



Fullerton School District
November 2024 School Bond Measure

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Measure N?

Measure N is a school bond measure on the November 5, 2024 ballot seeking voter authorization for Fullerton School District funding to make needed facility repairs, technology upgrades, and improvements to school sites. Measure N requires 55% support to pass. A “YES” vote approves funding for the District’s plan; a “NO” vote rejects the plan.

Why has the Fullerton School District (FSD) placed Measure N on the ballot?

As the local provider of TK-8 public education, Fullerton School District (FSD) has two key priorities: first, to ensure academic and career success for every one of our 11,500 students; and second, to make sure that our 15 elementary schools, two TK-8 campuses, and three Junior High Schools are healthy, safe, secure, technologically current, well maintained, and equipped to provide FSD students with the *very best* educational setting possible.

Despite the outstanding instruction provided in FSD schools, our neighborhood schools are now 70+ years old. School facility roofs, plumbing, gas lines and building systems need rehabilitation. Classrooms built in the 1950s have limited electrical capacity, and safety systems need continual upgrading. The District has 120 portable classrooms at schools that are 20+ years old. Most of them are falling apart and have structural damage and water leaks. As part of our duty to plan for the future, we are constantly assessing our facilities’ needs. If approved by voters, Measure N provides the funding to begin addressing the identified Fullerton School District facilities and technology needs.

What would funds raised by Measure N go towards?

Measure N Project Summary:

- **PROVIDE** modern labs, technical facilities, and equipment so students are prepared for college, in-demand careers in fields like health sciences, engineering, robotics, and technology fields.
- **REPAIR** older classrooms and school facilities including deteriorating roofs, plumbing, sewer, heating, ventilation, and electrical systems.
- **UPGRADE** older schools so they meet current health codes, building safety codes, provide proper access for students with disabilities, and meet the same academic and safety standards as newer schools.
- **IMPROVE** student safety and campus security including fencing, intruder protection systems, emergency communications systems, smoke detectors, fire alarms, and sprinkler systems.
- **REMOVE** hazardous materials like asbestos and lead pipes from older school sites, where encountered.

What is the actual question that voters will be asked to decide in November?

“To repair aging classrooms, labs and facilities at Fullerton elementary/middle schools to support student achievement in math, science, technology, arts and engineering; remove asbestos/lead pipes; fix deteriorating roofs, plumbing, sewer, electrical; repair, construct, acquire classrooms, sites, facilities and equipment; shall Fullerton Elementary School District’s measure authorizing \$262 million in bonds at legal rates be adopted, levying \$30 per \$100,000 assessed value (\$15,000,000 annually) while bonds are outstanding, with citizen oversight and all money locally controlled?”

How much would the proposed bond cost?

If approved by voters, a \$262 million bond translates to about \$30.00 per year for every \$100,000 of assessed valuation. The assessed valuation refers to taxable value, not the market value of your home. The taxable value of your home or business will depend on when you purchased it. If the bond is approved, the typical homeowner in our school district would pay about **\$140** a year, or **\$12** a month. You can visit octreasurer.com to look up your property’s assessed value. The final fiscal year in which the tax to be levied to fund this bond issue is anticipated to be collected is fiscal year 2059-60.

Are Fullerton SD Schools really that old?

Most of our schools were built more than **60 years ago** and need to be repaired and upgraded. It's time to make essential repairs and improvements so our schools can serve our community well for the decades to come.

What about ongoing school maintenance? Doesn't the District have a facilities budget?

Yes. District facilities staff members work hard to maintain our neighborhood schools and keep them in good working condition with limited resources. However, the reality is that the types of repairs and renovations that our neighborhood schools currently need go beyond the scope and means of regular school maintenance budgets.

Will this bond help replace the end of life/expiring portables still currently in use at our schools?

Yes. Many of the portables that are currently in use at our 20 school sites are either past or nearing the end of their lifespan. Portables are only designed to last a certain amount of time to help bridge the gap between current need and the construction of permanent, long-term classrooms and other school facilities. Replacing portables now is not only necessary, but ensures our students are learning in quality classrooms and offers the potential for long-term savings via a reduction in the cost required to keep the classrooms maintained.

I don't have children or my kids are grown and gone. Why should this matter to me?

Good schools are the foundation of any healthy, thriving community. Good schools make our neighborhoods desirable places to live and support our property values. Studies show that home resale values will benefit as our neighborhood schools are improved. The longer we wait to complete needed upgrades, the more expensive they will become.

Does the District have a Facilities Master Plan or Assessment?

Yes. Facilities assessment and planning continues to be a top priority in planning for student success. Our **Facilities Master Plan** is continually updated to identify and confirm the needs at every school site. Every FSD school has facility needs that require attention. Our goal is to address individual school needs while also striving to achieve equity among all school sites so ALL local public schools provide the same quality education.

What about the High School? Aren't they going out for a bond? Why do we need two bonds?

The Fullerton Joint Union High School District and Fullerton Elementary School District are two distinct districts that have no overlap in terms of funding. At Fullerton Elementary School District, our **15 elementary schools, two TK-8 campuses, and three Junior High Schools** have a pressing need to improve school safety and security, and upgrade classrooms, science labs, and school facilities that support student achievement in science, math, reading, technology, and the arts. Unfortunately, state funding is limited in general, and new funds provided by the State are designated for instructional programs, NOT capital improvements. It's been 22 years since FSD has passed a school facilities bond. The High School District just went out 10 years ago.

Which schools would benefit from the bond proposal you are considering?

All 15 elementary schools, two TK-8 campuses, and three Junior High Schools will benefit from any revenue raised from the potential bond measure we are considering.

If voters approve the bond, when will the work begin?

If the District moves forward with a bond measure and voters approved it, the District would immediately focus on addressing the most critical facility needs. A schedule for funding projects will be developed so that they can be completed on time and within budget.

How can we be assured that the bond money would be spent properly?

Taxpayer protections are REQUIRED. Every penny from this measure would go to benefit FSD schools, be controlled locally, and would not be allowed to be taken away by the state. This measure requires independent citizens' oversight and reports to the community to ensure the funds are spent as promised. None of the money from this measure can be used to increase salaries, benefits, or pensions for administrators, teachers, or any other school employees.

Doesn't the STATE provide funding for facility upgrades?

Very little. In the past, State funding has been available to support local school upgrades, but especially now, we cannot count on this uncertain source of funding. Moreover, in order to access state funding, school districts MUST generate local matching funds by passing a local school bond measure. Passing a local bond is the ONLY way to qualify for additional state funding if and when it becomes available. There are no other sources of funding for major facility upgrades.

Have there been other FSD school bonds? If so, when was the last bond?

FSD makes every effort to use taxpayer dollars in a prudent, responsible manner. Our last bond measure, Measure CC, was passed by local voters in 2002, more than 20 years ago. Measure CC was the first step in a multi-year effort to upgrade aging, deteriorated Fullerton schools, but additional funding is long overdue. Twenty-one years removed from Measure CC, Fullerton has **MORE THAN \$750 MILLION** in unmet facility needs.

Won't we be paying for two bonds for Fullerton Elementary School District at the same time?

No. If approved, any new bond will not come into effect until any previous FSD bonds are completely paid off. The result is that work will be able to begin immediately from this new bond, residents and taxpayers WILL NOT be paying for two FSD bonds simultaneously.

What is a Proposition 39 school bond measure and what can it pay for?

A Proposition 39 school bond measure can ONLY be used to fund school facility and technology improvements (capital projects - not maintenance or regular repairs). A Proposition 39 school bond requires 55% to pass. Proposition 39 school bonds prohibit the use of the funds for operations, administrator salaries or pensions. It

also requires independent financial and performance audits on the use of bond proceeds. No revenue generated by a local bond can be taken away by the State.

Will businesses share in the cost of Measure N?

Yes, commercial, industrial, and residential property owners will be subject to the same property tax levy.

What about the Lottery funding? Wasn't it supposed to fix our schools?

Unfortunately, Lottery funds can only be used for classroom instruction, not technology or facility upgrades. Moreover, the money our school district receives from the Lottery each year comprises less than **2%** of our annual General Fund Budget.

Who is eligible to vote on Measure N?

All registered voters within the Fullerton Elementary School District are eligible to vote on Measure N on the November 5, 2024 ballot.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please go to our website at: www.fullertonsd.org or contact Assistant Superintendent Robert R. Coghlan, Ph.D. at robert_coghlan@myfsd.org or (714) 447-7412.