



September 26, 2024

**RE: Measure R on the November 5, 2024, Ballot**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

At Kelseyville Unified School District, we've been providing excellent education for local children since 1921. Today, our dedicated teachers and hard-working staff serve almost 1,900 students.

Because our district has been around for so long, many of our facilities are aging. In 2016, voters passed a bond measure that enabled us to update our schools and add classrooms. Now, our work must continue. We are once again at capacity—with a new apartment building bringing even more students our way. We need to address essential repairs, add more classrooms, and improve infrastructure so we can keep providing a high-quality education to our students. With these upgrades, we should not need to request additional bond funding for many years to come.

By investing in our schools, we can meet current and upcoming standards for safety, technology, and education, which is good for students and the whole community. Strong schools contribute to the economic vitality of their local communities.

To fund essential repairs, modernize our facilities, and make space for our growing student population, the District and Board of Trustees have placed Measure R, a school improvement general obligation bond measure, on the November 5 ballot. If passed, the bond would provide funding to address many of our most urgent needs, including:

- Building new classrooms to make space for increased enrollment
- Repairing or replacing leaky roofs
- Updating inadequate electrical systems
- Repairing or replacing outdated HVAC systems
- Making health, safety, and handicapped accessibility improvements
- Repairing or replacing deteriorating plumbing systems

The attached Frequently Asked Questions document includes information to assist voters in understanding the facts behind Measure R, and how its passage will affect the district, our students, and the community. Please take a moment to review the information. To learn more, visit [kvusd.org/bond-measures/measure-r](https://kvusd.org/bond-measures/measure-r), and feel free to reach out to us should you have any questions on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nicki Thomas  
District Superintendent

Rick Winer  
Board President



## Measure R Frequently Asked Questions

Faced with aging classrooms and the need to bring school facilities up to current standards, the Kelseyville Unified School District (KVUSD) is placing a general obligation bond measure on the November 2024 ballot to fund the modernization and renovation of our schools.

The following information is intended to assist voters in understanding the facts behind the measure and how its passage will affect the District and our community.

### **What is Measure R?**

The proposed measure is a \$36 million general obligation bond program. It is intended to address the needs of Kelseyville students through modernization and renovation projects at all KVUSD schools.

### **What is a general obligation bond?**

General obligation bonds fund projects such as the building of classrooms and renovation of school facilities. Similar to a home loan, general obligation bonds are typically repaid over 30 years. The loan repayment comes from a tax on all taxable property--residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial--located within the District's boundaries.

### **Why did the District place Measure R on the ballot?**

Although our facilities have been well maintained over the years, our schools are old, with aging classrooms and facilities that require attention. We need major renovations and upgrades to relieve overcrowding and assure that students have safe places so we can maintain the quality of the education we provide.

### **Why can't the District meet its facilities needs with its current budget?**

School funding in California depends on both state funding and local tax dollars. State funding can only be used for operational expenses like teacher salaries, supplies, and other materials directly related to student instruction. For facilities maintenance and construction, schools must depend on local tax dollars. The scope and type of improvements we need far outstrips the funding we have available.

### **How did the District come up with the project list for Measure R?**

To figure out exactly how to keep students safe and thriving, we hired a company to objectively assess our school campuses and collect input from staff, teachers, parents, community leaders, and an architect. Here's what the needs assessment reported:

*Original and historic buildings throughout the district are especially in urgent need of modernizing in order to meet current safety and accessibility standards, as well as access to the digital education tools necessary for our 21st century learning environment...Given increasing construction, maintenance, and utility costs, as well as the need for facilities to serve as an important community resource for emergency shelter in extreme weather and disaster events, this Needs Assessment focuses on safety, accessibility, durability, and cost containment/mitigation.*

Specific projects include:

- Building new classrooms to make space for increased enrollment
- Repairing or replacing leaky roofs
- Updating inadequate electrical systems

- Repairing or replacing outdated HVAC systems
- Making health, safety, and handicapped accessibility improvements
- Repairing or replacing deteriorating plumbing systems

**What will the passage of Measure R mean for our students and the community?**

Measure R will provide our students with better learning environments by making repairs and upgrades to existing classrooms and school facilities; many of which are also used by the community, such as the libraries and playing fields.

**What will happen if Measure R does not pass?**

If Measure R does not pass, our classrooms and school facilities will continue to deteriorate. KVUSD schools are at capacity (and with fluctuations in student populations, sometimes over capacity). Without new funding, monies that would otherwise go to classroom instruction will be used for the most essential repairs, many of which are costly. Any major repairs that can be postponed will be, and as a result, will potentially be more expensive to make.

**What will Measure R cost?**

The tax rate per property owner is estimated to be \$60 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation per year. (Do not confuse assessed valuation with market value. Assessed valuations are the value placed on property by the County and are lower than market values.) Check your property tax statement for your current assessed valuation.

**How can I be sure that funds will be spent on improving our local schools?**

By law, all bond funds must be spent locally and cannot be taken by the state. In addition, a local independent citizens' oversight committee will be established to ensure that funds are properly spent. Also, by law, there must be annual audits of expenditures, and no money can be used for teacher or administrative salaries.

The last time the district did a bond, we kept the community informed of our progress along the way, so people knew that we respected and appreciated their support. Thanks to sensible planning from our school board and careful execution from our staff and community partners, we were able to complete projects at every single school, even during a pandemic. Visit our website to learn more about our 2016 bond: [kvusd.org/bond-measures/index](http://kvusd.org/bond-measures/index).

These enhancements continue to make a big difference for our students. However, our work isn't finished. Due to increased enrollment and the normal wear and tear of so many students on our campuses, we need to invest in our schools again. This should be the last time we request a bond measure for many years.