

Measure AE - California General Election Ballot - Measures & Voter Guide - November 8, 2016

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FULL TEXT OF BALLOT MEASURE AE

The following is the full proposition presented to the voters by the Alhambra Unified School District.

ALHAMBRA UNIFIED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPAIR /STUDENT SAFETY MEASURE.

To repair/upgrade local elementary schools and attract/retain quality teachers, repair deteriorating classrooms, leaky roofs, remove asbestos/lead paint, ensure safe drinking water and disabled accessibility, upgrade school fire and earthquake safety systems, update restrooms, classroom technology/wiring/science labs, repair, acquire, construct classrooms/sites/facilities/equipment, shall Alhambra Unified School District issue \$110,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, require audits, citizen oversight, all funds for local elementary schools?"

PROJECT LIST

The Board of Education of the Alhambra Unified School District is committed to providing a modern learning environment in local elementary schools with safe, secure and upgraded classrooms which both attract and help retain qualified teachers and provide a strong foundation in math, science and technology to help students compete for 21st Century careers. To that end, in developing the scope of projects to be funded, the Board evaluated the District's urgent and critical facility needs, including safety issues, including ensuring safe drinking water, class size reduction, and computer and information technology. The District conducted a facilities evaluation and received public input in developing this Project List. Teachers, staff, community members and the Board have prioritized key health and safety projects so that the most critical facility needs are addressed. The Board concluded that our consistently high-achieving schools strengthen our local property values, and make our community a more desirable place to live, do business and raise a family. Therefore, in approving this Project List, the Board of Education determines that the District must:

- (i) Ensure safe drinking water for all students;
- (ii) Make basic repairs -- repair leaky roofs, remove asbestos, lead paint, earthquake retrofit classrooms, upgrade fire safety systems, improve disabled accessibility;
- (iii) Provide up-to-date classrooms and instructional technology in order to recruit and retain qualified teachers;
- (iv) Adhere to specific fiscal accountability safeguards such as:
 - (a) All funds must be spent locally on elementary schools, and no funds will be spent on administrators' salaries or pensions.
 - (b) An independent citizens' oversight committee must be appointed to ensure that all funds are spent only as authorized.
 - (c) All expenditures must be subject to annual independent financial and performance audits.

The Project List includes the following types of upgrades and improvements at District schools and sites:

SAFE AND HEALTHY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS:

Basic Health and Safety Repair Projects

Goal and Purpose: Some of our local schools are more than 80 years old and need basic health, safety and technology improvements. This funding will enable schools to fix deteriorating classrooms, bathrooms, plumbing systems, and roofs, remove asbestos and lead paint, and replace outdated fire safety systems so children can learn in safe, healthy classrooms.

- Ensure safe drinking water.
- Repair leaky roofs.
- Remove asbestos and lead paint.
- Upgrade school fire safety systems.
- Retrofit classrooms for earthquake safety.
- Improve disabled accessibility.
- Upgrade playground safety.

LOCAL FUNDING TO UPGRADE CLASSROOMS / SCIENCE / TECHNOLOGY LABS TO ENSURE STUDENTS ACCESS TO UP-TO-DATE TECHNOLOGY

Goal and Purpose: Our students need an education with a strong foundation in math, science and technology to compete for twenty-first century careers. This measure will upgrade science labs, technology labs, and wireless internet access to ensure our students will have access to up-to-date technology.

- Upgrade classrooms, science labs, and computer systems to keep pace with technology.
- Update electrical wiring.
- Update classroom technology.

The listed projects will be completed as needed. Each project is assumed to include its share of furniture, equipment, architectural, engineering, and similar planning costs, program/project management, and a customary contingency for unforeseen design and construction costs. In addition to the listed projects stated above, the Project List also includes the acquisition of a variety of instructional, maintenance and operational equipment, as well as the payment of the costs of preparation of all facility planning, facility studies, assessment reviews, facility master plan preparation and updates, environmental studies (including environmental investigation, remediation and monitoring), design and construction documentation, and temporary housing of dislocated District activities caused by construction projects. In addition to the projects listed above, the repair and renovation of each of the existing school facilities may include, but not be limited to, some or all of the following: installation of signage and fencing; renovate student and staff restrooms; repair and replace heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems; upgrade of facilities for energy efficiencies; repair and replace worn-out and deteriorated roofs, windows, floors, walls, doors and drinking fountains; improve school facilities for disability access; install or upgrade shade structures, lunch tables, wiring and electrical systems to safely accommodate computers, technology and other electrical devices and needs; upgrade or construct classrooms, labs, support facilities, including administrative, physical education (including playground equipment), and central and site kitchens; construct a permanent facility for special education preschool program; repair and replace gas, water and sewer systems and lines and plumbing systems, fire alarms, phone systems, emergency communications, security systems, doors and locks; resurface or replace hard courts, asphalt, turf and irrigation systems and campus landscaping; improve outdoor learning spaces; expand or modify parking lots and drop-off areas;

acquire land; interior and exterior painting and floor covering; demolition; construct various forms of storage and support spaces and classrooms; repair, upgrade and install interior and exterior lighting systems; improve playgrounds, athletic fields and play apparatus; install unitary surfacing in existing playgrounds; and replace outdated security fences and security cameras (including access control systems).

The upgrading of technology infrastructure includes, but is not limited to, computers, LCD projectors, portable interface devices, servers, switches, routers, modules, sound projection systems, laser printers, digital white boards, document projectors, upgrade voice-over-IP, call manager and network security/firewall, wireless technology systems, refresh classroom technology, infrastructure upgrades and other miscellaneous equipment.

The budget for each project is an estimate and may be affected by factors beyond the District's control. Some projects throughout the District may be undertaken as joint use projects in cooperation with other local public or non-profit agencies. The final cost of each project will be determined as plans and construction documents are finalized, construction bids are received, construction contracts are awarded and projects are completed. Based on the final costs of each project, certain of the projects described above may be delayed or may not be completed.

Demolition of existing facilities and reconstruction of facilities scheduled for repair and upgrade may occur, if the Board determines that such an approach would be more cost-effective in creating more enhanced and operationally efficient campuses. Necessary site preparation/restoration may occur in connection with new construction, renovation or remodeling, or installation or removal of relocatable classrooms, including ingress and egress, removing, replacing, or installing irrigation, utility lines, trees and landscaping, relocating fire access roads, and acquiring any necessary easements, licenses, or rights of way to the property.

Proceeds of the bonds may be used to pay or reimburse the District for the cost of District staff when performing work on or necessary and incidental to bond projects. Bond proceeds shall only be expended for the specific purposes identified herein. The District shall create an account into which proceeds of the bonds shall be deposited and comply with the reporting requirements of Government Code § 53410.

This bond measure has strict accountability requirements including:

NO ADMINISTRATOR SALARIES. Proceeds from the sale of the bonds authorized by this proposition shall be used only for the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities, including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities, and not for any other purpose, including teacher or administrator salaries, pensions and other operating expenses.

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY. THE EXPENDITURE OF BOND MONEY ON THESE PROJECT IS SUBJECT TO STRINGENT FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS. BY LAW, PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL AUDITS WILL BE PERFORMED ANNUALLY, AND ALL BOND EXPENDITURES WILL BE MONIORED BY AN INDEPENDENT CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO ENSURE THAT FUNDS ARE SPENT AS PROMISED AND SPECIFIED. THE CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MUST INCLUDE, AMONG OTHERS, REPRESENTATION OF A BONA FIDE TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION, A BUSINESS ORGANIZATION AND A SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATION. NO DISTRICT EMPLOYEES OR VENDORS ARE ALLOWED TO SERV ON THE CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.