



Newark Unified School District

November 2024 School Bond Measure

Measure O Fact Sheet

Background: Newark Unified School District (NUSD) schools serve an essential community need. As the local provider of TK-12 public education, we believe that today's high school graduates must be prepared to compete in a highly technical and global economy, whether they pursue college or land a good paying job directly after high school graduation. Our job is to help Newark kids succeed.

Newark Unified schools have grown old. In fact, all nine NUSD schools are now at least 60 years old. After decades of constant use, they are deteriorated and outdated, and are all in need of significant repairs and upgrades. The magnitude of facilities needs far exceeds our limited state-allocated facilities budget.

Measure O Defined: Measure O is a local school bond measure on the November 5, 2024 ballot, seeking voter authorization to improve school safety and upgrade NUSD neighborhood schools. To pass, at least 55% of voters must approve Measure O. A "YES" vote supports approving funding to implement the District's plan to upgrade and modernize school facilities. A "NO" vote does not support approving funding for this plan. All registered voters in NUSD are eligible to vote on this measure.

Ballot Question: *"To update schools for 21st century learning, classrooms/ labs for science, technology, engineering, arts and math instruction; technology infrastructure, HVAC, electrical/ plumbing systems, and school security/emergency preparedness; shall Newark Unified School District's measure authorizing \$205,000,000 in bonds at legal interest rates be adopted, with average levies of \$50 per \$100,000 assessed valuation while bonds are outstanding, generating approximately \$14,000,000 annually extending not increasing estimated tax rates, with citizen oversight, annual audits and no funds for administrators?"*

Proposed Measure O School Facility Upgrades:

- **Improve school safety in NUSD schools** by removing safety hazards like asbestos and lead pipes and completing earthquake safety upgrades
- **Modernize** classrooms and labs for 21st century learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM)
- **Renovate** job training and career preparation instructional spaces
- **Repair/Replace** roofs, restrooms, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems
- **Upgrade** education technology infrastructure

Measure O Facts:

- Measure O is not projected to raise the District's existing combined tax rate. It proposes extending without increasing the bond authorization originally approved by NUSD voters in 1997, keeping the tax rate flat.
- If approved by NUSD voters, Measure O would cost property owners an average of \$50 per \$100 of assessed valuation, annually, while bonds are outstanding.
- By law, all Measure O funds must be used to improve NUSD schools. The State can't take this funding away.
- No funds are allowed to be used for administrators' salaries or pensions.
- Independent Citizens' Oversight and mandatory financial audits will ensure proper spending.
- Voter approval will qualify NUSD for State matching funds, potentially leveraging local tax dollars further.

Measure O is informed by NUSD research, facilities needs assessments, and community input. Passage of Measure O will authorize NUSD to improve school safety and upgrade existing neighborhood schools. Election Day is November 5, 2024. Ballots will mail the week of October 7.