



Bellevue Union School District
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January 22, 2020

RE: Measure C, on the March 3, 2020 ballot, for the Bellevue Union School District

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Bellevue Union School District has been providing dedicated and excellent educational services to local students since the formation of the District in 1919. Currently, the District educates an estimated 1,600 students at the District's four schools. It is through the hard work and dedication of teachers and staff like you that directly contribute to the education and success of our children.

Although facilities have been well maintained, old classrooms must be upgraded since many do not meet 21st century education and technology standards and regulations. Faced with outdated classrooms and the need to bring school facilities up to current standards, the District and Board of Trustees unanimously decided to place Measure C, a school improvement general obligation (G.O.) bond measure, on the March 3, 2020 ballot to modernize and renovate our outdated schools.

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

Specific types of projects identified include:

- Replacing deteriorating plumbing systems
- Improving student access to computers and modern technology
- Replacing outdated heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems
- Upgrading inadequate electrical systems
- Modernizing and renovating outdated classrooms, restrooms and school facilities

The attached Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) handout is provided to assist parents, guardians and voters in understanding the facts behind Measure C, and how their passage will affect the District, our students and the community. This letter and attached FAQ handout are provided for your information.

Sincerely,

David Alexander
District Superintendent

John Jarvis
Board President

Bellevue Union School District

Frequently Asked Questions Handout – Measure C

Although it appears that our schools are in good shape based on achievements by our students, our classrooms need significant repairs. Faced with aging classrooms and the need to bring school facilities up to current standards, the Bellevue Union School District is placing a general obligation bond measure on the March 2020 ballot that will modernize and renovate our aging schools.

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

What is Measure C?

The proposed measure is a \$28.0 million general obligation (G.O.) bond program. This measure is intended to address the needs of the student population through modernization and renovation projects at the District's four schools.

What is a General Obligation (G.O.) bond?

G.O. bonds fund projects such as the renovation of existing 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 25 to 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 is the District placing Measure C on the ballot?

Our schools are outdated, and upgrades and renovations need to be made. While facilities have been well maintained, old classrooms must be upgraded since many do not meet 21st century education and technology standards. 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 the Bellevue Union School District is far more than the current funding sources available. The 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 and modernizing facilities.

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

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

Specific types of projects identified include:

- Replacing deteriorating plumbing systems
- Improving student access to computers and modern technology

- Replacing outdated heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems
- Upgrading inadequate electrical systems
- Modernizing and renovating outdated classrooms, restrooms and school facilities

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

Measure C 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 and available to the community.

What will happen if Measure C does not pass?

If the measure 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 each school. Major repairs will need to be postponed and as a result will likely be more expensive to make.

What will Measure C cost?

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

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

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