



MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Proposed Bond Measure - Frequently Asked Questions

How do MDUSD schools impact the community?

Mt. Diablo Unified School District's (MDUSD) award-winning schools are committed to preparing every local student for success in the modern economy, whether they choose to pursue a four-year college degree, attend a vocational school, or enter the workforce directly. MDUSD schools prepare students for college and career by offering dual enrollment with community colleges, partnering with local businesses to offer internships and ensure lessons are relevant to the real world, offering the only International Baccalaureate in the county, an award-winning robotics program, and more.

What is the state of MDUSD classrooms and school facilities?

Many MDUSD schools were built decades ago and are in need of repair and upgrade. Some students learn in outdated classrooms that don't support modern instructional methods; air conditioning, heating, and electrical systems frequently break down, and some school facilities contain asbestos and other hazardous materials.

How do aging school facilities affect classroom learning and instruction?

Facility conditions can impact the learning environment. Issues such as inconsistent temperature control, poor air quality, or electrical systems breaking down can create distractions for students and staff. Older classrooms may lack the electrical capacity or structural layout necessary to integrate modern educational technology and collaborative learning models.

How is MDUSD planning to address the identified issues?

To ensure MDUSD students have the tools they need to succeed in college, the workforce, or future careers, and to learn in safe, up-to-date environments, the District is considering placing a local school facility improvement measure on the November 3, 2026 ballot. While no final decisions have been made, the measure currently under consideration would provide \$529 million in locally controlled funding, dedicated to school repairs.

What specific types of repairs and upgrades could the measure fund?

Local funding could support priority school improvements, including:

- Removing hazardous materials like asbestos from older school sites
- Ensuring clean, safe drinking water at every school site
- Updating math, science, and engineering labs and technology
- Improving safety and security systems
- Providing up-to-date career technical education to ensure students are prepared for college and careers
- Upgrading outdated and inefficient heating, cooling, and ventilation systems

What protections would be in place for taxpayers?

To ensure transparency, the potential measure would be subject to the following accountability measures:

- 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 be required

Would all funds benefit all schools in MDUSD?

Yes. Funds would be locally controlled and would benefit all local MDUSD schools. No funding could be taken away by the State or used for other purposes.

How much would the measure cost?

The projected tax rate for the potential measure is approximately \$38 per \$100,000 of assessed value annually. The actual cost to a property owner is determined by the assessed value of their property, not its current market value.

What is the difference between assessed value and market value?

The cost of bond measures is based on the assessed value of properties. The assessed value of a property is based on the original purchase price and may not increase by more than 2% a year, while the market value tends to grow at a much faster rate based on market conditions. Thus, the assessed value is usually lower than the market value, especially if a property was purchased long ago at a much lower price than it could be purchased for today. It is this lower assessed value upon which the cost of a bond measure is based.

Are senior exemptions available?

No. State law does not allow for exemptions to be applied to bond measures. However, because the cost of a bond measure is based on the original purchase price of a home, residents who have lived in their homes a long time have the lowest assessed values and will pay the least toward the cost of a bond measure.

Is there any other way to maintain and update MDUSD classrooms, buildings, and facilities?

MDUSD has very few options when it comes to funding the necessary repairs and updates that our schools need. The State does not provide funding for school facility updates without local matching funds from a bond measure. Redirecting funds in the current budget would take resources out of our classrooms and away from our students. A potential school improvement bond measure could provide the funding needed to fix and improve school facilities to ensure we can continue to provide a safe and high-quality education for all local students.

Would this measure qualify our schools for state matching funds?

This measure will allow Mt. Diablo schools to qualify for more than \$30 million in state matching funds, that will otherwise go to other school districts.

What is the difference between a school bond measure and a school parcel tax?

Parcel taxes provide local funding to support teachers and academic programs. A school bond measure, by contrast, is entirely different and can only be used for school facility upgrades and improvements, such as repairing aging buildings and infrastructure. Bond funds cannot be used for operating costs, salaries, or programs.

I don't have children attending local schools. How does this impact me?

Even if you do not have school-age children, studies show that funding quality education can help improve the quality of life in the community and protect the property value of local homes.

Didn't we already pass a bond measure?

In 2018, voters in the MDUSD community passed Measure J, which authorized a \$150 million school facilities bond measure. You can read about completed Measure J projects here:

<https://www.mdusd.org/departments/business-services/mo-home/divisions/facilities/measure-j>

However, over the past years, critical school facility needs have been identified and need to be addressed.

Has MDUSD used funds from previous bond measures responsibly?

Yes. The Measure J Citizens' Oversight Committee has found that MDUSD completed bond projects on time and aligned with voter-approved priorities. The oversight committee reports can be viewed here:

<https://www.mdusd.org/departments/business-services/mo-home/divisions/facilities/measure-j/j-cboc>

What level of support does a bond measure need to pass?

School bond measures require 55% support in order to pass.

How can I share my thoughts or learn more?

As MDUSD plans for the future of our neighborhood schools, we welcome your questions and input. For more information or to ask questions, please contact the Maintenance, Operations & Facilities (MOF) Team at facilities@mdusd.org