



Harmony Union School District Measure D Bond Frequently Asked Questions Handout

Although it our school appears in good shape based on achievements by our students, our school facilities need to be improved. Faced with aging classrooms, and the need to bring school facilities up to current standards, the Harmony Union School District is placing a general obligation bond measure on the upcoming March 2024 ballot that would modernize and renovate our aging school.

The following information is provided to assist voters in understanding the facts behind Measure D and how its passage will affect the District and our community.

What is Measure D?

Measure D is a \$13.5 million general obligation (G.O.) bond program. The measure is intended to address the needs of the student population through modernization and renovation projects at Harmony Elementary and Salmon Creek School.

What is a G.O. bond?

G.O. bonds fund projects such as the renovation of classrooms and school facilities, as well as construction of new schools and classrooms. Similar to a home loan, G.O. bonds are typically repaid over 30 years. The loan repayment comes from a tax on all taxable property - residential, commercial, agricultural and industrial - located within the District's boundaries.

Why did the District place Measure D on the ballot?

Our school need upgrades and renovations. While facilities have been well maintained, old classrooms must be upgraded since many do not meet 21st century education green and technology standards. Additionally, improvements to key systems including electrical power and backup, HVAC, water and septic are essential for continuous operations and community access in emergencies. A local school improvement measure would allow the District to improve the quality of the school facilities and education provided to local children.

Why can't the District meet its facilities needs with its current budget?

Today, the scope of improvements needed at Harmony Union School District is far more than the current funding sources available. The per pupil funding which the District receives from the state is intended to be used for the day-to-day business of educating children and not the cost of upgrading, modernizing, and repairing facilities.

How did the District come up with the project list for Measure D?

Over the last couple of months with input from staff, teachers, parents, community leaders, and an architect, the District has prepared a School Facilities Needs Analysis. The Needs Analysis identifies the major repairs and upgrades that need to be made.

Specific projects identified include:

- Repairing or replacing leaky roofs
- Modernizing outdated classrooms, restrooms and school facilities
- Repairing or replacing outdated heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems
- Installing Emergency power and improving water and septic systems.



- Making health, safety, and security improvements
- Constructing classrooms, restrooms and school facilities

What will the passage of the measure mean for our students and the community?

Measure D will provide our students with a better learning environment by making repairs and upgrades to existing classrooms and school facilities; many of which are also used by and available to the community such as the libraries and playing fields.

What will happen if Measure D does not pass?

If Measure D does not pass, our classrooms and school facilities will continue to deteriorate. In addition, funds that would otherwise go to classroom instruction will be needed to make critical safety repairs and improvements at our school. Major repairs will need to be postponed and as a result will potentially be more expensive to make.

What will Measure D cost?

The Measure D tax rate per property owner is estimated to be \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation per year. (Assessed valuation should not be confused with market value. Assessed valuations are the value placed on property by the County and are almost always lower than market values). Check your property tax statement for your current assessed valuation.

How can I be sure that the funds will be spent on improving our local school?

By law, all funds have to be spent locally and cannot be taken by the state. In addition, a local independent citizens' oversight committee will be established to ensure that bond funds are properly spent. Also by law, there must be annual audits of expenditures and no bond money can be used for teacher or administrative salaries.