



LOWELL JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND MEASURE — FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW ARE LOWELL JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT (LJSD) SCHOOLS DOING?

Our schools are great! LJSD has provided our community with high-quality education since 1906 and currently serves over 3,100 Transitional Kindergarten (TK) – 8th grade students in six schools. All of our LJSD schools are California Distinguished Schools, Business Excellence Schools, and Rancho-Starbuck is a National Schools to Watch School. Lowell Joint ranks #11 in the entire State for reading acquisition. Our top scores in reading and math outperform the Los Angeles County, Orange County, and California State averages. Our highly qualified teachers provide rigorous academics including focus on ARTS for ALL, Dual Language Instruction, Young Engineers, and STEAM programs to help ensure our students have a well-rounded education.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATE OF OUR CLASSROOMS, LABS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES?

We are proud of the excellent academic performance in our district schools, but some of our schools are in need of repairs and upgrades to meet modern academic and safety standards. In 2023, LJSD Board of Trustees approved a revised comprehensive Facilities Master Plan to determine priority repairs and improvements for our schools.

This plan is intended to be completed over the next five to ten years and includes projects such as replacing deteriorating portables with permanent modular classrooms, constructing new classrooms for the arts, upgrading science labs and classrooms for career technical instruction, renovating outdated facilities at older schools to maintain student safety and accessibility, and continuing to upgrade classroom technology to meet current learning standards.

Over the past few years, thanks to Measure LL, all of our schools received repairs and critical updates to the structural foundations of our schools. These improvements have included replacing deteriorating roofs, fire alarm systems, HVAC systems and associated electrical and plumbing; replacing aging portables with permanent modular classrooms at Jordan Elementary School as well as updating parking lot drop-off/pick-up zones to improve student safety and improving ADA accessibility just to name a few.

IS FURTHER WORK NEEDED TO REPAIR, UPGRADE AND MODERNIZE LJSD SCHOOLS?

Yes. While Phase I has already been completed – on time and on budget, there is more work to be done. Measure LL provided the necessary funding for the most urgent priority repairs and upgrades, but additional needs remain.

Projects include replacing deteriorating portables with permanent modular classrooms, constructing new classrooms for the arts, upgrading science labs and classrooms for career technical instruction, renovating outdated facilities at older schools to maintain student safety and accessibility, and continuing to upgrade classroom technology to meet current learning standards.

HOW WILL THE DISTRICT FUND THESE NEEDED REPAIRS AND UPGRADES?

In order to continue the progress of our LJSD Bond Program, the LJSD Board of Trustees unanimously voted to place a school improvement bond measure on the November 2024 ballot. Funding from the bond measure will be locally controlled and entirely dedicated to LJSD schools, ensuring all students are learning in safe and modernized schools.

WHAT PRIORITY REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS WILL THE BOND MEASURE SUPPORT?

- Provide classrooms, facilities and technology needed to support high-quality instruction in math, science, engineering and technology, career technical education, and the performing arts
- Improve access for students with disabilities
- Replace aging portable classrooms with permanent modular classrooms that meet today's academic standards
- Improve student safety, campus security systems including fencing, cameras, emergency communications systems, smoke detectors, fire alarms and sprinklers
- Create modern, multi-use classrooms to support hands-on science and career technical instruction



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HOW DO WE KNOW FUNDS FROM THE MEASURE WILL BE SPENT WISELY?

The measure will include strict fiscal accountability provisions. Required citizens' oversight, independent audits and a detailed project list will ensure the funds are spent properly. By law, none of the funds can be spent on administrators' salaries or benefits, and all funds will stay local to repair and update LJSD schools. No funds from the measure can be taken by the State.

HOW MUCH WILL THE MEASURE COST?

The measure will generate approximately \$54 million, and the cost of the measure will be approximately \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed value (not market value) per year. Assessed value is determined by the County Assessor and is often much closer to the original price of the home than to today's market value. Typical homeowners will pay about \$142 per year.

HOW CAN LJSD GET ACCESS TO STATE MATCHING FUNDS?

If voters approve the measure, the District would be eligible to receive over \$15 million in state matching funds that would otherwise go to other districts.

WILL ALL FUNDS BENEFIT OUR SCHOOLS IN LJSD?

Yes. All funds will go to the Lowell Joint School District, will be controlled locally and cannot be taken away by the State or federal government. An independent citizens' oversight committee will ensure that all funds are spent as required by law.

IS THERE ANY OTHER WAY TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE OUR SCHOOLS?

Our district has few options when it comes to funding necessary repairs and updates that our schools need. We can't rely on the State to complete these repairs and redirecting funds in the current budget would take resources out of our classroom and away from our students.

A school improvement bond measure will provide local funding to address the facilities needs at our schools. In addition, the measure would help our schools qualify for up to \$15 million in state matching funds if the measure were to pass – funds that would otherwise go to other school districts. Our district has, and will continue to, apply for funding from the State if and when it becomes available.

WHO WILL BE ABLE TO VOTE ON THE MEASURE?

All registered voters living in the Lowell Joint School District will be eligible to vote on the measure.

WHAT LEVEL OF SUPPORT WILL THIS MEASURE NEED TO PASS?

The measure will need to be supported by 55% of those who vote in order for it to pass.

HOW CAN I REGISTER TO VOTE OR LEARN MORE ABOUT VOTING?

You can register to vote at www.registertovote.ca.gov. To find out more about voting in this election, please contact the Orange County Registrar of Voters at (714) 567-7600 or the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters at (800) 815-2666.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS?

As we continue planning for the future of LJSD schools, we welcome your questions and comments. Please visit www.ljbsd.org for more information.