

## Schools are places of hope, achievement and inspiration

— Patricia Fernandez-Lefebvre, Miami Rolando Aedo, Coconut Grove Roland Garcia, Coral Gables and 16 others

On Election Day voters will have a chance to voice their desires for our public schools. We urge all voters to check box 222 in support of Miami-Dade County Public Schools' bonds.

Here are just a few of the many reasons why we urge a positive vote:

· Our public school children deserve an environment that supports learning.

· More than one-third of our schools are 50-plus years old, almost half are 40, and aging schools need major repairs.

· The state of Florida's budget hasn't included school renovation or construction for Miami-Dade County Public Schools for the past two years.

· Students attending our newer schools have the latest technology, while students in our older schools don't have access to the tools that they will need to compete in the workforce.

· Currently both interest rates and construction costs are low.

· Few of us want to pay a significant amount in taxes, yet we want good schools.

· Everyone benefits.

We believe each and every child deserves the opportunity to learn. Without a doubt, the surroundings our children experience every day make a profound difference. If they can't hear because their classroom has a very loud window air conditioner, if the roof is leaking, causing mold to grow and their allergies to worsen, or if the school's electrical wiring is too old to support the computers they'll need for a future career, our children suffer.

We can ensure our schools are places of hope, achievement and inspiration for all our children by checking box 222. It will only cost an extra \$5 per \$100,000 of taxable home value in the first year, approximately \$27 on average annually while the bonds are outstanding, with a maximum cost of \$35 once all the bonds have been issued. This bond issue will not only upgrade schools, but will create an estimated 9,000 direct and 18,000 total jobs in Miami-Dade County based on a Washington Economics Group study.