

## **Westminster School District Frequently Asked Questions about Measure T**

### **How is Westminster School District performing?**

Westminster School District (WSD) offers a quality education for local students to provide the foundation in core academic subjects they need for success in high school, college and 21st-century careers. WSD serves nearly 10,000 students in kindergarten through eighth grade at 17 school sites. This year, WSD was one of just 13 school districts in California and the only district in Orange County to be named an Honor Roll School District, a national program recognizing high-performing schools that improve outcomes for students. Additionally, the California Department of Education has honored nine WSD schools with the Gold Ribbon Schools Award for gains in academic achievement and seven more sites were honored as Academic Achieving Schools for meeting the needs of lower-income students.

### **What challenges are our schools facing?**

All of our local schools are 46 to 66 years old and have aging classrooms and science labs that need to be updated. For example, aging roofs leak, which disrupts classroom instruction. Schools lack air conditioning systems and classrooms often reach temperatures of 80 to 100 degrees.

### **What is the plan to upgrade aging WSD schools?**

WSD has developed a plan complete the highest-priority school improvements over the next 10 to 12 years. These projects cannot be completed immediately due to the lack of available funds and the staging required to avoid disruption to teaching and learning in our schools. The cost of the high-priority improvements is estimated at approximately \$120 million. WSD is planning to use funding from several sources to complete the priority upgrades without diverting funds from teaching and instruction. These sources include state matching funds, redevelopment funding and funds from a locally approved bond measure.

In order to begin work on urgent school improvements as quickly as possible, WSD has placed Measure T, a \$76 million local school bond measure, on the November 8, 2016 ballot.

### **Specifically, what would Measure T do?**

Measure T would complete the highest-priority school improvements, which include:

- Repairing or replacing leaky roofs
- Replacing outdated heating and ventilation systems with updated air conditioning systems in all classrooms
- Constructing a gymnasium at Stacey Middle School for physical education and community use
- Upgrading inadequate electrical systems
- Improving student access to modern technology
- Renovating outdated classrooms, restrooms and school facilities

**How could I be sure funds would be used responsibly?**

Measure T would include strict fiscal accountability protections:

- All funds would benefit Westminster schools and could not be taken by the State
- An independent citizens' oversight committee and annual audits would ensure that all funds are spent according to voter-approved purposes
- No funds could be used for administrators' salaries

**How much would Measure T cost?**

The annual cost of Measure T is estimated to be \$24.50 per \$100,000 in assessed (not market) property value. Assessed values are based on the original purchase price of a home and are typically much lower than the current market value of a property.

**When will I be able to vote on Measure T?**

Measure T will appear on the ballot in the November 8, 2016 election, and vote-by-mail voters will receive their ballots in the mail in early October. The deadline to register to be eligible to vote in this election is October 24 and the deadline to request a mail ballot is November 1.

**Who is eligible to vote on Measure T?**

All registered voters in Westminster School District will be eligible to vote on Measure T.

**How can I register to vote or learn more about voting?**

You can register to vote at [www.registertovote.ca.gov](http://www.registertovote.ca.gov). To find out more about voting in this election, please contact the Orange County Registrar of Voters at 714-567-7600 or visit [www.ocvote.com](http://www.ocvote.com).

**What level of support does Measure T need to pass?**

Measure T must be supported by 55% of those who vote on it in order to pass.

**How can I find out more?**

For questions or comments, please contact Superintendent Dr. Marian-Kim Phelps at [feedback@wsdk8.us](mailto:feedback@wsdk8.us). You may also visit [www.wsdk8.us](http://www.wsdk8.us) for regular updates.