

Measure “I” Information

Proposed District-Wide School Facilities Improvements

What are the proposed improvements, and why are they needed?

Many schools in Ripon were first built more than 50 years ago. The District staff has done a good job of maintaining these schools, but many of the facilities are now in need of major improvements that are beyond the means of the District’s maintenance budget. The District is currently exploring options to fund projects to:

- Improve student safety and security at all schools in the District, including fencing, cameras, and updated safety hardware and access to buildings
- Replace portable classrooms with permanent construction, modernize existing facilities and replace roofs at Ripona Elementary School
- Modernize and improve student facilities at Ripon High School, and replace outdated portable classrooms with permanent construction
- Build a new permanent science lab, and modernize and reconfigure career technical education facilities including classrooms in the agricultural department, at Ripon High School
- Build new restrooms at the High School Stadium for physical education classes, school and community events
- Renovate outdated restroom facilities at Ripon Elementary School, and replace roofs on classrooms and other buildings
- Acquire land as required and provide additional classrooms to enable the District to maintain smaller class sizes at schools
- Modernize or replace classrooms to improve student learning environments and to better prepare students for college and competitive job opportunities upon graduation

These projects are based on an initial review of the District’s needs, and may change.

How will these improvements be funded?

It is the District’s intent to identify and utilize all available funds for the proposed improvements. However, these funds are not expected to be sufficient to cover the costs of the proposed projects, and the District is considering a local bond measure to support the improvement program.

Other available funds may include future developer fees and State Aid eligibility or reimbursements. The District is currently in line to receive approximately \$6.3 million in State Aid reimbursements from the Weston reconstruction project and will be applying for a reimbursement for the Colony Oak project. These projects were funded with the District’s 2012 Measure “G”, which make the District eligible to receive these reimbursements from the State in the form of matching funds.

A preliminary poll conducted in December 2017 indicated that a majority of the community would support a local measure to fund the proposed improvements.

If the District were to place a bond measure on the November 2018 ballot, who would vote on it and how many votes would be needed to win?

The Ripon Unified School District currently has approximately 10,700 registered voters. While all registered voters would be eligible to vote in the proposed election, the voter turnout is typically less than 100%. Assuming a November 2018 election (gubernatorial election), and based on the turnout during the prior gubernatorial election, approximately 45% or 4,800 voters are expected to vote this November.

Given the 55% passage rate requirement, approximately 2,700 voters would need to vote “YES” for the Measure to be approved. The passage rate for the District’s 2012 Measure G bond was 57.66%.

How much will the Measure raise, and how will it be repaid if successful?

The Measure will generate approximately \$38.5 million over time, to fund projects and to make the District eligible to receive additional state matching funds. As with past bonds, a property tax to repay the proposed bonds would be included on future property tax bills. The District’s election of 1989 bonds have now been fully repaid, and taxpayers are currently repaying the election of 2002 and the election of 2012 bonds. The estimated tax for the proposed November 2018 Measure is \$36 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation, which is well below the Prop 39 tax rate limit of \$60 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation.

What are the current Fiscal Year 2017-18 tax rates for the District and its neighbors?

