

Liberty Union High School District – Bond Measure U

We take great pride in the quality education provided to Liberty Union High School District students. Liberty, Freedom, and Heritage all have been recognized by the California Department of Education with the California Gold Ribbon Award for Excellence. While we are very proud of our comprehensive educational program, we are concerned that many of our high school facilities are in need of significant repairs, upgrades, and safety improvement.

Last year, the school district completed a comprehensive assessment of Liberty Union High School District schools and developed a plan to address three district-wide goals.

- 1) Modernize and repair existing facilities;
- 2) Address student enrollment growth associated with rapid development;
- 3) Provide equitable facilities across the District at our three comprehensive high schools.

Because state funding to maintain and renovate school facilities is inadequate, local funding is needed to enable the District to provide a quality education in safe modern facilities that we believe all students deserve.

In June, the Board of Education voted unanimously to place a bond measure (Measure U) on the November 8, 2016 ballot to address these goals and our most critical educational classroom, technology, safety and equipment needs.

Measure U supports a plan to make significant repairs and renovations at Liberty, Freedom, Heritage, Independence, and La Paloma, ensuring that students across the district have equitable access to our comprehensive academic, career technical education, and athletic programs. Specifically, Measure U will:

- Repair or replace leaky roofs, old rusty plumbing, faulty electrical wiring and expensive to operate air-conditioning systems;
- Upgrade classrooms, labs and computer systems, and career training facilities to prepare students for college and jobs;
- Upgrade security lighting, fencing, smoke detectors, fire alarms, sprinklers, and campus security systems for student safety and security;
- Ensure that music and performing arts facilities at each high school are up to the same standard;
- Create career technology education classrooms for advanced training in agricultural sciences, hospitality, and skilled trades;
- Replace aging portable classrooms that are expensive to repair and maintain;
- Construct additional classrooms and facilities to relieve overcrowding;
- Upgrade worn-out athletic facilities to improve student health, fitness, and safety, and ensure facilities at each high school are equitable;
- Provide repairs at Independence High School, as needed.

If approved by voters, the measure will authorize up to \$122 million in bonds to finance various repairs and improvements at our schools. The projected cost of the bond to taxpayers is \$28 per \$100,000 of assessed (not market) value.

Measure U requires a clear system of accountability, including a project list that details how the money may be used, establishing a Citizens' Oversight Committee, and conducting independent audits to ensure all funds are spent as intended.

Additional information can be obtained from the District's website at: <http://libertyunion.schoolwires.net>