

NOTICE OF ELECTION – BALLOT MEASURE

NOTICE OF BALLOT MEASURES TO BE DECIDED UPON. NOTICE OF TIME WITHIN WHICH ARGUMENTS AND REBUTTAL ARGUMENTS FOR OR AGAINST MEASURES MAY BE FILED WITH THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS. NOTICE OF CENTRAL COUNTING LOCATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS FOR SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE ELECTIONS LAWS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA THAT ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024, THERE WILL BE A GENERAL ELECTION.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT AT THE GENERAL ELECTION THE FOLLOWING MEASURE SHALL BE PUT TO A VOTE FOR THE QUALIFIED VOTERS IN THE GALT JOINT UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

GALT JOINT UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND MEASURE H

BALLOT QUESTION

The following is the abbreviated form of the bond measure:

“GALT JOINT UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT CLASSROOM REPAIR MEASURE. To provide a high-quality education for all students by keeping schools safe/clean; repair deteriorating roofs, plumbing, heating, ventilation systems; improve school security/fire safety, upgrade science/engineering/technology classrooms/labs; increase disability access, shall Galt Joint Union Elementary School District’s measure authorizing \$27,000,000 in bonds at legal interest rates, levying 3¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation, raising \$1,960,000 annually while bonds are outstanding, be adopted, requiring audits, independent citizen oversight, and all funds controlled locally?”

FULL TEXT OF MEASURE

INTRODUCTION

The Galt Joint Union Elementary School District serves the Galt community in southern Sacramento County as well as portions of northern San Joaquin County. The District houses approximately 3,600 students at its seven school sites.

The District is dedicated to serving the community and offering an excellent education for the our elementary and middle school students. Several of the District’s school sites are aging and in need of repair and renovation. It is critical that the District increase space in order to adequately house all of its students.

The District has performed a thorough assessment of every classroom and school facility and identified facility needs at each District school site. The District has collected and considered feedback from the community, including from parents and teachers, in order to prioritize improvements based on urgency and importance. This effort forms the basis of the District’s Facilities Master Plan.

The District’s schools also require equipment upgrades, building retrofits for safety and security, improved access, and repair or replacement of deteriorating roofs, old plumbing, sewer, heating, ventilation, and electrical systems. The community has a critical and increasing need of technology and infrastructure to support high-quality instruction in math, science, and technology.

Dedicated funding is required to meet these needs and provide safe, updated classrooms and facilities needed to support high-quality instruction to all students in our District.

Asking the District’s voters to approve a general obligation bond is a necessary step to securing both local and state funding. The State of California requires a local match, funded primarily through local general obligation bonds, for school districts wishing to pursue matching state funds for the upgrade or replacement of school buildings and facilities. The millions of dollars potentially available through the State match allows local taxpayers to benefit from the tax dollars they already pay to Sacramento.

It is imperative that our students are housed in safe, complete, comprehensive, and efficient facilities. We need to act locally to build, upgrade, and refurbish safe, clean, and modern schools to ensure our students have the educational opportunities they deserve.

GALT JOINT UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

CLASSROOM REPAIR MEASURE

To provide a high-quality education for all students by keeping schools safe/clean; repair deteriorating roofs, plumbing, heating, ventilation systems; improve school security/fire safety, upgrade science/engineering/technology classrooms/labs; increase disability access, shall Galt Joint Union Elementary School District’s measure authorizing \$27,000,000 in bonds at legal interest rates, levying 3¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation, raising \$1,960,000 annually while bonds are outstanding, be adopted, requiring audits, independent citizen oversight, and all funds controlled locally?

As required by the California Constitution, the proceeds from the sale of the bonds will be used only for the purposes authorized under Article XIII A of the California Constitution, including construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities, furnishing and equipping of school facilities, or the acquisition or lease of real property for school facilities, as specifically set forth in this Measure, and costs incident thereto, and not for any other purpose, including salaries and other routine school operating expenses.

The following list describes the specific projects the District proposes to finance with proceeds of the bonds. The scope of specific projects, the order of construction, and their completion is contingent on final project costs and the availability of needed funds. Further, projects on the project list are of the type that issuing the authorized general obligation bonds as stated will not cause the State to reduce any financial hardship contribution that would otherwise be available to the District had these bonds not been authorized, issued, and or expended for their stated purpose.

SCHOOL FACILITIES PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED FROM BOND PROCEEDS

The following list includes both projects that can be completed using the bond proceeds, along with State matching funds and other building funds the District is projected to receive and projects that are planned and needed but whose construction is contingent on the amount of bond funds available, plus the amount of State matching and other building funds the District may receive in the future, which is a function of the State building program rules, passage of State bonds, and the growth rate of the District. The completion of specific projects is also contingent on final project costs.

All District Sites, including but not limited to:

Fairsite Elementary and Early Learning Center (Grades pre-Kand TK; Built in 1956) located at 902 Caroline Avenue Galt, California	Lake Canyon Elementary School (Grades K-6; Built in 2005) located at 800 Lake Canyon Avenue, Galt, California
Marengo Ranch Elementary School (Grades K-6; Built in 1997) located at 1000 Elk Hills Drive, Galt, California	River Oaks Elementary School (Grades K-6; Built in 1992) located at 905 Vintage Oak Avenue, Galt, California
Valley Oaks Elementary School (Grades K-6; Built in 1968) located at 21 C Street, Galt, California	Robert L. McCaffrey Middle School (Grades 7-8; Built in 2003) located at 997 Park Terrace Drive, Galt, California
Vernon E. Greer Elementary School (Grades K-6; Built in 1992) located at 248 West A Street, Galt, California	

- Improve emergency communications systems;
- Install campus security systems including security cameras, lighting, door locks, and fencing;
- Upgrade fire safety systems, including safety doors, smoke alarms, and smoke detectors;
- Improve access to school facilities for students with disabilities;
- Repair or replace leaky roofs;
- Repair and replace plumbing and electrical systems;
- Repair or renovate outdated hearing, air conditioning, and ventilation systems;
- Repair and replace aging classrooms, labs, and facilities;
- Repair or replace portables/modular classroom facilities;
- Upgrade existing athletic facilities and develop additional athletic facilities, including playfields and related infrastructure;
- Reconfigure parking lots and bus lanes to increase safe access to schools.

Approval of the District’s bond measure does not guarantee that all of the identified projects within this bond project list will be funded. The District plans to pursue funds from the State of California, if available, to complete certain of the identified facilities projects. The District is unable to anticipate all unforeseen circumstances which may prevent some of the projects listed above from being undertaken or completed.

The order in which projects are listed in the foregoing bond project list does not suggest an order of priority. Project prioritization is vested in and will be determined by the District Board of Education. Bond proceeds shall only be expended for the specific purposes identified herein. The District shall create an account into which proceeds of the bonds shall be deposited and comply with the reporting requirements of Government Code section 53410.

The Board of Education hereby certifies that it has evaluated the safety, class-size reduction, and information technology needs of the District in developing this list of school facilities projects.

Each of the bond projects described in this bond project list include the costs of furnishing and equipping such facilities, and all costs which are incidental but directly related to the types of projects described above.

These projects may include participation in the State Facility Program’s Joint-Use Program to gain matching funds for teacher education, multi-purpose rooms, gymnasiums, libraries, childcare, and other qualifying Joint-Use facilities. With respect to such joint-use projects, the bond funds authorized by this Measure may be used to pay all of the local share needed to qualify the projects for special State matching funds under the State Facility Program’s Joint Use Program requirements.

ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

If the bonds are approved, the Board of Education will implement the following accountability measures in accordance with State law:

- Use the bond proceeds only for the purposes authorized under Article XIII A of the California Constitution, including construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities, furnishing and equipping of school facilities, or the acquisition or lease of real property for school facilities and related uses, as specifically set forth in this Measure, and costs incident thereto, and not for any other purpose, including salaries and other routine school operating expenses;
- Conduct an annual, independent performance audit to ensure that the bond proceeds have been expended only on the projects and uses listed in this Measure;
- Conduct an annual, independent financial audit of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds until all of those proceeds have been expended for school facilities projects and uses listed in this Measure; and
- Establish and appoint members to an independent citizens’ oversight committee to ensure the bonds are used only for the projects and uses listed in this Measure.

STATE MATCHING FUNDS

California Education Code section 15122.5 requires the following statement to be included in this Measure and provided to the voters:

Approval of this bond measure does not guarantee that the proposed projects in the Galt Joint Union Elementary School District that are the subject of bonds under this measure will be funded beyond the local revenues generated by this bond measure. The District’s proposal for certain of the projects assumes the receipt of matching state funds, which are subject to appropriation by the Legislature or approval of a statewide bond measure.

ANNUAL TAX AMOUNT, RATE, AND DURATION

The bonds shall bear interest at an annual rate not exceeding the statutory maximum. The maturity of the bonds shall not exceed the maximum term allowed by law at the time of issuance (currently 25 years if issued under Education Code section 15140, or 40 years if issued under Government Code section 53508, so long as the bonds are not capital appreciation bonds (“CABs,” which CABs are limited to 25 years)). Accordingly, as further set forth in the tax rate statement, the *ad valorem* tax will be levied at such rates and for so long as may be required to meet the debt service needs of the bonds proposed to be issued, including such bonds that may be issued to refund any approved bonds.

To the extent permitted by law examples of incidental costs include, but are not limited to: costs of design, engineering, architect and other professional services, facilities assessments, inspections, site preparation, utilities, landscaping, construction management and other planning and permitting, legal, accounting and similar costs; independent annual financial and performance audits; a customary construction contingency; demolition and disposal of existing structures; the costs of interim housing and storage during construction including relocation and construction costs incurred relating to interim facilities; rental or construction of storage facilities and other space on an interim basis for materials and other equipment and furnishings displaced during construction; costs of relocating facilities and equipment as needed in connection with the projects; interim classrooms and facilities for students, administrators, and school functions, including modular facilities; federal and state-mandated safety upgrades; addressing unforeseen conditions revealed by construction/modernization and other necessary improvements required to comply with existing building codes, including the Field Act; access requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act; costs of the election; project construction oversight, management and administration during the duration of such projects, including by District personnel, and bond issuance costs.

Unforeseen conditions may arise during the course of planning, design and construction resulting in the scope and nature of any of the specific projects described above being altered by the District. In the event that the District determines that, with respect to a modernization or renovation project, it is more economical for the District or otherwise in the District’s best interests to be undertaken as new construction, this bond measure authorizes said new construction, including land acquisition, relocation, expansion and construction and/or reconstruction, and all costs relating thereto. Conversely, if the District determines that it is more economical or otherwise in the best interests of the District to modernize or renovate District facilities instead of undertaking a new construction project, this bond measure authorizes such a project. In addition, this measure authorizes the acquisition of real property, including necessary rights of ways or other real property interests, required to expand District facilities, to provide access to school or other District facilities, or to provide additional school or related facilities. Further, authorized projects include reimbursements for project costs previously paid and paying and/or prepaying interim financing for the types of projects included on the project list, such as bond anticipation notes. Finally, projects on this list may be undertaken and used as joint use projects with other public agencies.

ARGUMENTS AND REBUTTALS TIMELINE

(SACRAMENTO IS THE PRIMARY COUNTY)

Thursday, August 8, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. is hereby fixed as the final date and time for the filing of arguments. Arguments for or against the measures listed are not to exceed 300 words in length. The 10-calendar day required public viewing period will be from Friday, August 9, through Sunday, August 18, 2024.

Monday, August 12, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. is hereby fixed as the final date and time for the filing of rebuttal arguments. Rebuttal arguments are not to exceed 250 words in length. The 10-calendar day required public viewing period will be from Tuesday, August 13, through Thursday, August 22, 2024.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that California Elections Code Section 9600 governs the form of said arguments and/or rebuttals. Arguments and/or rebuttals submitted to the Sacramento County Elections Office must follow E.C. 9600. Authors of said arguments/rebuttals may call the Elections Office at (916) 875-6276 for more information on submitting an argument for or against a measure. To be eligible for printing and distribution as provided by law, such arguments and rebuttals must be received and filed at Voter Registration and Elections, 7000 65th Street, Suite A, Sacramento, CA 95823, no later than said date and time. All arguments and rebuttals must be submitted in block format. Limited use of bolding, underlining, capitalizing, italics or bullets (small solid circle only) is permitted. Arguments and rebuttals that are not in compliance will be reformatted and set in uniform type.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Vote by Mail processing may begin on the 29th day before the election, which is Monday, October 7, 2024. All ballots cast in the November 5, 2024, General Election shall be mailed at the central counting place, the San Joaquin County Registrar of Voters warehouse located at 7585 Longe Street, Suite 112, Stockton, California. Initial results will be available at 8:15 p.m. on election night and continue until the count is completed. Persons interested in viewing these procedures should contact the San Joaquin County Registrar of Voters’ Office at (209) 468-8945 for further information. (EC §§ 12109, 15101, 15104)

Office of the Registrar of Voters
San Joaquin County