

Twin Hills Union School District

Frequently Asked Questions Handout

Our schools may seem in good shape, especially considering students' achievement. However, many of our classrooms are aging and need upgrades and repairs to meet current standards. To this end, the Twin Hills Union School District is considering placing a school improvement bond measure on the June 2026 ballot. If so, local voters will have the opportunity to decide whether the District should implement a funding program to modernize and renovate our aging schools. The information below is intended to assist voters understand the facts behind the proposed measure and how its passage will affect the District and our community.

What is the proposed measure?

The proposed measure will approve \$14.0 million in general obligation (G.O.) bonds to fund the needs of our student population through modernization projects at our schools, including Apple Blossom, Twin Hills MS, SunRidge, and Orchard View.

What is a G.O. bond?

G.O. bonds are used to fund facility improvements such as classroom renovation, repairs and infrastructure upgrades. Similar to a home loan, G.O. bonds are typically repaid over 25 to 30 years. The loan repayment comes from a tax on all taxable property - residential, commercial, agricultural and industrial - located within the District's boundaries.

Why is the District considering placing a measure on the ballot?

Our schools are outdated and in need of upgrades and renovations. While facilities have been well maintained, our aging classrooms require health and safety upgrades to meet 21st century education and technology standards. A local school improvement measure would allow the District to improve the quality of the school facilities and education provided to local children.

Why can't the District meet its facilities needs with its current budget?

The per pupil funding which the District receives from the state is intended to be used for the day-to-day business of educating students and not the cost of upgrading, modernizing, and repairing facilities. What's more, the scope of improvements needed in the Twin Hills School District is far more than the current funding sources available.

How did the District come up with the project list for the proposed measure?

The District recently completed a comprehensive facilities assessment and updated its long-range master plan. Over the last several months the District has also been receiving input from staff, teachers, parents and community leaders to prepare a list of needs. The list identifies the major repairs and upgrades that need to be made.

Specific projects identified include:

- Repairing or replacing leaky roofs
- Making health, safety and handicapped accessibility (ADA) improvements
- Replacing outdated electrical, HVAC, plumbing and sewer systems
- Modernizing outdated classrooms, restrooms and school facilities
- Replacing temporary portables with permanent classrooms

What will the passage of the measure mean for our students and community?

The proposed measure will provide our students with a better learning environment by making repairs and upgrades to existing classrooms and school facilities; many of which are also used and available to the community.

What will happen if the proposed measure does not pass?

If the proposed measure does not pass, our classrooms and school facilities will continue to deteriorate. In addition, funds that would otherwise go to classroom instruction will be needed to make critical safety repairs and improvements at the schools. Major repairs will need to be postponed and as a result will likely be more expensive to make.

What will the proposed measure cost?

The tax rate per property owner is estimated to be \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation per year or approximately \$2.50 per month per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. (Do not confuse assessed valuation with market value. Assessed valuations are the value placed on property by the County and are lower than market values). Check your property tax statement for your current assessed valuation.

How can I be sure that funds will be spent on improving our local schools?

By law, all funds have to be spent locally and cannot be taken by the state. Furthermore, an independent citizens' oversight committee will be established to ensure that bond funds are properly spent. Also, by law, annual audits will be conducted to ensure funds are spent only on projects approved by voters, and NO bond money is used for teacher or administrative salaries.