

# Goleta Union Elementary School District

MEASURE

# M

## FUNDING FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS AND TECHNOLOGY ACCESS



**VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY NOV. 3, 2020**



Upgrading science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) classrooms and labs throughout the District



Repairing and replacing outdated and leaking roofs, pipes, and plumbing



Improving student internet access and classroom technology



Increasing renewable and sustainable energy projects, including solar and other renewable energy programs

The Goleta Union Elementary School District has placed Measure M, a bond measure, on the November ballot. The last District bond measure was in 1996. The District has significant facility needs for repairs and upgrades. Measure M appears at the very bottom of the November ballot.



# Goleta Union Elementary School District



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT IS MEASURE M?

Measure M is a general obligation (GO) bond measure on the November 3, 2020, presidential election ballot. If approved by over 55 percent of District votes cast, Measure M will authorize \$80 million in bonds to **upgrade classrooms, increase student access to the internet, and improve classroom technology throughout Goleta Union Elementary School District**. Measure M will also qualify the District for state matching funds, if the measure is approved by voters.

### WHY IS MEASURE M NEEDED?

The District's Board of Trustees believes the state does not provide sufficient funding for repairing facilities and updating technology. Measure M will allow the District to fund critical classroom and technology improvements to provide our children with the skills needed to compete in a modern world. In addition, COVID-19 has made it clear that emergencies can happen at any time, and our schools must be equipped to educate our students in a safe and secure learning environment.

### WHAT IS A GO BOND?

GO bonds are commonly used by California school districts to fund improvement projects, such as construction and renovation of classrooms. Similar to a home loan, GO bonds are repaid over time. Funds to repay the bonds come from a tax on all taxable property—residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural—located within the District.

### WHAT PROJECTS WILL BE FUNDED BY MEASURE M?

- Upgrading Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) classrooms and labs
- Repairing and replacing leaking roofs, pipes, and plumbing
- Installing new heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems
- Increasing renewable and sustainable energy projects, including solar and other renewable energy programs
- Increasing student access to the internet and classroom technology
- Improving restrooms, playgrounds, and classrooms throughout the District to meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements
- Replacing aging electrical wiring and infrastructure throughout the District
- Renovating and retrofitting classrooms and facilities
- Increasing student safety

### HOW MUCH WILL MEASURE M COST?

Measure M's average annual tax rate is estimated to be \$19.31 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. Assessed valuation should not be confused with market value. The assessed valuation is the value placed on the property by Santa Barbara County and is typically lower than market value.

### HAS THE DISTRICT RECENTLY PASSED A BOND?

No, Goleta Union Elementary School District has not placed a bond on the ballot since 1996, when it was overwhelmingly supported by our community. Recently, surrounding school districts have placed bond measures on the ballot, but it has been 24 years since our District has asked our community for additional funding with bond measures.

### WHAT TAXPAYER PROTECTIONS ARE IN PLACE?

Measure M comes with significant taxpayer protections. An independent Citizens' Oversight Committee and a third-party auditor must review and audit all bond expenditures. Funds are prohibited from being used for administrators' salaries, pensions, or benefits. **Measure M includes legal safeguards requiring all bond funds be spent on Goleta Union Elementary schools—the state is legally prohibited from taking and spending the funds in other districts.**

### DO I NEED TO HAVE CHILDREN IN THE GOLETA UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT TO VOTE ON MEASURE M?

No, any registered voter who lives within the Goleta Union Elementary School District boundaries is eligible to vote on Measure M. You can find Measure M at the very bottom of your November ballot. If you need to register to vote, you can register online at [www.registertovote.ca.gov](http://www.registertovote.ca.gov).

### DO I NEED TO LIVE IN THE CITY OF GOLETA TO VOTE ON MEASURE M?

No, Goleta Union Elementary School District serves the Goleta Valley, which includes a large swath of unincorporated Santa Barbara County between Santa Barbara and Goleta, as well as Isla Vista.

### HOW DO I VOTE BY MAIL?

Starting the week of October 5, all registered voters will receive a vote-by-mail ballot. Once you complete your ballot, sign your ballot envelope, and simply drop your ballot in the mail—postage is prepaid—or in a drop box provided by the County Elections department by November 3, 2020. Voters are encouraged to mail their ballots early this year. If you need additional assistance or would like to drop off your ballot in person at a polling place or drop box, please visit [www.countyofsb.org](http://www.countyofsb.org) for more information.



For more information, please visit [www.goleta.k12.ca.us](http://www.goleta.k12.ca.us)