



Napa Valley Unified School District

Frequently Asked Questions About a Potential Bond Measure

How are the schools in the Napa Valley Unified School District performing?

The Napa Valley Unified School District (NVUSD) continues to strive towards the vision of transforming our community by instilling and inspiring lifelong learning in every student. To continue the success of each of our 16,000 students, NVUSD wishes to provide a safe and modern learning environment for everyone.

What is the condition of Napa's classrooms, labs, and school facilities?

While there is much to be proud about the lessons learned and academic successes taking place inside our classrooms, our facilities themselves have not kept pace. The majority of our schools were constructed over 60 years ago and are not equipped to support modern instructional methods. Many classrooms have leaky roofs, inefficient heating, cooling, and ventilation systems, and asbestos that needs to be removed.

How many portable classrooms do Napa schools currently rely on?

There are more than 100 portable classrooms at our schools in Napa, many of which are over 25 years old and falling apart. These temporary structures are beyond their useful lives, and many have structural damage and water leaks.

Do Napa's classrooms and labs meet modern educational standards?

No. Many of our science labs and classrooms are more than 20 years old and cannot support modern instructional methods or 21st-century educational standards that keep our students competitive and successful.

Does Napa Valley Unified School District have a plan to address these needs?

To remedy the identified safety issues and ensure the academic success of our students, Napa Valley Unified School District is considering placing a \$230 million school improvement bond measure on the November 2024 ballot.

Doesn't the State fund school facilities improvements?

No, the State does not provide dedicated funding for local school improvements, meaning that, without a local funding source, Napa school facilities will not keep pace. Voters in American Canyon, Fairfield, and Calistoga recently passed school

improvement bond measures to support their schools. Thus, the District has been exploring local funding options, including a potential bond measure, so that Napa students can have the same educational opportunities as others in the region.

How specifically could a bond measure be spent to improve Napa schools?

A bond measure could fund repairs and improvements in every classroom at every public Napa school. Any bond measure would include a detailed project list outlining the exact use of funds. Potential projects include:

- Removing hazardous materials like asbestos from older school sites
- Repairing or replacing deteriorating roofs, plumbing, heating, ventilation, and electrical systems
- Upgrading older schools so they meet current health and safety codes, and ensuring proper access for students with disabilities
- Providing the classrooms, facilities, and technology needed to support high-quality instruction in math, science, engineering, and technology
- Providing modern labs and career technical education facilities and equipment so students are prepared for college and in-demand careers in fields like agricultural science, health sciences, engineering, technology, and skilled trades.
- Improving student safety and campus security systems including security cameras, emergency communications systems, intruder protection systems, smoke detectors, fire alarms, and sprinklers

How much would the proposed bond cost me?

Although the final details have not been decided, the estimated cost of the proposed measure for the typical Napa homeowner would be \$116 per year. Bond measures are funded based on a tax rate per \$100,000 of a property's assessed value. The tax rate needed to generate \$230 million in locally controlled funding would be \$24 per \$100,000 of assessed value per year.

What's the difference between my property's assessed value and its current market value?

Bond measures are funded based on the assessed value of properties, which is calculated using the original purchase price as a baseline and subject to a maximum annual increase of 2%. Market value tends to appreciate at a faster pace, influenced by various market factors. As a result, the assessed value often

lags behind the current market value, especially for homes acquired many years ago at lower prices. For Napa homeowners who have lived in our community for many years, their property's assessed value is much lower than its current market value.

What sort of accountability protections and financial oversight assurances are built into bond measures?

Any bond measure would require mandatory fiscal accountability protections, including:

- All funds would be controlled locally and could not be taken away by the State
- By law, money could not be used for administrators' salaries or benefits
- An independent citizens' oversight committee and mandatory annual audits would ensure all funds are spent as promised
- A detailed project list outlining the specific use of funds would also be required.

How is education changing in the 21st Century?

With the implementation of new, more rigorous academic standards, many of our school facilities cannot accommodate these rigorous academic standards, which is why the District is exploring the possibility of placing a bond measure on the ballot later this year.

Would a bond measure qualify Napa schools for state matching funds?

Yes, when they become available. The State of California may offer matching funds for school improvements in the future, but those funds would only be available to districts with local bond programs. If Napa schools had a local bond measure, they would be eligible to receive up to \$116 million in State matching money when it becomes available. That money would otherwise go to other districts.

Why do I still see the bond measures from previous years on my tax

bill? Previous measures were never intended to address all of our facility's needs, and all previous bond measure funds have already been utilized to address past enrollment growth and necessary repairs to District buildings impacted by

Earthquakes. Previous measures allowed for us to build several new modern campuses. However, our other facilities are aging and in desperate need of modernization. We want to make sure every school campus and classroom that needs it is safe and modern. To fund these Phase II improvements — specifically in Napa schools — further work is needed.

What about the measures on the ballot in 2022?

In November 2022, Napa Valley Unified School District placed two measures on the ballot: Measure A1 — dedicated to schools only in Napa and our surrounding unincorporated areas — and Measure A2 — dedicated to schools only in American Canyon. Measure A2 was successful and thus, Phase II improvements are underway in American Canyon. Measure A1 fell 132 votes short of the 55% super-majority threshold needed for approval, meaning it did not pass. The needs in our Napa schools have not disappeared since Measure A1, which is why the District is exploring local funding options to address them.

How can I learn more about the potential measure or share my feedback?

We are committed to listening to our community and soliciting feedback as we explore this potential bond measure. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us by emailing safeandmodernnapaschools@nvusd.org if you have any questions or need additional information.