



Panama-Buena Vista Union School District

November 2022 School Bond Measure

Measure I Info-Only FAQs

What is Measure I?

Measure I DEFINED: Measure I is a local school bond measure on the November 8, 2022, ballot seeking voter authorization to repair and upgrade school facilities, technology and equipment within the Panama-Buena Vista Union School District (P-BVUSD). To pass, the measure must secure 55% +1 support among P-BVUSD voters casting ballots in the November 2022 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 P-BVUSD registered voters are eligible to vote on Measure I.

Why has Panama-Buena Vista Union School District placed Measure I on the ballot?

As the local provider of TK-8 public education, P-BVUSD believes all students deserve to learn in quality classrooms and school facilities. We have two key priorities: to ensure academic success for every student attending one of our schools; and to make sure our school facilities and grounds are safe, secure, modern, and equipped to provide the best educational environment possible. Passage of Measure I will help with both of these priorities.

We appreciate our community’s ongoing support of Panama-Buena Vista elementary and middle schools, which has helped relieve overcrowding and complete repairs and upgrades to aging schools. But more work remains. As more families have moved into our community, student enrollment has grown dramatically. We are constantly planning for new classrooms and schools while simultaneously completing needed repairs and upgrades at our 25 existing schools, some of which are now 60-70 years old. Our schools currently serve more than 19,000 students in the classroom each day. **Measure I provides a plan to address the next set of most critical P-BVUSD facilities & technology needs. No other funding is currently available to properly upgrade these facilities.**

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

“To repair deteriorating roofs, electrical and plumbing; improve school safety and security systems; remove asbestos/lead pipes; and construct/equip new classrooms, labs, and facilities to relieve overcrowding and support college/career readiness in science, math, reading, engineering, technology; shall Panama Buena Vista Union School District’s measure authorizing \$99 million in bonds at legal rates be adopted, levying approximately 3 cents per \$100 assessed value (\$6 million annually) while bonds are outstanding, with citizen oversight and all money staying local?”

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

At least 55% of the voters who cast their ballots on Measure I in the November 8th Statewide General Election must vote in favor of the bond for it to be approved. Measure I is being sought under the provisions of State Proposition 39, which prohibits use of the funds for operations, administrator salaries, or pensions and also requires independent financial and performance audits on the use of bond proceeds.

How will Measure I funds be used?

- Repair deteriorating roofs, plumbing, sewer, and electrical systems
- Upgrade schools for innovative instruction in science, technology, engineering, arts, math (STEAM), and future-focused career pathways
- Construct new classrooms and school facilities to relieve overcrowding
- Renovate older schools to meet the same safety and academic standards as newer schools
- Replace aging portables with modern permanent classrooms
- Provide safe, secure, welcoming spaces for our youngest learners attending Transitional Kindergarten
- Improve school safety and security at all P-BVUSD schools.

Will Measure I improve instruction?

Yes. Safe, modern school facilities are essential to maintaining the quality of our local TK-8 schools. ALL children deserve to learn in quality classrooms and school facilities. Education studies confirm a child's early years are critical for brain development and access to a high-quality education with great teachers in a safe, inviting learning environment is the key to academic and future success.

What about other funding?

Panama-Buena Vista Union School District makes every effort to use resources wisely. 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, P-BVUSD is exploring all options, including seeking State matching funds when they become available, to leverage local taxpayer dollars even further. NO other funding is currently available to properly upgrade these facilities. Local school bonds like Measure I are the most common way to fund the upgrades we need.

What about ongoing maintenance at P-BVUSD schools?

District staff work hard to maintain our elementary, middle, and high school facilities and keep them in good working condition with limited resources. However, the reality is that the types of repairs and renovations our current needs assessment has identified go beyond the scope and means of regular school maintenance budgets.

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

Unfortunately, restricted Lottery funds can only be used for classroom instruction, not technology or facility upgrades. Moreover, the money our school district receives from the Lottery each year comprises less than 1.9% of our annual General Fund Budget. 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.

Doesn't the STATE provide funding for facility upgrades?

Very little. In general, new funds provided by the State are for instructional programs, NOT capital improvements. The State Budget does include some new monies for OPSC (Capital Projects) to fund the huge backlog of projects on a matching basis, but we cannot count on this uncertain source of funding. **Moreover, in order to access state funding, school districts MUST generate local matching funds by passing a local school bond measure. Passing a local bond is the ONLY way to qualify for additional state funding if and when it becomes available.** There are no other sources of funding available for major facility upgrades.

I don't have children, or they are grown and gone. Why does this matter to me?

A bond measure will help maintain quality schools with excellent teachers by repairing aging classrooms and improving student access to instruction in science, technology, engineering, and math. Improving our local schools will make our neighborhoods more desirable places to live, protecting everyone's property values, including homeowners without children in schools. Good schools are the foundation of any healthy, thriving community. The longer we wait to complete needed upgrades, the more expensive they will be.

Have there been other P-BVUSD school bonds? If so, when was the last bond?

Yes. Our community has been supportive of P-BVUSD schools in the past, including passing two school bond measures, in 2018 and 2012. These measures helped relieve overcrowding and complete repairs and upgrades to aging schools while also leveraging taxpayer dollars with the most prudent structuring of local school bonds. Even with the help of Measures P and H, our schools continue to age and more work remains. P-BVUSD must continue the process of modernizing our schools and keeping them up to date. Measure I is on the ballot to assist in that process.

How much will Measure I cost?

A \$99 million bond translates to about \$30 per year for every \$100,000 of assessed valuation. The assessed valuation refers to taxable value, not the market value, of your property. The taxable value of your home or business will depend on when you purchased it. If the bond is approved, the typical homeowner in our school district would pay about \$75 per year, or a little over \$6 per month.

Will businesses share in the cost of Measure I?

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

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

Taxpayer protections are REQUIRED. All Measure I 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, benefits or pensions. Measure I 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 I also requires independent annual audits for the public on use of bond proceeds.

Who makes the final decision on a local school bond?

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

Who is eligible to vote on Measure I?

All registered voters within the Panama-Buena Vista Union School District are eligible to vote on Measure I.

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 2022 election (online or by postmark) is October 24, 2022. You may also conditionally register and vote at your local elections office after the 15-day voter registration deadline.

If voters approve Measure I, 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.pbvusd.k12.ca.us or call (661) 831-8331.