



PROS & CONS: ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MEASURE B: ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (AUSD) BOND MEASURE 2022

55% vote required to approve Measure B

THE BALLOT QUESTION

“To upgrade local classrooms, math/science labs, technology, college/career training facilities for high quality academic education; improve accessibility, earthquake safety, school security, water quality/plumbing systems; renovate, acquire, construct, classrooms, sites, facilities/equipment; shall Alameda Unified School District’s measure authorizing \$298,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, raising approximately \$14.7 million annually by levying, on average, \$45 per \$100,000 assessed value while bonds are outstanding, be adopted, with audits, independent oversight, no money for administrators, and all funds used locally?”

THE CURRENT SITUATION

In the past 10 years Alameda voters have approved three measures to support Alameda schools. In 2014 voters approved Measure I, a \$179.5 million infrastructure bond, to upgrade and modernize Alameda schools in line with the 2014 Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) Facilities Master Plan. Measure I bonds were issued in three segments, the last in 2019. In June 2021 the District had \$35.9 million remaining in Measure I funding with projects currently either in planning or construction stages. Voters approved the Measure B1 parcel tax in 2016 and the Measure A parcel tax in 2020. Measure B1 supported smaller class sizes, neighborhood elementary schools, programs to close the achievement gap, high school athletics, enrichment (including media centers, art, and music), and technology. Measure A supported an increase in teacher salaries closer to the county average which, in turn, helps to attract and retain high-quality employees.

THE PROPOSAL

The Alameda Unified School Board is placing Measure B on the ballot, a bond to continue work on capital improvements and to complete critical repairs from the 2014 Facilities Master Plan. The Bonds will be issued over a 12-year period and will be used to: upgrade classrooms, sites, facilities and technology to support high-quality academic programs in science, technology, reading, writing and math; keep schools clean, well maintained and in good condition; replace

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out-of-date plumbing to save water and improve water quality, outdated heating/cooling systems for energy efficiency and safe air quality; provide essential upgrades for earthquake safety, school security and school accessibility; and add sporting facilities at the middle and high schools.

FUNDING OPTIONS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

School districts in California have two options to raise local funds – issuing a bond or parcel tax. Both require voter approval. With a bond, investors loan money and taxpayers repay the interest and principal over a set number of years through increased property taxes. Bonds also have administrative fees and require 55% vote approval. Parcel taxes are paid along with property tax and require a two-thirds vote. Typically, parcel taxes are used for operational expenses. It would take districts much longer to accumulate sufficient funds for construction projects. There have been recent challenges to the constitutionality of parcel taxes.

FISCAL EFFECTS

Measure B bonds will be issued between 2023 and 2033. It is estimated that Alameda homeowners will pay an average of \$45 per \$100,000 of assessed value annually (or a yearly average of \$670). During the term that Measure B bonds are expected to remain outstanding, the District’s current bonds will retire. Considering the impact of retiring bonds, on average, the citizens of Alameda will pay the following additional annual amounts for each \$100,000 of assessed value if Measure B is passed:

2023-2032: Increase of \$28.95 from current (2022) amount

2033-2042: Increase of \$24.84 from current (2022) amount

2043-2052: Increase of \$2.41 from current (2022) amount

2053-2058: Reduction of \$9.71 from current (2022) amount

The best estimate of the total debt service, including principal and interest, is \$515 million.

SUPPORTERS SAY

1. Every penny must be spent in Alameda Unified District Schools.
2. Good schools are a part of what makes Alameda a great place to live, whether or not you have school-aged children.
3. Many schools are in desperate need of repair. It will fund critical updates to classrooms, instructional technology, and science labs.
4. Bonds are a less expensive, more stable way, to fund debt
5. There is local control with a Citizen’s oversight Committee and annual independent audits to ensure transparency and accountability.
6. The annual fee for the bond is based on a home-owners assessed value NOT the potential sale price.

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OPPONENTS SAY

1. An additional \$670/year would be a hardship for many Alameda homeowners who already pay over \$1,000 per year for AUSD Measures B1 and A parcel taxes.
2. There are no exemptions for seniors or the disabled on bonds.
3. Debt service on the funds is estimated at \$515 million with only \$298 million going to schools. Instead of a bond for 35 years, a “pay as you go” parcel tax for 20 years would eliminate \$217 million of debt servicing and interest payments on the \$298 million loan.
4. To determine if expenditures were voter approved, this Measure must list actual capital improvement projects instead of vague purposes like “keep schools clean.”
5. This Measure should not be on the ballot in a primary election.

A YES vote means: You want AUSD to issue \$298,000,000 in bonds, on average \$45 per \$100,000 assessed valuation, to continue to fund school construction projects.

A NO vote means: You do not want AUSD to issue the bonds.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.BetterAlamedaSchools.com

Supporters:

Barry Parker – Retired Orthodontist and Business owner
Sally Han – Alameda Realtor
Ken Cala – CPA, Financial Planner
Liana Hans – Business Owner
Mike McMahon – Retired AUSD Board Member

Opponents:

Marcus Crawley, President, ACTA
Leland Traiman, Registered Nurse, JD
David Howard, AUSD parent
Janet Gibson, Former AUSD Board Member
Trish Herrera Spencer, Former AUSD Board Member

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