

BRAWLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT MEASURE 'C' GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS HANDOUT

WHAT IS MEASURE 'C'?

Measure 'C' is a \$18.7 million general obligation (G.O.) bond program. This measure is primarily intended to address the growing needs of the District.

WHY IS THE DISTRICT PLACING MEASURE 'C' ON THE BALLOT?

The continuous deterioration of the District's facilities and equipment drastically limits our students' educational opportunities and ability to compete in a modern day workforce or college environment. New construction last took place on the BUHS campus as a result of Measure 'T' passed by voters in 1998. Some of the current buildings on the high school campus date back to the 1920's. Approving Measure 'C' would allow the District to improve the quality of the school facilities and education provided to local children.

HOW DID THE DISTRICT COME UP WITH THE PROJECT LIST FOR MEASURE 'C'?

Over the last several months, with input from staff, teachers, parents, and an architect, the District has prepared a Needs List for the bond measure.

- Construct a new science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) building
- Replace outdated heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems
- Repair or replace leaky roofs
- Make health, safety and security improvements
- Upgrade inadequate electrical systems

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF MEASURE 'C' DOES NOT PASS?

If Measure 'C' does not pass, the Brawley Union High School District will not have the necessary funds to meet the educational and safety needs of its students. While we remain committed to providing a safe environment for student learning, achievement, and success, without these funds, it will become increasingly difficult to be able to provide 21st century skills and opportunities for our students.

HOW CAN I BE SURE THE BOND FUNDS WILL BE SPENT ON IMPROVING OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS?

All bond 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, no bond money can be used for teacher or administrative salaries.

WHAT IS A GENERAL OBLIGATION (G.O.) BOND?

G.O. bonds fund projects such as the renovation of existing classrooms and school facilities, as well as construction of new schools and classrooms. 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 CAN'T THE DISTRICT MEET ITS FACILITIES' NEEDS WITH ITS CURRENT BUDGET?

Although the Brawley Union High School District has spent over \$4 million to upgrade and maintain its facilities over the last five years, the scope of improvements needed are far more than the current funding sources available. The per-pupil funding the District receives from the state is intended to be used for the day-to-day business of educating children and not for the cost of renovating, repairing, or constructing new facilities for the District.

ARE OTHER FUNDING SOURCES AVAILABLE TO COMPLETE THE DISTRICT'S PROJECTS?

The "Public Facilities Bond Initiative" was successfully passed on the November 8, 2016 ballot. The passing of this measure means that a state funding component could be available to the district. Traditionally, the state will match up to 50% on new construction projects and 60% on modernization projects.

WHAT WILL MEASURE 'C' COST?

The tax rate per property owner is estimated to be \$30.00 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation per year. (Please 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. For example, if your house is assessed at \$100,000, your tax bill for the year for Measure 'C' would be \$30.00, or approximately \$2.50 per month.

The construction of a new science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) building would allow the students of BUHSD to compete locally, nationally, and globally in a field that is growing exponentially. According to 2017 Bureau of Labor Statistics, seven of the ten fastest growing occupations in California are in STEM fields.