and demolish some closed schools -- "represents the largest public works project in the City of Detroit."

The project, which would extend the current property tax for an extra six years, would be overseen by the DPS inspector general, the city's auditor general, and the federal Government Accountability Office to prevent fraud and waste.

When asked if he was expending any political will to support the project, Bing said, "absolutely not." "I think this is the best thing that could happen for the City of Detroit," he said. "I'm 100% behind this." Learn more about Proposal S at www.detroitk12.org/proposals.



Detroit Mayor Dave Bing listens as Emergency Financial Manager Robert Bobb talks at a news conference regarding Proposal S at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center in Detroit today. (SUSAN TUSA/Detroit Free Press)

<http://www.freep.com/article/20091021/NEWS01/91021030/1319/Bing-backs--500-million-bond-for-Detroit-schools>