

## **Northern Humboldt Union High School District**

### **Frequently Asked Questions Handout**

Although it appears that our high schools are in good shape based on achievements by our students, our classrooms and facilities need repairs. Faced with aging classrooms and the need to bring school facilities up to current standards, the Northern Humboldt Union High School District is placing Measure N on the upcoming November 2018 ballot that will modernize and renovate our aging high school facilities.

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

#### **What is Measure N?**

Measure N is a \$24.0 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 our two high 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 N on the ballot?**

The District operates five high schools, Arcata, McKinleyville, Six Rivers Charter, Tsurai and Pacific Coast.. Some of our school's facilities are outdated and upgrades and renovations need to be made. While facilities have been well maintained, our schools do not meet 21st century education and technology standards. Measure N will allow the District to improve the quality of education provided to local students.

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

Today, the scope of improvements needed in the Northern Humboldt Union High 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 N?**

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 Assessment. The Needs Assessment identifies the renovations and upgrades that need to be made.

Specific types of projects identified include:

- Repairing or replacing leaky roofs
- Updating inadequate electrical systems
- Repairing or replacing deteriorating plumbing and sewer systems
- Making health, safety, security, and handicapped accessibility improvements
- Modernizing outdated classrooms, restrooms and school facilities
- Install energy efficient systems, such as solar and HVAC
- Upgrade, repair, install and construct physical education fields and facilities

#### **What will the passage of Measure N mean for our students and the community?**

Measure N 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. In addition, if the bond passes, money will be able to go back into the general fund to keep more money in the classrooms.

**What will happen if Measure N does not pass?**

If Measure N 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. Repairs will need to be postponed and as a result will potentially be more expensive to make.

**What will Measure N cost?**

The tax rate per property owner is estimated to be \$19.00 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation per year or approximately \$3.00 per month for the average homeowner. (Do not confuse assessed valuation 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 Measure N funds will be spent on improving our high schools?**

By law, all bond 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 salaries.