

Referendum proponents expect success

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and in some instances all bonds — have pointed to mismanagement and historic neglect of inner city schools' needs as good reasons to vote

no. Others add that with a new school board elected Tuesday and the search for a new superintendent, the timing isn't right for a referendum.

But school bonds have a strong record of success in Mecklenburg, with only one defeat in the last 20 years.

"I think we're in good shape," said Anthony Fox, co-chair of the Vote Yes For Bonds Committee. "Our community has a good track record of supporting bonds, and I'm confident we'll do it again."

CMS bonds could have a

spillover effect across the ballot. If either side can rally voters, they'll determine Charlotte City Council, CMS school board and referendums for jails, Central Piedmont Community College and land purchases to protect drinking water from Mountain Island Lake from overdevelopment.

But Michael Evans, chairman of the Mecklenburg

Democratic Party, isn't sure the bonds will prove to be a wedge issue that produces a mass turnout.

"There doesn't seem to be any overriding reason that causes people to come out and vote," he said. "The only thing that approaches that is the bonds, and I don't sense the anger that past issues have had."

Statistically, Fox has rea-

son to be optimistic. The margin of victory for school bonds has consistently topped 60 percent. Fox, who is not related to Charlotte City Council candidate Anthony Foxx, said he expects the referendums to do just as well Tuesday.

"I'm always an optimist and it'll be an issue of how big the margin will be," he said.



Cochrane Middle School Principal Terry Brown surveys damage to the media center carpet. Cochrane, built in 1960, has rusting pipes, mold in some areas and a lack of storage space for science equipment. If Mecklenburg county voters approve a \$427 million bond package for public schools, \$17 million in renovations would commence at Cochrane.

Sorority reaches out with tutoring program

By David D. Dawson
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Barbara Davis paused for a moment from tutoring a boy with his homework as she remembered hundreds of students she taught at West Charlotte High School. The smile on her face showed how much she is proud of their accomplishments. It also showed how much influence teachers have in shaping the minds of future leaders.

Davis, who primarily taught 12th grade English for 38 years, is program director of the Academics Leadership Opportunity Foundation Inc. The Alpha Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority created the foundation in 1995, but started the tutoring program last year. Middle to high school students receives free tutoring from Davis and 20 other volunteers from 4-6 p.m. on Monday-Thursday, located on 401 West Sugar Creek Road.

The program provides tutoring and enrichment for students

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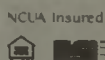
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