

## **Lowell Joint School District Frequently Asked Questions about Measure LL**

### **How are our schools doing?**

Our schools are great! All of our Lowell Joint School District (LJSD) schools are California Distinguished Schools and have an Academic Performance Index of over 870. Our top scores in reading and math outperform the Los Angeles County and California State averages. Our highly qualified teachers provide rigorous academics including focus on STEAM programs to help ensure our students have a well-rounded education.

### **What challenges do LJSD schools face?**

We are proud of the excellent academic performance in our neighborhood schools, but the quality and condition of school facilities has not kept pace. All of our schools were built more than 50 years ago and desperately need repairs and upgrades. Our schools have leaky roofs, rusty plumbing and failing electrical systems. It's time to make essential repairs and upgrades to the schools, facilities and classroom technology in our beloved century-old district so we can serve our students and community well for decades to come.

### **How does LJSD plan to address the challenges?**

Our students deserve to have the same educational opportunities as others in the region. In order to make essential repairs and upgrades to our neighborhood schools, the Lowell Joint School District Board of Trustees voted unanimously to place Measure LL, a \$48 million local bond measure, on the November 2018 ballot. Measure LL would cost property owners no more than \$30 of \$100,000 of assessed value (not market value) per year, or about \$105 for the typical homeowner. If voters approve this measure, the District would be eligible to receive over \$16 million in state matching funds.

### **What would be funded by Measure LL?**

If approved by 55% of voters, projects would include:

- Repair leaky roofs, old rusty plumbing and failing electrical systems
- Replace wood and support beams that have extensive termite damage and dry rot
- Renovate classroom facilities so they meet current building and safety standards
- Remove hazardous materials like asbestos and lead paint from school sites
- Upgrade classrooms, school facilities and technology to support high-quality instruction in math, science, technology and the arts
- Improve student safety and campus security systems including security fencing, security cameras, emergency communications systems, smoke detectors and fire alarms
- Improve heating, ventilation, air conditioning, insulation and doors

### **How do we know funds from Measure LL would be spent wisely?**

Measure LL includes strict fiscal accountability provisions. Required citizens' oversight, independent audits and a detailed project list would ensure the funds are spent properly. By law, none of the funds can be spent on administrators' salaries or benefits, and all funds would stay local to support our student. No funds from the measure could be taken by the State.

**How much would the Measure LL cost?**

The annual cost of Measure LL is estimated to be \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed value (not market value) per year. Assessed value is determined by the Los Angeles County Assessor and is often much closer to the original price of the home than to today's market value. Typical homeowners would pay about \$105 per year.

**Would all funds benefit our schools in LJSJ?**

Measure LL includes strict fiscal accountability provisions. All funds would go to the Lowell Joint School District, be controlled locally and could not be taken away by the State or federal government. An independent citizens' oversight committee would ensure that all funds are spent as required by law.

**I don't have any kids in schools. How does local education funding affect me?**

Great schools support strong, safe communities. Whether or not you have school-age children, protecting high quality schools means protecting our quality of life, keeping our community a desirable place for young families to move and protecting our home values.

**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.

**Would I be able to vote on Measure LL?**

All registered voters living in the Lowell Joint School District will be eligible to vote on Measure LL in the November 2018 election.

**What level of support would Measure LL need to pass?**

Measure LL would need to be supported by 55% of those who vote in order for it to pass.

**Has our community supported LJSJ with a school improvement bond measure in the past?**

This is the first time LJSJ is attempting to generate additional revenue for school facility improvements. We are the only district in this region who does not have a school improvement bond supporting its schools.

**How can LJSJ get access to state matching funds?**

If voters approve Measure LL, the District would be eligible to receive over \$16 million in state matching funds that would otherwise go to other districts.

**How can I register to vote or learn more about voting?**

You can register to vote at [www.registertovote.ca.gov](http://www.registertovote.ca.gov). To find out more about voting in this election, please contact 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 LJSJ schools, we welcome your questions and comments. Please visit [www.ljsj.org](http://www.ljsj.org) for more information.