



Hemet Unified School District School Bond Measure X – November 2018 Frequently Asked Questions

What is Measure X?

Measure X DEFINED: Measure X is a local school bond measure on the November 6, 2018 ballot seeking voter authorization to repair and upgrade school facilities, technology and equipment within the Hemet Unified School District (HUSD). To pass, the measure must secure at least 55% support among HUSD voters casting ballots in the November 2018 Election and voting on this measure. A “YES vote” approves funding to implement the District’s Bond Plan to repair and upgrade impacted schools; a “NO vote” rejects the Plan. All HUSD residents who are registered to vote within HUSD boundaries are eligible to vote on this measure.

Why has the School District (HUSD) placed Measure X on the ballot?

Our Hemet Unified School District (HUSD) neighborhood schools work hard educating local children. In return, our community has generously supported funding upgrades in the past. However, over time and with constant use, our schools once again, need attention. Several built in the 1950’s are now deteriorated and outdated. All need ongoing repairs, upgrades and technology improvements for 21st century instruction. HUSD has conducted a full assessment of local school facilities needs over the past year. Measure X is on the ballot to secure voter approval for a prudent funding plan to address the most urgent needs so that local college bound students can properly prepare for higher education, and career bound students seeking jobs immediately after graduation, can get the job training that they need. NO other funding currently exists to upgrade these facilities.

What is the actual question that voters will be asked to decide on in November?

Measure X Official Ballot Question: *“HEMET SCHOOL SAFETY, REPAIR, UPGRADE MEASURE. To improve neighborhood school safety/security; upgrade academic, science, technology, engineering, math, vocational classrooms/labs; repair deteriorating plumbing, roofs, electrical systems; remove asbestos/lead paint; shall Hemet Unified School District issue \$150 million in bonds at legal rates, an estimated 4.9 cents per \$100 assessed value (averaging \$10 million annually) while bonds are outstanding, under a no-tax-rate-increase financing plan, with citizen oversight, independent audits, and no money for Sacramento?”*

What is required for Measure X to pass (win)?

At least 55% of the voters who cast their ballots on Measure X in the November 2018 Election must vote in favor of the bond for it to be approved. Measure X is being sought under the provisions of State Proposition 39, which prohibits use of bond funds for operations or administrator salaries, benefits or pensions, and also requires independent financial and performance audits on the use of bond proceeds.

What are HUSD’s greatest facilities and technology NEEDS? How will bond funds be used?

- **Improve** campus safety and security
- **Renovate** career-training facilities for science, technology, engineering, math and skilled trades
- **Repair** deteriorated infrastructure - roofs, plumbing, electrical and HVAC systems
- **Modernize** classrooms and labs to meet rising college admissions requirements
- **Construct** school facilities to accommodate enrollment growth-

Will Measure X improve instruction?

YES. Our local schools strive for teaching and learning excellence in **every** educational setting. Our goal is to provide all students with access to the education they will need to be successful in high school, college, well-paid jobs of the future and in life. Safe, modern school facilities and education technology are essential to maintaining quality schools and giving our students a competitive edge. As school facilities are improved, teaching and learning will be enhanced and our local quality of education will benefit.

What about other funding?

Hemet Unified School District makes every effort to use resources wisely. But with limited help from the State, the burden is growing to adequately repair and upgrade our aging school facilities and classroom technology. To that end, HUSD is exploring all options — including seeking State matching funds when they become available, to leverage local taxpayer dollars even further in the effort to improve our local schools. NO other funding currently exists to properly upgrade these facilities. Measure X (featuring local school bonds) is the most common way to fund the upgrades we need.

What about ongoing maintenance at HUSD schools?

Our school district maintenance and operations staff work hard to keep our schools safe and in adequate working condition. We have kept up to date with needed safety and critical time-sensitive repairs. But with **nearly 30 school sites** in constant use by thousands of HUSD students, staff and community members every day, our facilities needs far exceed the standard funding allotment we receive for school facilities maintenance.

What about the Lottery or Proposition 30? Weren't they supposed to fix our schools?

Unfortunately, Lottery funds can only be used for classroom instruction, not facility or technology upgrades. The money HUSD receives from the Lottery each year **comprises only about 1.5% of HUSD's General Fund**. Prop 30, approved by California voters in November 2012, has helped prevent reductions in schools' per pupil funding but is also **restricted to instructional use**. Lottery and Proposition 30 funds cannot fund the significant upgrades our schools need.

No one in my home attends local HUSD schools. How will Measure X impact me?

Quality schools are the foundation of a quality community. Good schools help maintain property values. Home resale values are directly impacted by the quality of our schools.

Have there been other HUSD school bonds? If so, when?

HUSD strives to be a model of financial responsibility, making every effort to spend taxpayer dollars wisely. We greatly appreciate the passage of previous school bonds, approved by local voters, which have helped address critical school needs. These include **Measure T** twelve years ago to build new schools and classrooms, and meet safety standards, and **Measure U** six years ago to renovate our schools. By leveraging Measure T & U funds, we obtained additional matching funds from the State and other sources, allowing the District to leverage taxpayer dollars much further. An additional bond would continue your support without increasing the tax rate.

Who is eligible to vote on Measure X?

All residents who are registered to vote within Hemet Unified School District are eligible to vote on Measure X.

What if I am not currently registered to vote? What do I need to know? How can I register to vote?

The last day to register to vote in the November 2018 election (online or by postmark) is October 22, 2018. You may also conditionally register and vote at your local elections office after the 15-day voter registration deadline. Mail ballots must be postmarked on or before November 6, 2018 and received by the county elections office no later than November 9, 2018. Visit www.voteinfo.net to learn more.

How much will Measure X cost?

Passage of Measure X will NOT raise the tax rate that local taxpayers are currently paying to improve Hemet schools. The Measure X Financing Plan simply extends WITHOUT increasing the bond authorization voters approved in 2012. That said, the \$150 million bond currently translates to about \$49.00 per \$100,000 of ASSESSED property value. The “assessed” value of your home refers to the taxable value, *not its market value*. The taxable value of your home or business will depend on when you purchased it. In summary, approval of Measure X will continue locally controlled funding for Hemet USD school improvements, **without increasing your current tax rate** – i.e. keeping your tax rate flat.

Will businesses share in the cost of Measure X?

Yes, both commercial and residential property owners will be subject to Measure X assessments if it passes.

Who makes the final decision on a local school bond?

The locally elected Governing Board of the Hemet Unified School District is the legal entity that placed Measure X on the ballot. Ultimately, Hemet Unified School District REGISTERED VOTERS will have the final say on whether or not Measure X is implemented when they vote on the measure this November.

How can we be assured that Measure X money will be spent properly?

Taxpayer protections are REQUIRED. All Measure X funds stay local - they cannot be taken away by the State or used for other purposes. ONLY facilities, technology and equipment upgrades are allowed. NO funds can be spent on administrators' salaries or pensions. Measure X requires the establishment of a Citizens Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) within 60 days after a successful election result is certified. The CBOC is responsible for monitoring bond finances to ensure the public that the money is being spent properly. Measure X also requires independent annual audits for the public on use of bond proceeds.

Doesn't the STATE provide funding for facility upgrades?

The short answer: very little. In the past, State funding has been available to support local school upgrades but we cannot count on this uncertain source of funding – there are simply no guarantees. Moreover, in order to access State funding, school districts MUST generate local matching funds by passing a local school bond measure. In fact, passing a local bond is the ONLY way to qualify for additional State funding when it becomes available. There are no other sources of funding for the major facility upgrades HUSD needs.

If voters approve Measure X, when will the work begin?

Once the measure is approved, the school district will immediately focus on the most critical facilities needs starting with safety and security upgrades. A schedule for funding projects will be developed so projects can be completed on time and within budget.

For more information: visit www.hemetusd.org or call the HUSD Superintendent's Office at (951) 765-5100.