



November 5, 2015



VOTERS SAY "YES" FOR QCUSD OVERRIDE

Queen Creek residents approve 15% maintenance and operation budget override

QUEEN CREEK, AZ, Nov. 4, 2015 — Officials working in the Queen Creek Unified School District got some good news after votes from the Nov. 3rd general election were tallied.

The district had asked voters to approve a 15 percent budget override that would allow the district to spend more than state-allocated funds. Unofficial results from Nov. 3rd show the override passing, with 3,128 voting "yes" and 2,477 voting "no".

Queen Creek Unified School District is a public school district serving the Queen Creek area. The schools in the district are Queen Creek High School; Newell Barney Junior High School; Queen Creek Middle School; Gateway Polytechnic Academy; and Frances Brandon-Pickett Elementary, Desert Mountain Elementary, Jack Barnes Elementary and Queen Creek Elementary schools.

"Budget overrides allow school districts to tax property in their boundaries," said Dr. Perry Berry, QCUSD Superintendent, "The approved override generates approximately \$4.2 million for the district per year. Considering Arizona ranks 48th in the country for per pupil spending, this override is necessary for us to remain competitive."

"I want to thank our voters and all of the people who organized a structured and honest campaign on our behalf. Many people worked tirelessly to communicate the facts and encouraged our community to vote," stated Dr. Berry. "Throughout the past several months, I have met many wonderful residents, business officials, elected officers, etc., within the Queen Creek area and I want everyone to know how impressed I am with the support they have for a quality K-12 educational system (i.e. QCUSD). Our institution serves as a cornerstone to a strong economy and democracy and I want to encourage everyone to share the 'good news' about QCUSD."

An override election provides money for operational expenses, including salaries, benefits, supplies, purchased services, utilities and insurance. A bond election differs in that it allows the district additional funding to use for capital items such as new buildings, additions to buildings, land, school buses, renovations to buildings, furniture, equipment and technology. To learn more, please view the video how school district funding works by visiting www.qcUSD.org/Override

Queen Creek Unified School District will spend funds wisely toward programs that directly affect our students, as well as increasing vocational, art, gifted, and music opportunities. With the "yes" vote, QCUSD has committed to reduce clas


sizes, and will have the ability to rehire, retain, and reward the amazing teachers QCUSD has become accustomed to.

The funds raised would support students in kindergarten through twelfth grade as follows:

- Increase academic programs that prepare students for postsecondary education and workforce success
- Increase art and music classes throughout the District
- Increase school security to maintain a safe and secure learning environment
- Reduce class size at the kindergarten through eighth grade level
- Increase salaries to retain and attract exceptional teachers and staff
- Expand and enhance athletic, ROTC, and gifted programs

The Governing Board has the responsibility to ensure the use of these funds goes toward increased academic opportunities and pay QCUSD teachers a competitive salary. The “yes” vote makes the investment in our students’ future.

For the latest election results, visit the Maricopa County [elections website](#).



Example Budget of Override Expenditures

| Description | Budget |
|--|----------------|
| 15% Override | \$ 4,265,000 |
| 3.5% Salary Increase | \$ (875,420) |
| 1.5% Salary Increase | \$ (375,489) |
| Reduce Maximum Class Cap by 3 K-8 | \$ (650,000) |
| Expand Gifted Opportunities | \$ (70,000) |
| AVID Expansion | \$ (180,000) |
| 5% Salary Increase (total of 10%) | \$ (1,250,908) |
| Art and Music at K-12 level | \$ (250,000) |
| Vocational Offering | \$ (100,000) |
| Increase ROTC and Government Opportunities | \$ (10,000) |
| Expand Athletics and Enrichment Programs | \$ (100,000) |
| K-6 Reading and Math | \$ (200,000) |
| Miscellaneous | \$ (23,182) |
| Total Remaining | \$ 0 |

Queen Creek High School FFA Wins Silver Award



Pictured above (left to right): Noelle Rohovit, Bryce Cluff, Jessica Cochran, Jared Wareham

Written by Lexi Pettit, QCHS FFA Reporter

Last week, nine members of the Queen Creek High School FFA Chapter attended the 88th National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Queen Creek had two competition teams representing Arizona, Agronomy and Nursery/Landscape. These two teams felt honored to compete at the national level.

We are happy to announce the unveiling of our new, redesigned website!



We hope you will take a few minutes to visit our new online home by visiting:

www.dme.qcUSD.org

We've worked hard to develop a useful and informative resource and make it easy for you to stay informed, share in our successes, and just to feel as proud of Desert Mountain Elementary School as we are! So, be sure to bookmark the school's website address and visit us often. We'll use our website to keep you in the loop.



Desert Mountain Elementary
Queen Creek Unified School District



FOOD DRIVE

The Agronomy Team, members Jessica Cochran (senior), Jared Wareham (senior), Noelle Rohovit (senior), Bryce Cluff (a 2015 QCHS graduate) were tested on problematic scenarios, identification of seeds, insect's soils and crops and other management practices. The QCHS Agronomy Team placed 23rd in the nation, earning the Agronomy Silver Team Award. As individuals, Jessica Cochran and Jared Wareham ranked Silver. Bryce Cluff and Noelle Rohovit ranked Bronze.

Former bulldog, Bryce Cluff, is currently serving as the 2015-2016 State Vice President. Throughout the year he spends his time traveling through the state visiting the man of the 77 FFA chapters in Arizona. As a state officer his duties are to teach students about premier leadership, personal grow and career success through agriculture education. As someone who wants to be an agriculture teacher himself, his time as a State Officer has helped him to gain the skills and experiences necessary to peruse his dream career. "I couldn't have done all of this without the support of Queen Creek's CTE, administration, and governing board, I'm proud to be a forever bulldog," said Bryce Cluff.

The Nursery/Landscape Team, members Paige Gangloff (senior), Cheyenne McQuade (junior), Aimee Bittinger (a 2015 QCHS graduate), and Nicole Van Eerd (a 2015 QCHS graduate), were tested on their knowledge of testing horticulture principals including plant anatomy, production, marketing, turf, landscaping design and maintenance. Each participant must also complete practicums involving a landscape estimating, plant propagation or potting, identification of plants, disorders and equipment. The QCHS Nursery/Landscape team placed 25th in the nation and was awarded the Nursery/Landscape Silver Award. Each individual of this team ranked as well. Paige Gangloff ranked Gold. Nicole Van Eerd ranked Silver. Aimee Bittinger and Cheyenne McQuade both ranked Bronze.

In addition to the two competition teams, two FFA members/officers joined the trip for the educational experience. Bailey Roden (sophomore), and Lexi Pettit (senior) attended workshops and Career Success Tours. These tours included Harvest Home Dairy, Blend Pak, Yew Dell Botanical Gardens, Muhammed Ali Center, Huber Farms, and Churchill Downs. "This was truly an amazing experience and proved what a great organization the FFA is. This experience has exposed me to so many career opportunities," said Bailey Roden.

The 88th National FFA convention was a success with a record breaking number of members and guests who attended this conference, over 65,000, who share the love for FFA. National FFA reported over 18,000 tweets from the conference. All of the students that attended this trip had a blast learning more about the great organization and were opened up to more opportunities in the agriculture industry. The Queen Creek FFA chapter looks forward to attending the 89th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana in November 2016.



Bryce Cluff



Pictured above (left to right): Amy Bittinger, Cheyenne McQuade, Nicole Van Eerd, Paige Gangloff

We believe that helping those in need is a core part of who we are. So the Queen Creek Unified School District Family Resource Center do it in a big, big way for the up coming holidays.

Once again, this year, the QCUSD Family Resource Center is asking all the **QC schools (Clubs)** to help with a food drive to serve our families in need during the up coming Holidays.

Last year, the Family Resource Center helped over **245 families** in our school district and community with a food box for **Thanksgiving and Christmas**. The QCUSD Family Resource Center couldn't do this without the participation of most of our schools in the district.

Please check with your child's school for sponsored Food Drives in November. On behalf of the families in our community, we thank you in advanced for your donations.

School Events




Gateway Polytechnic Academy PTO

There will be a Veterans Day Flag Ceremony that our staff & students have coordinated on Nov. 10th at 9am in front of GPA at our flag pole. We would be honored by having our surrounding communities' Veterans and their families present for this ceremony.



You are cordially invited

**NBJHS 5th Annual
Veterans Day Celebration**



VETERANS Please contact erutz@qcusd.org
so that we may honor you.

Any staff, students, board members or community members associated with QCUSD are invited to attend and honor veterans within our community! Please RSVP erutz@qcusd.org

November 10th, 2015
7:00 a.m.
At the Flagpole
Newell Barney
Junior High School



• **AzMERIT Update**

- Paper AzMERIT Family Reports and AzMERIT Family Guides are expected to be sent home November 16th.
 - Elementary student reports will be sent home with students.
 - 6th grade through High School student reports will be sent home via mail.
- Scores across the state are expected to be lower due to the new rigorous standards and assessment. (Many students who have been "Meeting the Standard" for years may be labeled as "Partially Proficient" or even "Minimally Proficient".)

• **Learn more at** [Arizona Department of Education](#) and [Expect More Arizona](#)

"The scores aren't crashing, the expectations are soaring!" -Joe O'Reilly

Community News



Queen Creek Celebrates America Recycles Day!

Saturday, November 14 • 8 a.m. to Noon
Queen Creek Recycle Center (S. Ellsworth/Crewse Lane, across from Splash Pad)

FREE Drop-Off Recycling
Each carload receives a FREE raffle ticket to WIN great prizes including a Samsung tablet and gift certificates to The QC Olive Mill, Posse, Renewal and The Cottage!

Electronics
Computers, hard drives, keyboards, power supply, monitors, TVs, VCRs, etc.

Metals
Steel, copper, aluminum.

Appliances
Refrigerators, dishwashers, washers, dryers and stoves.

Textiles
Clothing and shoes.

Recyclables
Plastic bottles, jars, newspapers, cardboard, aluminum and metal cans, glass bottles, plastic jugs.

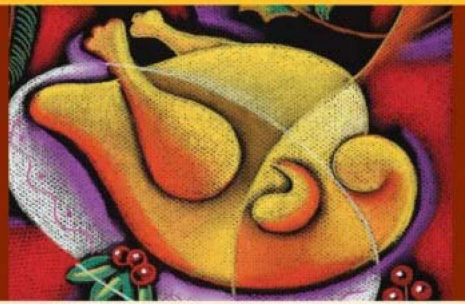
Paper Shredding

- There is a 5 (five) bag limit per person.
- Buses must be clearly marked for shredding.
- We are not able to accept material from commercial businesses.
- Materials will be stored in secure, locked containers and transferred to a document shredding facility.




Visit QueenCreek.org/Recycling for additional information and recycling tips.

TURKEY DRIVE



United Food Bank needs help and we're stepping up to the "plate!" Help us feed the hungry this holiday season!

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

- Cash donations (*Just \$5 can feed more than 20 people!*)
- Canned vegetables
- Instant potatoes
- Boxed stuffing
- Canned or packaged dry gravy

Please no perishable items or glass containers.
To donate frozen turkeys, deliver them right to United Food Bank.

Food Drive Dates: Nov - 11/24/2015

Our Goal: _____

Bring Food To: Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce

22246 S Ellsworth Rd
Queen Creek, AZ 85142

UNITED FOOD BANK
245 S. Wina Drive • Mesa, AZ 85210 • 480-926-4897
More information at www.UnitedFoodBank.org

HELP US THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



Bond Projects and New Grade Reconfiguration FAQs

It's our goal to keep QCUSD Parents, Staff and the Queen Creek Community as informed as possible. We are compiling a list of some of the most frequently asked questions with regard to the Governing Board approved bond projects for Desert Mountain Elementary and Queen Creek High School; and new grade reconfiguration for GPA, and current Queen Creek Middle School and Newell Barney Junior High -- so you can access important information quickly and efficiently.



Community Education

UPCOMING EVENTS: Veteran's Day Camp is November 11th! Registration is OPEN!

Winter Break Day Camp is December 21, 22, 23 & December 28, 29, 30- Registration coming soon!

DISCOVERY KIDS is a great program that offers before and after school care for kids at all K-6 sites. They are state licensed and offer structured activities, including homework help and hands-on learning. Convenient on-

New **GPA FAQs** have been posted.

Please visit [QCUSD FAQ](#) for a list of your child's school FAQ page.

Queen Creek Ranked One of the Top Locations for Amazing Schools



These 8 Cities In Arizona Have The Best Schools

Do you think your city is a hub for the next generation of scholars?

ONLYINYOURSTATE.COM

Queen Creek was ranked #13 by School Digger, with 11 of its schools in the top 30% of all schools in Arizona. Well done Queen Creek!

site locations eliminate transportation concerns. Programs start at 6:30 am and end at 6:00 pm.

ENRICHMENT CLASSES: Check out the fun after school enrichment classes offered for our students this quarter. Visit qcusd.org/Community_Education for a complete listing.

For more information and to register go to www.qcusd.feepay.com Questions? Contact Lauren [480-987-5935](tel:480-987-5935)

Contact Us

District Office
[\(480\) 987-5935](tel:480-987-5935)



Desert Mountain Elementary
[\(480\) 987-5912](tel:480-987-5912)



Frances Brandon Pickett Elementary
[\(480\) 987-7420](tel:480-987-7420)



Gateway Polytechnic Academy
[\(480\) 987-7440](tel:480-987-7440)



Jack Barnes Elementary
[\(480\) 987-7400](tel:480-987-7400)



Queen Creek Elementary
[\(480\) 987-5920](tel:480-987-5920)



Queen Creek Middle School
[\(480\) 987-5940](tel:480-987-5940)



Newell Barney Junior High School
[\(480\) 474-6700](tel:480-474-6700)



Queen Creek High School
[\(480\) 987-5973](tel:480-987-5973)



Queen Creek Unified School District
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Phone: [\(480\) 987-5935](tel:480-987-5935) | Fax: [\(480\) 987-9714](tel:480-987-9714)
www.qcusd.org

The Queen Creek Unified School District is one of only nine districts in the state to have been graded "A" by the Arizona Department of Education for four consecutive years (2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14). To learn more about the district, visit www.qcusd.org.

