

## **Mountain View Whisman School District Measure T Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How are our schools in Mountain View Whisman School District doing?**

Mountain View Whisman School District (MVWSD) proudly provides a high-quality education that prepares local elementary and middle school students for high school, college and careers. Our district has many California Distinguished and National Blue Ribbon Schools, which keep property values high and enhance our quality of life.

### **What is the impact of high-quality teachers on education in Mountain View?**

Exceptional teachers and great academic programs provide a high-quality education for local elementary and middle school students. Our community relies on our teachers to ensure that students are prepared for high school, college and careers, however, due to high cost-of-living in the area, Mountain View educators cannot afford to live in our community. The MVWSD Board of Trustees has examined options to help keep the best teachers here in Mountain View schools.

### **How is MVWSD planning to address classroom and facility challenges in local schools?**

The Mountain View community has supported schools with facility improvement bond funding in the past and our district has examined options to begin the next phase of work in outdated classrooms and buildings. Aging roofs need to be repaired, and replacing 40-year-old, inefficient ventilation systems would save money that could be better spent in the classroom. Local schools also require updates to support technology, art, music and science programs.

Additionally, as school enrollment increases by an estimated 2,500 students in the next few years, upgrades are needed to bring school facilities up to modern standards and to ensure students can attend their neighborhood schools.

### **How could local funding be used to upgrade and repair local schools?**

In order to maintain excellent education in Mountain View schools, the MVWSD Board of Trustees voted unanimously to place Measure T, a \$259 million bond measure, on the March 3, 2020 ballot. If passed, Measure T would:

- Provide affordable housing options for Mountain View teachers and staff
- Replace aging, inefficient windows, lighting, heating and ventilations systems for cost savings and environmental sustainability
- Upgrade facilities to accommodate expected enrollment growth and ensure students can attend their neighborhood schools
- Update classrooms and labs to maintain the quality of technology, art, music and science programs
- Upgrade electrical, internet and data systems to handle modern learning technology

### **Would fiscal accountability protections be included?**

Yes, Measure T would include mandatory fiscal accountability, including:

- All money raised by Measure T would be controlled locally to support MVWSD schools and could not be taken away by the State
- An independent citizens' oversight and annual audits would be mandated to ensure funds are spent as required by law
- None of this funding could be used for administrators' salaries, pensions or benefits
- This measure is estimated to cost no more than \$30 per \$100,000 in assessed (not market) value per year

#### **Could the State take away funding from Measure T?**

No. All funds generated from Measure T would be locally controlled to support Mountain View Whisman elementary and middle schools. The State would not be able to take a single penny.

#### **How much would a measure cost?**

The District voted to place a \$259 million bond measure on the March 3, 2020 ballot to upgrade and repair educational facilities. The cost of the measure would be limited to no more than \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed (not market) value annually.

#### **Could Measure T help our District qualify for state matching funds?**

Yes. If passed, Measure T could potentially qualify our schools for millions of dollars in state and local matching funds that would otherwise go to other communities.

#### **When will Measure T appear on the ballot?**

The Board of Trustees has placed the Measure T on the March 3, 2020 ballot.

#### **What level of support is required to pass a bond measure?**

At least 55% of those voters who cast a ballot on Measure T must vote "Yes" in order for it to be approved.

#### **Who is eligible to vote on the measure?**

All registered voters in the Mountain View Whisman School District are eligible to vote on this measure.

#### **What if I have more questions?**

MVWSD values questions, comments and feedback from parents and community members. To learn more about the school funding needs, please visit [www.mvwsd.org](http://www.mvwsd.org).