

LA HABRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT MEASURE FACT SHEET AND Q & A

Q. What is the proposed measure and what would it do?

A. The proposed measure is a \$31 million general obligation bond authorization that will:

- Renovate local schools with funding that cannot be taken away by the State, including classrooms, libraries and support facilities
- Create and equip middle school academy facilities focused on enhanced instruction related to Math, Science, Arts, and Humanities that will better prepare students for high school, college, and the global economy
- Provide a permanent source of funding for improved student and teacher access to computers and modern classroom technology
- Upgrade science classrooms and digital media equipment to support a more focused and collaborative learning environment and improve academic achievement
- Modernize classrooms, meet current teaching standards, and provide facilities that are competitive with neighboring districts
- Improve energy efficiency by upgrading lighting, window, utility, heating, energy management, and ventilation systems to reduce annual operating costs and put more money back in the classrooms where it belongs
- Require an independent oversight committee and annual audits to ensure money is used only for voter approved school improvements and repairs and not used for salaries, administration, and overhead

Q. What are General Obligation (G.O.) Bonds?

A. G.O. bonds fund the construction, modernization, or improvement of school facilities; including the furnishing and equipping of schools. Similar to a home loan, G.O. bonds are repaid over time.

Q. How would the bonds be repaid?

A. The repayment comes from a tax on all taxable property within the District's boundaries. The tax rate for repayment is determined by the assessed valuation of a taxable parcel, not market value. Assessed valuation is the value placed on real property by the County pursuant to Proposition 13 and is typically much lower than the market value for which a property may be sold.

Q. How much would it cost?

A. The proposed measure would increase the previously approved tax rate by \$5 a year per \$100,000 of assessed value.

Q. What safeguards exist for taxpayers?

A. State law requires a detailed list of all projects. Only projects identified on the detailed project list may be funded from the measure. In addition, the proposed measure includes guaranteed annual financial and performance audits and an independent oversight committee to ensure money is used only for voter approved school improvements and repairs.

Q. What about other sources of funding?

A. The General Fund is budgeted in large part on annual funds from the State to cover the ongoing costs of running our school, including teacher salaries, and does not account for school repair and construction needs. State law prohibits the use of lottery funds for the repair or construction of school facilities.

Q. What happens if the proposed measure fails?

A. The proposed improvements would be delayed and the facilities needs at our schools would continue to escalate with time.

Q. Who can vote if there is an election?

A. All registered voters who live within the boundaries of the La Habra City School District would be eligible to vote on the proposed measure. Election Day is November 6 and the last day to register to vote for this election is October 22.