



FORESTVILLE

UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

6321 Highway 116 Forestville, CA 95436

707.887.2279 707.887.2185 FAX www.forestvilleusd.org

Forestville School Facilities & Measure “D” – History & FAQ

At Forestville Union School District, we are committed to equipping all our elementary and middle school students with the tools they need for academic, personal and social success. We provide opportunities for each student to reach their highest potential by establishing a curriculum that meets or exceeds standards for education, providing supportive programs that develop our children's mental, physical and social skills, and partnering with parents and the community to create an environment geared to the success of our students.

Forestville School was originally built more than a century ago. In recent decades, we have successfully continued to maintain all our classrooms and facilities with your support – thank you! With your investment, we have:

- Completed many health and safety improvements
- Modernized and renovated classrooms and other facilities
- Upgraded our campus
- Replaced old portables

Basically, we met all our then-determined priority facilities needs in both 2001 (Measure “E”) and 2010 (Measure “K”).

However, more than a decade has passed since Measure “K”, and more needs have emerged and other potential projects have been determined to both save money better spent in the classroom and help improve the education we provide to our students. In February, our construction team shared an updated facilities needs report, which identified approximately \$6.5 million in current facilities needs, and last summer a solar provider proposed that installing solar panels to offset energy costs and install EV charging stations would cost approximately \$1 million.

So, the Board extensively reviewed our needs and the options we have to meet them, gained substantial community feedback and ultimately decided to place Measure “D” on the November ballot.

Matt Dunkle, Superintendent, Middle School Principal

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What is Measure “D”?

Measure “D” is a \$6.5 million General Obligation bond that would meet all our most critical facilities needs at Forestville School, support student programs and reduce energy costs. More specifically, Measure “D” would:

- Repair and replace leaky roofs and other outdated infrastructure
- Improve student health and safety on campus
- Reduce utility costs by continuing to increase energy efficiency
- Improve other facilities to support programs for students
- Provide the local match for State facilities funds

What are General Obligation bonds?

Bonds have funded a significant portion of school construction projects throughout Sonoma County and the rest of the State, and can help communities qualify for State matching funds. Here at Forestville School, General Obligation bonds have completed many health and safety improvements, modernized and renovated classrooms and other facilities, upgraded our campus, and replaced old portables. The source of repayment for the General Obligation bonds comes from a tax on all taxable property – residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial – located within the District’s boundaries.

What would Measure “D” cost me?

Measure “D” is projected to cost \$20 per \$100,000 of taxable value. Taxable value is often lower than market value, due to Prop. 13 limits. Similar to a home loan, any new bonds would be repaid over the life of the assets financed, currently estimated to be 28 years.

How much would the total repayment cost be?

Including interest, Measure “D” is projected to cost \$12.8 million in total, or \$1.97 for every \$1 borrowed, like a typical home mortgage – though the specific amount will be determined based on many factors (tax rate, market conditions, etc.).

Are there safeguards for taxpayers?

Just like Measure “K” in 2010, Measure “D” requires an independent citizens’ oversight committee and annual audits to ensure funds are *only* spent on voter-approved projects improving classrooms and facilities in Forestville Union School District, and not used for administration or salaries.

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What about Measure “E” in 2001 and Measure “K” in 2010?

In recent decades, the District has used the community’s investment to complete many health and safety improvements, modernize and renovate classrooms and other facilities, upgrade our campus, and replace old portables. More specifically, Measure “E” in 2001:

- Developed the parking and frontage on Travis Road
- Modernized the gym and auditorium
- Constructed an additional classroom wing in the middle school
- Removed portables from the playground

A decade later, Measure “K”:

- Developed the upper and lower parking lots to improve the school entry and separate traffic to improve student safety
- Met ADA requirements
- Created the M&O shed and storage for the drama program
- Removed more aging portables
- Created the outdoor primary lunch area, the pre-kinder room and playground
- Replaced the toilets in the grade 1-3 bathrooms
- Made campus-wide playground improvements
- Completed the library

Beyond effectively and transparently using that investment, the District has also been a good steward of those dollars, refinancing the bonds when viable to reduce the cost to taxpayers. Now, the total cost of the bonds is \$730,000 less than when they were originally issued, and the combined tax rate for both measures is below projections shared with voters. Further, all Measure “E” bonds will be paid off by 2029-30, reducing existing tax rates at that point by approximately \$20 per \$100,000 of assessed value, and all Measure “K” bonds will be paid off by 2041-42, eliminating any tax rate requirements for previous bonds.

However, it’s been more than 20 years since Measure “E” and more than a decade since Measure “K”, and many needs have emerged since, and other potential projects have been determined to both save money better spent in the classroom and help improve the education we provide to our students.

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What about other money received from the State?

Forestville is fortunately better funded than many of our neighbors as a 'Basic Aid district' (meaning most of our funding does not come from the State) and we are in the process of providing our staff with the compensation they deserve, while also reducing other expenditures to maintain our critical reserves. Using General Fund dollars for significant facilities projects would mean we have that much less money for classroom activities, as annual California education funding does not typically provide us with additional funds for construction.

However, the District *is* actively working to gain considerable State facilities funding. But dollars for Forestville School will probably not arrive for some years *and* will require an equivalent local match. Combined with philanthropy and other resources the District is able to obtain, Measure "D" will allow us to meet our most critical needs.

Who can vote on Measure "D"?

All registered voters within Forestville Union School District will be able to vote on Measure "D".

What happens without Measure "D"?

A significant portion of our needs will remain unfunded or inadequately funded.

How can get more information about facilities needs at Forestville School and Measure "D"?

All the related information is available for review at the District Office and on our website: www.forestvilleusd.org. Please also feel free to reach out to the District to ask any additional questions or schedule some time to tour our campus.

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The Forestville Union School District is an equal opportunity agency and employer. The District does not unlawfully discriminate on the bases of ethnicity, age, religion, gender, color, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability. The District compliance officer is the Superintendent. 2019-2020