

BIGGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Frequently Asked Questions Handout
Regarding Measure “W”

Although it appears that our schools are 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 Biggs Unified School District is placing a general obligation bond measure on the upcoming November 2018 ballot that will modernize and renovate our local schools.

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

What is Measure W?

Measure W is a \$9.5 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 the District’s three schools and District Office.

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 is the District placing a measure on the ballot?

Our schools are outdated and major upgrades and renovations need to be made. While facilities have been well maintained, aging classrooms must be upgraded since many do not meet 21st century safety, education and technology standards. This measure will 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 Biggs Unified School District is far more than the current funding sources available. The per-pupil funding which the District receives from the state is intended to be used for the day-to-day business of educating children and not the cost of upgrading, modernizing, and repairing facilities.

How did the District come up with the project list of Measure W?

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

Examples of the specific types of projects identified include:

- Repairing or replacing deteriorating electrical, plumbing and sewer systems
- Repairing or replacing leaky roofs
- Updating agriculture and vocational teaching facilities
- Repairing or replacing outdated heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems
- Modernizing/renovating outdated classrooms, restrooms and school facilities

What will the passage of Measure W mean for our students and the community?

Measure W 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 Measure W does not pass?

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

What will Measure W cost?

The tax rate per property owner is estimated to be \$47 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation per year. (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. The earliest it would be included in your property tax bill is October, 2019.

How can I be sure that funds will be spent on improving our local schools?

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.