

Southwestern Community College District

2024 Facilities Bond Measure



FACT SHEET

Background: For more than 60 years, Southwestern Community College District has provided a high-quality, affordable college education and career training to thousands of local students in the South Bay area, offering a wide range of undergraduate degrees, university-transfer courses, certificate programs, and career and technical education programs. The College District exists to provide affordable access to higher education and the job training college students and returning veterans need to succeed in life, along with the skilled workers needed to fuel our local economy.

Southwestern College is where most of our local nurses, police, firefighters, and 911 emergency responders are trained. It is a vital resource for South Bay college students and veterans seeking real-world skills to compete for good-paying jobs or to prepare to transfer to 4-year colleges or universities without facing crushing loan debt. Southwestern even invites local high school students to get a jump start on college by taking courses while still in high school and leads innovative initiatives to provide local residents and students from across the border to attend Southwestern College, many of whom are the first members of their families to receive and experience a college education.

However, after more than six decades of constant use by students and staff, our local college continues to age and deteriorate. The need for facility upgrades continues so that we, as a community, can ensure that the College is here for current students and future generations to come. This is the goal of the District's 2024 facilities bond measure on the November 5th ballot. This measure seeks voter authorization to upgrade classrooms, labs and facilities to better prepare local students for jobs, careers and transfer to 4-year colleges and universities. No other funding exists to address these needs.

Approval of the SWCCD Bond Measure will:

- Upgrade job training, vocational classrooms, labs and technology to help train first responders, including local nurses, firefighters/ paramedics
- prepare college students and returning veterans for jobs and transfer to 4-year colleges and universities
- **Continue to provide** clean drinking water systems and remove old lead pipes and asbestos
- **Repair** leaky roofs, deteriorated HVAC units, gas and sewer lines, and faulty plumbing and restrooms
- **Increase** accessibility for disabled students
- **Improve** campus safety, updating lighting, fire alarms, cameras, and emergency systems

Ballot Question: The College's facilities bond measure proposal is now headed for the November 5th ballot. **The specific ballot question that local voters will be asked to decide reads: "SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE CAREER EDUCATION, REPAIR, AFFORDABLE HIGHER EDUCATION MEASURE.** To upgrade job training, vocational classrooms, labs/technology to help train local nurses, firefighters/ paramedics; prepare students/veterans for jobs/university; repair deteriorating roofs, gas/sewer lines; remove lead pipes/asbestos; shall Southwestern Community College District issue \$800,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, levy on average \$25 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation, generating \$51,100,000 annually while bonds are outstanding, requiring audits, public spending disclosure, all funds staying local, be adopted?"

Strict accountability and taxpayer protection is REQUIRED. ALL funds stay local, dedicated to Southwestern College. Public spending disclosure, annual audits, independent citizens' oversight ensure funds are used as promised.

A "YES vote" would support the bond proposal; a "NO vote" would reject the proposal. All voters living in the

Southwestern Community College District who are registered to vote will be eligible to vote on this measure. Fifty-five percent (55%) voter approval is required for passage.

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