

Measure O VOTER GUIDE

YOU Decide.



Measure O is on the November 5th ballot for voters in the Newark Unified School District.

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Measure O

on the November 2024 Ballot for Newark USD Neighborhood Schools

Newark Unified School District (NUSD) schools exist to help students prepare for success in college, jobs, careers, and life. However, NUSD 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 After decades of constant use, they are deteriorated and outdated, and are all in need of significant repairs and upgrades.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 the District's limited state-allocated facilities budget.

Accordingly, and after deliberate study and elevated conversation with parents and community this past year, on Tuesday, August 6th, the Newark Unified School District School Board voted unanimously to place Measure O, a local school bond measure, on the November 5, 2024 local ballot for NUSD voters.

Measure O seeks voter authorization to address these NUSD needs:

- ▶ **IMPROVING** school safety in NUSD schools by removing safety hazards like asbestos and lead pipes and completing earthquake safety upgrades.
- ▶ **MODERNIZING** classrooms and labs for 21st century learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM).
- ▶ **RENOVATING** job training and career preparation instructional spaces.
- ▶ **REPAIRING/REPLACING** roofs, restrooms, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems.
- ▶ **UPGRADING** education technology infrastructure.

Voters will now decide how Newark USD addresses its school facilities needs as they vote on Measure O this fall.



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 NUSD 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.

Measure O Facts:

- ▶ Measure O, while funded by ad valorem property taxes, is not projected to raise the District's existing combined tax rate. It proposes extending without increasing, the tax rate 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 \$100,000 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 of Measure O would qualify NUSD for State matching funds if/when they become available.

Newark voters will consider the following language on the November 2024 ballot. It is up to YOU.

"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?"

YOU Decide.

**Election Day
is November 5th.**

Ballots arrive the week of Oct. 7th.



**NEWARK
UNIFIED
SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

5715 Musick Avenue
Newark, CA 94560

Provided as a public service for your INFORMATION ONLY by the Newark Unified School District. Fall 2024.

Questions & Answers About Measure O

What is Measure O?

Measure O is a local school bond measure on the November 5, 2024 ballot, seeking voter authorization to repair and upgrade school facilities in the Newark Unified School District (NUSD). To pass, Measure O requires at least 55% support from voters who vote on the measure.

Why has Newark Unified School District placed Measure O on the ballot?

As the local provider of TK-12 public education, the NUSD Board of Education believes all students deserve to learn in quality classrooms and school facilities. However, all nine NUSD schools are now at least 60 years old. After decades of constant use, they are deteriorated and outdated, and in need of significant repairs and upgrades. The magnitude of need far exceeds our limited state-allocated facilities budget. No other funding exists to address these needs.

If Measure O passes, how will the money be used?

NUSD's highest priorities for addressing the need are highlighted inside this mailer.

Will passage of Measure O improve instruction?

Safe, modern school facilities are essential to maintaining the quality of our local TK-12 schools. Education studies confirm students and teachers perform best in safe, modern schools.

How much will Measure O cost?

Measure O is not projected to raise the District's existing combined tax rate. Measure O proposes to extend, without increasing, the tax rate originally

approved by NUSD voters in 1997. If approved by voters this November, Measure O will authorize \$205 million in general obligation bonds, with an annual estimated tax rate of \$50 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. (Important note: the assessed valuation refers to taxable value, not the market value of your property. The taxable value of your home or business depends on when you purchased it.)

Both commercial and residential property owners will be subject to the Measure O assessment if it passes.

Does the State provide funding for facility upgrades?

In general, funds provided by the State are for instructional programs, not capital expenditures or improvements. Moreover, in order to access certain state funding, school districts must generate local matching funds by passing a school bond measure. In fact, passing a local bond is the only way to qualify for additional state facilities funding if and when it becomes available. There are no other sources of State funding available for major facility upgrades.

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

If approved by voters, Measure O requires taxpayer safeguards, including independent citizen's oversight and annual independent audits to ensure the funds are spent only to improve schools. No funds can be used to increase salaries, benefits, or pensions for administrators, teachers, or any other school employees. All funds must stay locally controlled, dedicated to NUSD schools. No funds can be taken away or used for other purposes.

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

School bonds help maintain quality schools by improving aging classrooms and improving student access to science, technology, engineering, and math facilities. Improving local schools could make neighborhoods more desirable places to live, protecting everyone's property values.

If voters approve Measure O, when will the work begin?

If approved by voters, the District will focus first on the most critically needed facilities repairs and upgrades. A schedule for funding projects will be developed so they can be completed on time and within budget.

When and where do we vote?

The November 2024 Presidential Election, including the decision on NUSD's Measure O school bond, will take place on November 5, 2024. Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters the week of October 7. There are multiple options for voting—including voting by mail, dropping your ballot at a secure drop box, or casting your ballot at a voting center early or on Election Day. To learn more, contact the Alameda County Registrar of voters at: 510-272-6973 or visit their website at: <https://acvote.alamedacountyca.gov>

Learn More:



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www.newarkunified.org

Provide input at:

Measure_O_FAQ@NewarkUnified.org