

**Capistrano Unified School District**  
**School Improvement Bond Measure – Aliso Viejo Schools**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**How are our local schools in Aliso Viejo performing?**

Aliso Viejo schools provided a high-quality education to local students and have a longstanding track record of strong academic performance. Capistrano Unified School District (CUSD) staff and teachers remain committed to instructional excellence for our students.

**What is the current state of our classrooms, labs and school facilities?**

Aliso Viejo schools were built as many as 30 years ago and need repairs and upgrades to continue serving our communities for decades to come. Our Aliso Viejo schools have outdated classrooms, science labs and instructional technology that require upgrades in order to meet the same academic and safety standards. CUSD conducted a thorough assessment of school facilities serving Aliso Viejo and identified the most urgent and high priority improvements.

**How does CUSD plan to address the facilities needs in Aliso Viejo Schools?**

On June 15, CUSD Board of Trustees voted to place a local school improvement bond measure on the November 2022 ballot that could generate up to \$114 million in locally controlled funding to repair and modernize CUSD schools located within the City of Aliso Viejo. This measure would cost homeowners \$44 per \$100 of the assessed (not market) value per year while bonds are outstanding. Funds generated by this local school improvement bond measure would go directly to repair and upgrade the schools serving Aliso Viejo's city boundaries only.

**Specifically, how would funds from this measure be used?**

If approved by voters residing within the City of Aliso Viejo, a local school improvement bond measure would:

- Upgrade classrooms, science labs and technology to support high-quality instruction in science, technology, engineering and math
- Modernize labs and career-training facilities that prepare students for careers in healthcare, biomedical science, computer science, robotics and skilled trades
- Install, repair or replace air conditioning units in classrooms to improve air quality
- Repair or replace leaky roofs, wood and support beams that have termite damage and dry rot as well as replacing plumbing and failing electrical systems
- Upgrade older schools so they meet current health and building safety codes and improve access for students with disabilities
- Keep computer systems and instructional technology up to date

**Would this measure pay for administrators' salaries or pension?**

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

**How do I know funds from this measure will be used responsibly?**

The measure would require a clear system of accountability. This would include provisions such as:

- All funds would stay local in Aliso Viejo to improve schools – no funds could be taken by the State or be diverted to other schools within CUSD
- A detailed project list is required for a clear system of accountability
- Independent citizen oversight and audits would be required
- No funds could go to administrator salaries

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

No, the funds generated from this measure would be dedicated solely to the schools in Aliso Viejo. CUSD has created a School Facility Improvement District (SFID) specifically for Aliso Viejo schools. The neighborhoods being served by Aliso Viejo schools will have the opportunity to vote on the school improvement bond measure. If the measure is approved, commercial and residential property owners within the SFID boundary would be subject to the cost of the measure.

**How much would the measure cost?**

This measure would cost homeowners \$44 per \$100,000 of the assessed (not market) value per year while bonds are outstanding.

**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. A school improvement bond measure would provide the local control necessary to complete prioritized projects to provide a safe and modern learning environment for our students.

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

We believe 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.

**Are there any exemptions available to homeowners?**

No, the State constitution requires that the cost of bond measures be allocated to all property owners strictly based on the assessed value of all properties. However, because the cost of the bond measure is based on the assessed value of a home (not the market value), senior citizens and others who have lived in their homes for a long time typically have the lowest assessed value since it is based on the original purchase price.

**When will I be able to vote on this measure?**

All registered voters living in the Aliso Viejo School Facility Improvement District (encompassing all CUSD territory within the City of Aliso Viejo) are eligible to vote on the measure in the November 2022 election.

**What level of support is required to pass a bond measure?**

At least 55% of those voters who cast a ballot on the measure must vote in favor of the measure in order for it to be approved.

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

You can register to vote at [www.registertovote.ca.gov](http://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 measure, please contact Ryan Burris, Chief Communications Officer, at [rkburris@capousd.org](mailto:rkburris@capousd.org) or (949) 234-9427.