



## **Antelope Valley Union High School District Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How are Antelope Valley Union High Schools doing?**

The Antelope Valley Union High School District (AVUHSD) is united in providing equitable learning opportunities for all students.

We are committed to improving the quality of local education and our students' levels of success as they continue their next steps in life through college or technical careers. To achieve this, we need to update and repair our local schools to keep them safe. Maintaining an atmosphere of excellent facilities will also assist in recruiting and retaining high-quality teachers.

### **What impact do local aerospace companies have on our schools?**

Our area's youth have the unique opportunity to have an upwardly mobile and well-paid career in our local aerospace companies and other local workforce needs, allowing them to stay in the area and improve our communities.

To support students who want to get into careers at these companies, AVUHSD schools offer a variety of Career Technical Education (CTE) courses. The curriculum offered includes industry valued certification programs, as well as work-based learning opportunities in and out of the classroom such as guest speakers, internships, and externships.

### **Why did AVUHSD vote to place a local bond measure on the November 2024 ballot to fund facility improvements?**

It has been 20 years since our District was able to pass a bond measure to fund much needed school repairs and improvements. This measure would help improve our local schools that need upgraded and modern security systems, electrical systems, technology, and labs.

These improvements would allow our students to get the education they need to get ahead when they graduate – whether they choose to attend community college, university, or start their career. AVUHSD has seen an increase in our graduation rate after a dip from the pandemic in 2020 and we look forward to seeing that number continue to rise. Additionally, having modern and safe school facilities is not only important to the success of our students, but also helps with our ability to attract and retain high-quality teachers.

Local funds provided by this measure would give the District the ability to make these necessary upgrades. Every dollar raised by the bond will be used only by the AVUHSD schools, none of which can be taken away by the State.

### **What could a bond measure fund?**

- Replace deteriorating water lines to ensure safe drinking water at schools
- Repair leaky roofs, deteriorating gas and sewer lines, and remove asbestos, lead and mold
- Upgrade instructional technology and outdated computer network wiring
- Upgrade student and school safety, including security at main school entrances
- Improve classrooms, labs and technology for science, engineering, math, robotics and aerospace instruction
- Improve vocational and career technical education classrooms and labs

### **Would a bond measure include Fiscal Accountability Protections?**

If approved by local voters, the bond measure authorizing \$398 million would include strict fiscal accountability protections:

- All money raised by the measure would be controlled locally and could not be taken by the State.
- Public disclosures and annual audits of all spending.
- Independent citizens' oversight and a detailed, specific project list.
- Mandatory independent citizen oversight and public reports of all spending
- Funded by a levy of 2 cents per \$100 assessed property value (assessed value is generally much lower than market value if you've owned your home a long time).
- Local high schools would qualify for millions of dollars in State matching funds.

### **When would the bond measure appear on the ballot?**

The District evaluated options to improve our level of education by funding needed building repairs, and modernizing our classrooms and facilities, as well as ways to help attract and retain high-quality teachers. After reviewing the options and listening to the community, the AVUHSD Board voted unanimously to place a measure on the November 2024 ballot for voters to consider.

### **Are there any other sources of funding for our schools?**

If the bond measure is passed, it would allow our District the ability to receive matching funds from the State. We could potentially get almost a dollar back from the State for every \$2 spent from local funds.

### **What level of support is required for a new bond measure to pass?**

Bond measures need 55% support to pass.

### **Has the District passed a bond before?**

Yes, the last bond measure passed was Measure V in 2002. The funds were used as promised and were validated by the Independent Community Oversight Committee. Funding from this prior bond measure went towards building Eastside High School and other facilities. The District needs to ensure all schools and students have high quality education in classrooms and labs that meet modern educational and safety standards.

### **How can I share feedback and ask questions?**

We value your input as AVUHSD plans for the future. For more information or to ask questions, please contact us at [2024bond@avhsd.org](mailto:2024bond@avhsd.org)