

Measure US: The Local Public Schools Safety and Upgrades Bond Measure Election Date: November 5, 2024 Suggested Talking Points

Remember, the law restricts school districts from using public resources to campaign for or against a ballot measure, and District employees cannot engage in advocacy while they are "on the clock." Nothing prevents employees from providing factual, balanced, impartial information about Measure US and local schools' needs, but employees must provide complete information including **both** the benefits **and** the costs. That means that an employee may not pick and choose only certain talking points below that underscore the advantages of the measure without also mentioning the costs of the measure.

- Measure US, a \$9 billion local school bond measure on the November 5, 2024 ballot, would provide funding to upgrade local Los Angeles public schools.
- The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education voted unanimously to place Measure US on the ballot to help address the estimated \$80 billion of unfunded school facility needs, and the 60+ percent of its buildings that are more than 50 years old, including upgrading Los Angeles public schools for safety and 21st century student learning and college and career preparedness.
- Measure US is estimated to levy an average of 2.5 cents per \$100 of assessed (not market) property value annually, generating about \$456,123,000 each year until approximately 2059.
- For a single-family residence within LAUSD boundaries at the median assessed value of \$444,269, this would equate to approximately \$111 a year or about \$9.25 a month.
- Measure US would also give Los Angeles Unified the ability to replace aging and deteriorating school
 facilities, including school technology infrastructure and equipment, to provide safe, up-to-date facilities
 for 21st century student learning and college and career preparedness; enhance accessibility; support
 the health and well-being of students by enhancing and expanding outdoor spaces and food services for
 students; promote energy efficiency; and right-size school facilities.
- Measure US is subject to strict independent oversight and accountability requirements, including annual independent financial and performance audits, that help safeguard against improper spending and ensure that all bond funds are spent only on voter-authorized projects.
- Bond dollars cannot be spent until allocated to a specific project, included in a Strategic Execution Plan, reviewed by the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee and approved by the Board. That's true of past bond dollars, present bond dollars, and future bond dollars.



Additional Details

All Measure US funds are allocated to specific areas of need, and will provide local school funding to:

- <u>Improve School Safety:</u> Improvements to school facilities for safety and earthquakes to ensure a safe and secure learning environment for students and staff.
- <u>Modernize School Facilities:</u> Upgrade, update, replace and right-size aging and deteriorating school facilities for 21st century student learning and college and career preparedness.
- <u>Upgrade School Sites:</u> Complete essential upgrades to school buildings and grounds (e.g. roofing, HVAC, plumbing, piping, and paving).
- Enhance Accessibility: Improve access for individuals with disabilities.
- <u>Address Facility Inequities:</u> Reduce disparities in school facilities between newer and older schools to provide equitable learning environments across the District.
- <u>Update Technology:</u> Upgrade school and learning technology to ensure students have access to reliable internet and digital tools, enhancing their learning experiences and equipping them with the necessary skills for success in a digital world.
- Support the Health and Well-Being of Students:
 - <u>Expand and Enhance Outdoor Spaces:</u> Improve outdoor areas to support student health, wellness, and safety, focusing on reducing surface temperatures, increasing shade and green schoolyards, and improving paved areas and the overall quality of outdoor environments.
 - Enhance Food Services for Students: Upgrade facilities to support the transition to a new food service model to enable the preparation of fresh healthy student meals to support schools.
- <u>Promote Efficiency:</u> Improve energy efficiency in school buildings and support the transition to electrified infrastructure, including school buses, to foster sustainability and reduce environmental impacts.

Mandatory Fiscal Accountability Requirements

- Measure US funds must be used only for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement
 of Los Angeles public school facilities, including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities, or the
 acquisition or lease of real property for school facilities.
- Measure US funds cannot be used for teacher and administrator salaries and other school operating expenses.
- Measure US funds cannot be taken by the state or federal governments.
- All expenditures are subject to independent oversight, annual audits, and public reports detailing the use of funds.

Important Election and Voting Information

- Election Day is November 5, 2024.
- The deadline to register to vote in this election is October 21.
- Regardless of how you plan to vote, we encourage you to make your voice heard.