

Capistrano Unified School District
Measure H
San Clemente and Capistrano Beach
Frequently Asked Questions

How are our local schools serving San Clemente and Capistrano Beach doing?

Our neighborhood schools that serve San Clemente and Capistrano Beach have provided a high-quality education to local students for over 50 years and have a longstanding track record of strong academic performance.

The high-performing schools serving San Clemente and Capistrano Beach are Clarence Lobo Elementary School, Concordia Elementary School, Las Palmas Elementary School, Marblehead Elementary School, Palisades Elementary School, Truman Benedict Elementary School, Bernice Ayer Middle School, Shorecliffs Middle School and San Clemente High School.

What challenges are facing our schools?

While local students continue to excel, our classrooms and school facilities are aging and require upgrades for safety and to keep pace with rising academic standards. Many of our schools were built more than 50 years ago and need repairs and upgrades to continue serving our students and community for decades to come.

Our district maintenance team works hard to take care of our aging classrooms and school facilities by keeping up with minor repairs and maintenance. Unfortunately, significant upgrades and improvements needed at a 50-year-old high school are beyond what can be accomplished by our maintenance team and funded by our regular maintenance budget. The State of California provides very limited funding for school improvements and most state funding requires local matching funds.

We also need to consider that our high school was built for a different era of education. 50-year-old classrooms, labs and facilities need to be upgraded to support today's instruction in science, technology, engineering, math, performing arts and athletics. To prepare our students for the current job market we need up-to-date career technical education classrooms and labs to support 21st-century instruction.

How is the District planning to address these issues?

Capistrano USD has conducted a thorough assessment of all school facilities to identify the most urgent and high priority improvements. Priority improvements include enhancing school safety and security, modernizing older classrooms and schools to meet the same academic and safety standards as newer schools, and providing up-to-date equipment, technology and training classrooms for vocational and career education programs students need for success at community colleges, universities and in their careers.

In order to fund these projects, the Capistrano Unified School District Board of Trustees voted unanimously to place Measure H, a local school improvement bond measure, on the March 2020 ballot that would generate up to \$120 million in locally controlled funding to repair and modernize schools in San Clemente and Capistrano Beach. Measure H would cost homeowners \$34 per \$100,000 of the assessed value of their home while bonds are outstanding. Funds generated by Measure H would go

directly to repair and upgrade the schools serving San Clemente and Capistrano Beach communities only. No funds could be taken by the State or be diverted to other schools within our district or region.

Specifically, how would funds from Measure H be used?

If Measure H is approved by local voters, repairs and upgrades to our neighborhood schools could include:

- Repairing or replacing leaky roofs, old rusty plumbing and failing electrical systems
- Upgrading classrooms, science labs and technology to support high-quality instruction in science, technology, engineering and math
- Modernizing labs and career training facilities that prepare students for careers in healthcare, biomedical science, computer science, robotics and skilled trades
- Replacing wood and support beams that have extensive termite damage and dry rot and removing hazardous materials like asbestos and lead paint from older school sites
- Replacing aging portable classrooms that are expensive to repair with safe, modern classrooms that meet today's academic standards
- Upgrading older schools so they meet the same academic and safety standards as newer schools

Would Measure H pay for administrators' salaries or pensions?

No, none of the money from this measure could be used for salaries, benefits or pensions for administrators.

How do I know funds from Measure H would be used responsibly?

Measure H would require a clear system of accountability. This would include provisions such as:

- A detailed project list identifying exactly how the money would be used
- An independent citizens' oversight committee comprised of local residents to ensure funds are spent as promised
- By law, no money from Measure H could be used for administrator salaries or pensions
- No funds can be taken by the State and all of the funds generated by Measure H would go to schools within the San Clemente and Capistrano Beach communities

Would the funds from Measure H be shared equally across all schools in Capistrano Unified School District?

No, the funds generated from Measure H would be dedicated to only the schools in San Clemente and Capistrano Beach. Capistrano USD has created a School Facility Improvement District (SFID) specifically for San Clemente and Capistrano Beach schools. The neighborhoods being served by San Clemente and Capistrano Beach schools will have the opportunity to vote on Measure H. If Measure H is approved, commercial and residential property owners within the SFID boundary would be subject to the cost of the measure.

How much would Measure H cost?

The annual cost of Measure H would not exceed approximately \$34 per \$100,000 in assessed value (not market value) of a property per year and the tax will be in place as long as the bonds are outstanding and until they are fully repaid. Measure H could generate up to \$120 million in locally controlled funding to repair and modernize our schools in San Clemente and Capistrano Beach.

Will this help our local schools access state matching funds for facility upgrades?

Yes, Measure H will provide the matching funds needed to access state dollars that will otherwise go to schools in other communities. If matching funds are available, accessing these state dollars will help reduce the cost of school improvements for local taxpayers.

Have other school districts run measures in a portion of their district to fund targeted needs at specific schools?

Yes, this approach has been used by other Orange County school districts in recent years, including Irvine USD and Tustin USD. The law allowing schools districts to create School Facility Improvement Districts (SFIDs) was enacted in 1998. Since then more than 50 school districts around California have formed SFIDs to fund school facility improvements within a specific geographic area.

Is there any other way to update our schools?

Capistrano Unified School District has very few options when it comes to making the necessary renovations and upgrades to our local schools. We can't rely on the State to complete these repairs. Measure H would provide the local control necessary to complete prioritized projects to provide a safe and modern learning environment for our students.

Has our community ever funded facility upgrades in the past?

Local voters have not passed a local funding measure for Capistrano Unified School District schools since 1999. Since then, the critical repairs and updates needed at our local schools have only become more urgent. We need a source of funding to make the improvements that our local schools need.

I don't have any kids in schools. How does local education funding affect me?

Great schools support strong, safe communities. Whether or not you have school-age children, protecting high quality schools means protecting our quality of life, keeping our community a desirable place for young families to move to and protecting our home values.

When will I be able to vote on Measure H?

All registered voters living in the San Clemente and Capistrano Beach areas are eligible to vote on Measure H in the March 2020 election.

What level of support does Measure H need to pass?

Measure H needs to be supported by 55% of those who vote on the measure in order for it to pass.

How can I register to vote or learn more about voting?

You can register to vote at www.registertovote.ca.gov. To find out more about voting in this election, please contact the Orange County Registrar of Voters at (714) 567-7600.

How can I find out more?

To receive more information about the measures, please contact Ryan Burris, Chief Communications Officer, at CUSDFacilityUpdates@capousd.org or (949) 234-9427.