

## Kingsburg Joint Union High School District

### Frequently Asked Questions Handout – School Bond Measure E

Although it appears that our high school is in good shape based on achievements by our students, our classrooms need significant repairs. Faced with aging classrooms and the need to bring school facilities up to current standards, the Kingsburg Joint Union High School District placed School Bond Measure E, a tax rate extension general obligation bond measure, on the March 2020 ballot that will modernize and renovate our aging high school facilities.

The following information is provided to assist voters in understanding the facts behind Measure E and how its passage will affect the District and our community.

#### **What is School Bond Measure E?**

Measure E is a \$17.0 million general obligation (G.O.) bond program. This measure is intended to address the needs of the student population through modernization and renovation projects at Kingsburg High School.

#### **School Bond Measure E is not “Sales Tax for Safety Measure E”**

School Bond Measure E should not be confused with last years “Sales Tax for Safety Measure E”. School Bond Measure E monies will go directly to Kingsburg Joint Union High School District.

#### **What will School Bond Measure E cost?**

Measure E will *not* increase the current annual tax rate. Instead, it will extend the estimated tax rate that property owners are currently paying.

#### **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 did the District place School Bond Measure E on the ballot?**

Kingsburg High School is outdated, and upgrades and renovations need to be made. While facilities have been well maintained, old classrooms must be upgraded since many do not meet 21st century education and technology standards. A local school improvement measure would allow the District to improve the quality of the school facilities and education provided to local students.

### **Why can't the District meet its facilities needs with its current budget?**

Today, the scope of improvements needed at the Kingsburg Joint Union High School District is far more than the current funding sources available. The funding which the District receives from the state is intended to be used for the day-to-day business of educating students and not the cost of upgrading and modernizing facilities.

### **How did the District come up with the project list for School Bond Measure E?**

Over the last several months with input from staff, teachers, parents, community leaders, and the District architect, the District has prepared a School Facilities Needs Analysis. The analysis identifies the major repairs and upgrades that need to be made.

Specific types of projects identified include:

- Repairing or replacing leaky roofs
- Modernizing outdated classrooms, restrooms and school facilities
- Improving student access to computers and modern technology
- Making health, safety and handicapped accessibility improvements
- Improving energy-efficiency by installing solar panels

### **What will the passage of the School Bond Measure E mean for our students and the community?**

Measure E will provide our students with a better learning environment by making repairs and upgrades to existing classrooms and school facilities; many of which are also used and available to the community.

### **What will happen if School Bond Measure E does not pass?**

If the measure does not pass, our classrooms and school facilities will continue to deteriorate. In addition, funds that would otherwise go to classroom instruction will be needed to make critical safety repairs and improvements at the school. Major repairs will need to be postponed and as a result will likely be more expensive to make.

### **How can I be sure that funds will be spent on improving our local high school?**

By law, all 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, by law, there must be annual audits and no bond money can be used for teacher or administrative salaries.