

## SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Questions & Answers About MEASURES Q&R

### **What are Measures Q&R?**

Measures Q & R are local school bond measures to upgrade and renovate local school facilities.

### **Why Are Measures Q&R needed?**

While there have been considerable improvements in the quality of our local schools over the past few years, the fact remains that many of our neighborhood schools are old with classrooms that are inadequate and outdated. The average age of our local schools is 50 years. Schools built years ago need significant updating. This measure is necessary to maintain the quality of our local schools

### **How will Q&R funds be used to benefit local students?**

#### Measure Q will better prepare local students for college and careers by:

- Upgrading classrooms, science labs, computer systems and technology;
- Renovating heating and ventilation systems, reducing costs through energy efficiency
- Improving student safety and security systems, including updating lighting and communications systems, fencing, gates and classroom door locks;
- Repair roofs, floors, walkways, bathrooms, electrical, plumbing and sewer systems

#### Measure R will improve the health and safety of children by:

- Repairing playgrounds, playfields and equipment to meet modern safety standards;
- Renovating, rehabilitating or replacing bleachers, athletic fields and add landscaping, including trees for shading;
- Repairing and upgrading drinking fountains and leaky fixtures, irrigation and storm water drainage systems to reduce water consumption;
- Removing asbestos, lead paint and other unsafe conditions to improve students safety; and
- Upgrading kitchen facilities to improve nutrition and nutritional education for children.

### **How will my neighborhood school benefit?**

The school district has conducted a comprehensive needs assessment—school-by-school. School assessments have been conducted for each school—in every neighborhood of the community. Every SCUSD School will receive upgrades from funds authorized by Measures Q&R. The Measure Q&R Project Lists are available on the Sacramento City Unified School District website and in the voter pamphlet distributed by the County Registrar of voters or by calling the Sacramento City Unified School District at (916) 643-7400.

### **What will happen if the bond doesn't pass?**

While well maintained, Sacramento City USD schools continue to age and will require repairs if no additional funding comes in. Delaying facility improvements will increase future costs. Without the funding from Measures Q&R, the district will not be able to renovate schools or obtain matching funds that will go to other districts.

### **What about using state funds?**

The District has already maximized the limited state funds currently available to school districts. The bond will actually help the District to qualify for additional state and other matching funds as they become available.

### **How will the bond benefit those that don't have children in schools?**

Quality schools mean quality neighborhoods. Well-educated youth make better neighbors and employees. Because the resale value of homes in our community is directly affected by the quality of our schools, good schools help increase property values. Each new school is a community resource center.

### **How much will the bond cost?**

The total cost of Measures Q and R is less than \$7 a month for the average homeowner. The entire cost is tax deductible. Every penny from Measures Q and R will stay in our community and cannot be taken away by the State.

**How can we be sure that Measures Q&R money will be spent properly?**

All money raised by Measures Q&R will stay in our community to support local children. It cannot be taken away for the State or used for other purposes. No money can be spent on school administrator salaries. An independent citizens' oversight committee will monitor expenditures and ensure all funds are spent properly.

**Who will be on the oversight committee?**

The oversight committee will be selected after the bond passes. Parents, teachers, business leaders, senior citizens and community groups will all be represented. Anyone interested in serving on the committee is invited to advise the Board through the superintendent.

**Can't the District find the resources it needs by cutting administration and waste?**

The school district has already cut administration to the minimum required to keep students safe, deliver a basic education, and operate the District in an efficient manner. Over the past 4 years the District has absorbed more than \$100 million in cuts in school funding. The District has made nearly \$6 million in cuts to the central office over the past three years, with the goal of keeping cuts as far away from the classroom as possible. Even with these dramatic administrative reductions, the District was still forced to cut teaching staff, counselors, librarians, custodians and assistant principals, among others. The types of repairs and need for renovation proposed in Measures Q&R would be impossible to fund in the District's current fiscal climate.

**How will upgraded facilities impact the quality of classroom instruction?**

Modern, well-maintained classrooms, labs, equipment and up-to-date technology help create a quality teaching and learning environment.

**What about other funding sources—like the Lottery?**

Sources like the State Lottery cannot be used for facility upgrades because by law, Lottery funds can only go directly into classroom instruction. Note: Lottery funds comprise less than 2% of Sacramento City Unified School District's annual budget. Bond measures are the only mechanism available for periodic school renovations and upgrades.

**What is a General Obligation Bond?**

A general obligation bond is a financing mechanism for the funding of capital projects such as repairing and renovating local schools (such as Sacramento City USD schools), as well as public hospitals, libraries, police and fire stations and other public facilities.

**Who gets to vote on Measures Q&R?**

All registered voters who reside within the Sacramento City Unified School District are eligible to vote on Measures Q&R. To pass, Measures Q&R must receive support from 55% of the voters who vote in the November 6, 2012 Election.

**What important dates should I remember?**

Absentee and Sample Ballots are mailed the week of October 8, 2012. Election Day is November 6, 2012. The last day to register to vote in this election is October 22, 2012.

**Where can I go for more information?**

To learn more, visit the Sacramento City USD website, <http://www.scusd.edu/>. If you have questions about the district budget and/or programs, please contact Gabe Ross, Chief Communications Officer, Sacramento City Unified School District at (916) 643-9145.

For information about the citizen's campaign on behalf of Measure Q&R, please contact the Committee to Improve our Schools at [improvesacramentoschools@gmail.com](mailto:improvesacramentoschools@gmail.com). For further information about the measures on the November 2012 election, please go to [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org).