

Measure H Frequently Asked Questions

How are Alta Loma School District schools doing?

Alta Loma School District has provided our community with outstanding education since 1884. We are proud that local schools have a reputation for strong student achievement, as well as multiple California Distinguished School Awards and a Blue Ribbon School in our district. Great schools improve the quality of life in our community and protect the value of our homes.

Why do we need Measure H?

Some Alta Loma School District schools are over 50 years old, and many of our schools need repairs and improvements to meet the same standards as newer schools. Roofs are beginning to need replacement, outdated electrical systems will not support current technology standards and portable classrooms need to be replaced with permanent buildings. To meet current academic and safety standards, our schools need to be modernized and upgraded. Measure H will make these updates and prepare our schools for the 21st-century.

What would Measure H fund?

Measure H will:

- Repair or replace deteriorating roofs, plumbing, electrical and air conditioning systems where needed
- Improve student safety and campus security systems, including security lighting, security cameras, fencing, emergency communications systems, smoke detectors, fire alarms and sprinklers
- Improve older schools so they meet the same safety and academic standards as newer schools
- Update instructional technology in the classroom for improved student learning in core subjects like math, science and technology
- Improve access and educational facilities for students with disabilities and special medical needs

Can the State fund upgrades to our schools?

Prior to 2014, the State funded approximately 40% of school construction and expansion costs. The State is not currently funding school facilities construction. This funding responsibility has been transferred to local communities and we unfortunately cannot rely on the State to provide adequate funding for facility improvements. Local funding through Measure H will allow the District to make necessary improvements and help maintain high student achievement.

Can we maintain our schools with funds we already receive from the State?

No. Funds that ALSD *does* receive from the State are used effectively and efficiently to maintain outstanding programs and retain excellent teachers. State funds allow only for the basic maintenance of local schools, however, and do not allow for the capital improvements that classrooms, labs and facilities need to continue providing our students with a high-quality education.

Will Measure H help our district qualify for state matching funds?

While there are currently no existing matching funds, Measure H would make ALSD eligible for these state dollars once they do become available. The state matching funds would provide additional money to help further improve and repair our local schools.

What will happen if Measure H doesn't pass?

If Measure H doesn't pass, improvements will be very limited and come at a much slower pace. Failing to address facilities needs soon will cause problems to become even more costly to repair in the future.

Without Measure H funds, our district will have a difficult time competing with neighboring school districts that have invested improving their schools. Families seek out the safest, most modern school facilities that support a high-quality education to prepare students for success in college and careers. Without Measure H, Alta Loma schools will be behind other school districts in our region.

Will all Measure H funds benefit ALSD schools and remain local?

Yes. All money raised by Measure H would stay local to support our students and could not be taken away by the State.

How do I know that the local funds would be spent as promised?

Measure H will require a clear system of accountability, including a Citizens' Oversight Committee and independent audits to ensure all funds are spent properly. All money raised by the measure would stay local to support our students and could not be taken away by the State.

Is there any other way to repair and improve our schools?

ALSD has very few options when it comes to making the necessary repairs and upgrades to local schools. Our schools can't rely on the State to complete these repairs. Measure H will provide the local control necessary to complete the prioritized projects to provide a safe and modern learning environment for our students. In addition, Measure H would allow ALSD to qualify for state matching funds — funds that would not be available otherwise.

Has ALSD passed a bond measure before?

Yes. In 1999, Alta Loma School District voters approved Measure W, a bond measure that performed vital construction, renovations and repairs to improve safety in our schools. This measure helped keep our schools and students on track. Unfortunately, all funds from the previous bond measure have been spent or committed already and cannot be used to address our schools' modern needs.

When will Measure H appear on the ballot?

The Alta Loma School District Board of Trustees placed Measure H on the November 2016 ballot. To pass, Measure H needs the support of 55% of those who vote. All registered voters in ALSD are eligible to vote on Measure H.

How many votes does Measure H need to pass?

In order to pass, this measure must be supported by 55% of those who vote on it.

How can I find out more information about voting or registering to vote?

You can register to vote by visiting www.RegisterToVote.ca.gov or by calling the San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters at (909) 387-8300. Visit www.sbcountyelections.com for more information about voting. The deadline to register to vote in time to vote in this election is October 24.

What if I have more questions about local schools?

For information about how our local schools are doing, please contact the office of Superintendent James Moore at (909) 484-5151 x2003.

Tough Questions

How much will Measure H cost?

Measure H will generate \$58 million to update and improve Alta Loma schools. These cost of this measure would be limited to \$30 per \$100,000 in assessed (not market) value annually or approximately \$98 per year for the typical homeowner. This cost is based on assessed value, which is closer to the original purchase price of a home and can help seniors. The entire cost is deductible on state and federal income taxes.

How long would we be paying for the bonds?

The bonds issued would have a term limited to 25-40 years as required by law. There are many variables in determining the length of time until they are paid off: the rate of change in local assessed property value in the years to come; the interest rates and state of the bond market at the time each series of bonds is sold; and the various bond structures that we may use in order to take maximum advantage of the bond market and the construction market at the time of bond sales.

For example, it may be advantageous to local taxpayers and Alta Loma School District to act in a way that takes maximum advantage of current, historically low interest rates and construction costs. School improvement projects actually cost substantially less in real dollars today than they did just a decade ago and that could benefit our community. Although the exact duration has not yet been determined, the District has a tentative plan that would pay the bonds in under 30 years.

Is there a comprehensive list of projects that could be funded by Measure H?

Yes. A detailed Facilities Master Plan and full list of projects can be found online at www.tinyurl.com/AltaLomaFMP.

What's the difference between parcel taxes and bond measures?

Bond measures and parcel tax measures are used for different purposes — bond measures can *only* fund facility upgrades and improvements, and cannot be used for operating costs or programs. Parcel taxes may be used for teachers and programs.

Parcel taxes are used to provide consistent, annual local funding that goes into a school district's general fund and can be spent for any purpose, including teacher salaries. Parcel taxes require 66.7% approval to pass and do not require a Citizens' Oversight Committee to review expenditures. For parcel taxes, every homeowner within a school district pays the same amount per parcel. For example, a resident who owns a house that is valued at one million dollars on one parcel will pay the same amount as a resident with a two hundred-thousand-dollar house on one parcel.

Bond measures require 55% approval and are more specific in what they can fund. Bond funds can *only* be used for facility upgrades, repairs and improvements. Additionally, bonds are charged based on the valuation of a property, not a flat charge per parcel. Properties worth more will contribute more. For bond measures, a Citizens' Oversight Committee and annual, independent audits are required for all bond funds, which increases fiscal accountability.

What projects and purchases are included in what bonds *can* fund?

Bond proceeds may be used to fund buildings, equipment, furnishings, and technology. Most school bonds include a mix of “brick and mortar” capital improvements along with the equipment, furnishings and technology that go inside those buildings. When a district issues bonds, they are a package of bonds with different maturity dates so that the debt for items with shorter lifespans will be shorter in duration. ALSD has the option to use shorter-term bonds to fund equipment purchases for career technology education, technology infrastructure and classroom technology, as well as furnishings that have a shorter lifespan than buildings.

If I am a senior citizen, can I get an exemption from this measure?

No. Unfortunately, there is no legal basis for ALSD to grant an exemption and, without legal authority to do so, the District is prohibited from granting exemptions for any reason.

However, the cost of this measure would be based on the *assessed* value of a person’s property, which is different from market value. The assessed value is often closer to the price of the home when it was last purchased, which can help seniors.

Why is an additional revenue stream required to upgrade our schools?

ALSD schools receive funding from the State for operational costs like supporting strong instructional programs and teachers, but this does not provide sufficient funding needed for basic repairs and improvements to meet the same standards as newer schools. The little state funding that is available requires local matching funds, which a potential measure would qualify our district for.

Isn’t Prop 30 being renewed to help our schools? What impact would that have on this bond measure?

In November 2012, California voters approved Proposition 30 to help stem the cuts to education in our state, and it is set to expire this year. Even if Prop 30 funding is extended, details about how funds would be allocated are yet undetermined, so we don’t know if it would even benefit our schools. Measure H ensures that ALSD would have local control over the funds needed to make repairs and updates to our schools. Unfortunately, we cannot count on Sacramento to be a reliable partner in keeping our schools safe and well-maintained for our students.

What about the statewide school bond measure that I’ve heard about? How will that impact our schools and our local measure?

A statewide bond measure for school districts and community colleges has qualified for the November 2016 ballot. If it were to pass, it would provide matching funds for local school bond measures like this one. Passing a local bond measure is the only means of qualifying for matching funds from the state bond measure. These matching funds would allow ALSD to complete additional facilities improvements at no added cost to taxpayers.