
**MOUNTAIN EMPIRE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL SAFETY, RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION MEASURE**

This proposition may be known and referred to as the “Mountain Empire Unified School District School Safety, Renovation and Construction Measure” or as “Measure ___”.

BOND AUTHORIZATION

By approval of this proposition by at least 55% of the voters of the Mountain Empire Unified School District (the “District”) voting on the proposition, the District shall be authorized to issue and sell bonds of up to \$20,000,000 in aggregate principal amount to provide financing for the specific school facilities projects listed under the heading entitled “BOND PROJECT LIST” below (the “Bond Project List”), and qualify to receive State of California matching grant funds, subject to all of the accountability safeguards specified below.

ACCOUNTABILITY SAFEGUARDS

The provisions in this section are specifically included in this proposition in order that the voters and taxpayers of the District may be assured that their money will be spent to address specific school facilities needs of the District, all in compliance with the requirements of Article XIII A, Section 1(b)(3) of the Constitution of the State of California (the “California Constitution”), and the Strict Accountability in Local School Construction Bonds Act of 2000 (codified at Sections 15264 and following of the California Education Code).

Evaluation of Needs. The Board of Education of the District (the “Board”) has evaluated the facilities needs of the District in order to determine which projects to finance from a local bond at this time. In order to address the facilities needs of the District, the Board deems it necessary and advisable to fund the specific school facilities projects listed in the Bond Project List. The Board hereby certifies that it has evaluated safety, class size reduction and information technology needs in developing the Bond Project List.

Limitations on Use of Bonds. Proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized by this proposition shall be used only for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities, including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities, or the acquisition or lease of real property for school facilities, and not for any other purpose, including teacher and administrator salaries and other school operating expenses. More specifically, the Bond Project List provides for the specific projects the District proposes to finance with proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized by this proposition and such proceeds shall be applied only to those specific purposes.

Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee. In accordance with and pursuant to California Education Code Section 15278 *et seq.*, the Board shall establish an independent citizens' oversight committee, within 60 days of the date that the Board enters the election results on its minutes pursuant to Section 15274 of the California Education Code, to ensure that (a) bond revenues are expended only for the purposes specified in Article XIII A, Section 1(b)(3) of the California Constitution, and (b) that no funds are used for any teacher or administrative salaries or other school operating expenses. In accordance with Section 15282 of the California Education Code, the citizens' oversight committee shall consist of at least seven members and shall include a member active in a business organization representing the business community located within the District, a member active in a senior citizens' organization, a member active in a bona fide taxpayers' organization, a member that is a parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District, and a member that is both a parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District and active in a parent-teacher organization. No employee or official of the District and no vendor, contractor or consultant of the District shall be appointed to the citizens' oversight committee.

Annual Performance Audits. In compliance with the requirements of Article XIII A, Section 1(b)(3)(C) of the California Constitution, and the Strict Accountability in Local School Construction Bonds Act of 2000, the Board shall conduct an annual, independent performance audit to ensure that the proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized by this proposition have been expended only on the school facilities projects listed in the Bond Project List. These audits shall be conducted in accordance with the Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States for performance audits. The results of these audits shall be made publicly available and shall be submitted to the citizens' oversight committee in accordance with Section 15286 of the California Education Code.

Annual Financial Audits. In compliance with the requirements of Article XIII A, Section 1(b)(3)(D) of the California Constitution, and the Strict Accountability in Local School Construction Bonds Act of 2000, the Board shall conduct an annual, independent financial audit of the proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized by this proposition until all of those proceeds have been spent for the school facilities projects listed in the Bond Project List. These audits shall be conducted in accordance with the Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States for financial audits. The results of these audits shall be made publicly available and shall be submitted to the citizens' oversight committee in accordance with Section 15286 of the California Education Code.

Special Bond Proceeds Account; Annual Report to Board. In compliance with the requirements of California Government Code Section 53410 and following, upon approval of this proposition and the sale of any bonds approved, the Board shall take actions necessary to establish an account in which proceeds of the sale of bonds authorized by this proposition shall be deposited. In compliance with the requirements of California Government Code Section 53411, as long as any proceeds of the bonds remain unexpended, the chief fiscal officer of the District shall cause a report to be filed with the Board at least once a year,

stating (a) the amount of funds collected and expended in that year, and (b) the status of any project required or authorized to be funded from bond proceeds. The report may relate to the calendar year, fiscal year, or other appropriate annual period as the chief fiscal officer of the District shall determine, and may be incorporated into the annual budget, audit, or other appropriate routine report to the Board.

Project Labor Agreements. In an effort to increase competition and maintain fairness among all potential contractors, reduce costs of construction, and efficiently apply taxpayer dollars, the District, to the extent doing so is not prohibited by law (including the doctrines of legislative entrenchment and the single subject rule) and does not eliminate any eligibility for potential State or federal funding or financial assistance, hereby declares that it shall not build and maintain bond-financed facilities under a project labor agreement.

State of California Matching Grant Funds. In order to maximize community benefit and efficiently apply taxpayer dollars, the District hereby declares its intention to seek, where practical and economical, State of California matching grant funds for eligible projects.

Other Accountability Safeguards. To the extent doing so is not prohibited by law (including the doctrines of legislative entrenchment and the single subject rule), the District shall structure the bonds to mature in compliance with Section 147(b) of the Internal Revenue Code (or any successor thereto).

FURTHER SPECIFICATIONS

Joint-Use Projects. In order to maximize community benefit and efficiently apply taxpayer dollars, the District will make a good faith effort, where practical and economical, to incorporate joint use elements into the specific projects the District proposes to finance with proceeds of the bonds. To this end, the District will contact local agencies with overlapping jurisdictions to develop and pursue, where practical and economical, the incorporation of such joint use elements into such bond projects. Accordingly, the District may enter into agreements with other public agencies or nonprofit organizations for joint use of the school facilities financed with the proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized by this proposition in accordance with California Education Code Section 17077.42 (or any successor provision). The District may seek State grant funds for eligible joint-use projects as permitted by law, and this proposition hereby specifies and acknowledges that, subject to the limitations on the uses provided for herein, the proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized by this proposition will or may be used to fund all or a portion of the local share for any eligible joint-use projects identified in the Bond Project List or as otherwise permitted by California State regulations, as the Board shall determine.

Single Purpose. All of the purposes enumerated in this proposition shall be united and voted upon as one single proposition, pursuant to California Education Code Section 15100, and all the enumerated purposes shall constitute the specific single purpose of the bonds, and the proceeds from the sale of bonds

authorized by this proposition shall be spent only for such purpose, pursuant to California Government Code Section 53410.

Other Terms of the Bonds. When sold, the bonds shall bear interest at an annual rate not exceeding the statutory maximum, and that interest shall be made payable at the time or times permitted by law. The bonds may be issued and sold in several series, and no bond shall be made to mature more than the statutory maximum number of years from the date borne by that bond.

BOND PROJECT LIST

The Bond Project List below lists the specific projects the District proposes to finance with proceeds of the bonds. The Bond Project List shall be considered a part of this bond proposition and shall be reproduced in any official document required to contain the full statement of the bond proposition. Listed projects will be completed as needed at a particular school or school facility site according to Board-established priorities, and the order in which such projects appear on the Bond Project List is not an indication of priority for funding or completion. In so far as permitted by law, each project is assumed to include its share of costs of the election and bond issuance, construction-related costs, such as project and construction management, architectural, engineering, inspection and similar planning and testing costs, demolition and interim housing costs, legal, accounting and similar fees, costs related to the independent annual financial and performance audits, a contingency for unforeseen design and construction costs, and other costs incidental to or necessary for completion of the listed projects (whether the related work is performed by the District or third parties). The final cost of each project will be determined as plans are finalized, construction bids are awarded, and projects are completed. In addition, certain project funds expected from non-local bond sources, including State of California grant funds for eligible projects, have not yet been secured. Therefore, the Board cannot guarantee that the bond proceeds will provide sufficient funds to allow completion of all listed projects. Alternatively, if the District obtains unexpected funds from non-local bond sources with respect to listed projects, such projects may be enhanced, supplemented or expanded to the extent of such funds. Some projects may be subject to further government approvals, including by State officials and boards and/or local environmental or agency approval. Inclusion of a project on the Bond Project List is not a guarantee that the project will be completed (regardless of whether bond funds are available).

The specific projects authorized to be financed with proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized by this proposition are as follows:

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE HIGH SCHOOL
The following projects are authorized to be financed at Mountain Empire High School:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modernize, upgrade, renovate, rehabilitate, re-configure, expand and/or upgrade classrooms, classroom buildings, science labs, restrooms, common areas and school support facilities (including library, multipurpose room/auditorium, gymnasium, food storage, preparation and service, cafeteria and office/staff support facilities), whether permanent, portable or modular, including interior and

exterior (as applicable) doors, windows, door and window hardware, roofs, rain gutters and downspouts, walls, ceilings and floors and finishes, paint, siding, insulation, casework, surfaces, cabinets, secured storage, carpets, drapes, window coverings, infrastructure, lighting, sinks, drinking fountains, fixtures, signage, fencing, landscaping, furniture and equipment.

- Renovate, replace, upgrade, acquire, install and/or integrate major site/building/utility systems, equipment and related infrastructure and housing, including lighting, electrical (including wiring and related infrastructure for modern technology), heating, refrigeration, cooling (including HVAC) and ventilation, water, sewer, gas, irrigation, drainage, and energy efficiency/management monitoring systems, networks, fixtures, equipment and controls.
- Renovate, replace, upgrade, acquire, and/or install roofing and/or insulation.
- Upgrade and/or acquire and install exterior lighting, fire detection and suppression, security alarm, video surveillance, emergency, master key and door lock.
- Renovate, replace, upgrade, expand and/or install fencing.
- Renovate, resurface, upgrade, expand, construct and/or install and improve paved and other hard surfaces, benches, walls, gates, fencing, play and outside instructional areas, playfields, including turf, p.e. fields and related facilities, and landscaping, and acquire, improve, replace and/or upgrade related equipment and fixtures.

All or portions of these projects may be used as joint-use projects within the meaning of Section 17077.42(c) of the California Education Code (or any successor provision).

DISTRRICT WIDE SCHOOL FACILITIES PROJECTS

The following projects are authorized to be financed at all school facilities sites District wide:

- Modernize, upgrade, renovate, rehabilitate, re-configure, expand and/or upgrade classrooms, classroom buildings, restrooms, common areas and school support facilities (including library, multipurpose room/auditorium, food storage, preparation and service, cafeteria and office/staff support facilities), whether permanent, portable or modular, including interior and exterior (as applicable) doors, windows, door and window hardware, roofs, rain gutters and downspouts, walls, ceilings and floors and finishes, paint, siding, insulation, casework, surfaces, cabinets, secured storage, carpets, drapes, window coverings, infrastructure, lighting, sinks, drinking fountains, fixtures, signage, fencing, landscaping, furniture and equipment.
- Renovate, replace, upgrade, acquire, install and/or integrate major site/building/utility systems, equipment and related infrastructure and housing, including lighting, electrical (including wiring and related infrastructure for modern technology), heating, refrigeration, cooling (including HVAC) and ventilation, water, sewer, gas, irrigation, drainage, and energy efficiency/management monitoring systems, networks, fixtures, equipment and controls.
- Renovate, replace, upgrade, acquire, and/or install roofing and/or insulation.
- Construct and/or acquire and install additional classrooms and related facilities.
- Renovate, resurface, upgrade, expand, construct and/or install and improve paved and other hard surfaces (including playgrounds), benches, walls, gates, fencing, play and outside instructional areas, playfields, including turf, p.e. fields and related facilities, and landscaping, and acquire, improve, replace and/or upgrade related

equipment and fixtures.

- Upgrade and/or acquire and install exterior lighting, fire detection and suppression, security alarm, video surveillance, emergency, master key and door lock.
- Renovate, replace, upgrade, expand, and/or install fencing.
- Renovate, replace, upgrade, acquire, and/or install septic systems.
- Renovate, replace, upgrade, acquire, and/or install well storage tanks.

All or portions of these projects may be used as joint-use projects within the meaning of Section 17077.42(c) of the California Education Code (or any successor provision).

MISCELLANEOUS

All listed bond projects include the following as needed:

- Planning, designing and providing temporary housing necessary for listed bond projects.
- The inspection, sampling and analysis of grounds, buildings and building materials to determine the presence of hazardous materials or substances, including asbestos, lead, etc., and the encapsulation, removal, disposal and other remediation or control of such hazardous materials and substances.
- Seismic and historical evaluations, site surveys (including topographic, geological and utility surveys), and infrastructure analyses.
- Necessary onsite and offsite preparation or restoration in connection with new construction, renovation or remodeling, or installation or removal of relocatable buildings or other temporary buildings, including demolition of structures; removing, replacing, or installing irrigation, drainage, utility lines (gas, water, sewer, electrical, data and voice, etc.), trees and landscaping; and relocating fire access roads or ingress/egress pathways.
- Address other unforeseen conditions revealed by construction, renovation or modernization (including plumbing or gas line breaks, dry rot, seismic and structural deficiencies, etc.).
- Acquire or construct other improvements required to comply with building codes, including seismic safety requirements, the Field Act, and access requirements.
- Acquisition of any rights-of-way, easements, licenses and/or real property made necessary by listed bond projects, or lease of real property made necessary by the listed bond projects.
- Acquire or construct storage facilities and other space on an interim basis, as needed to accommodate construction materials, equipment, and personnel.
- Furnishing and equipping of classrooms and other school facilities; furnishing and equipping shall include initial purchases, and scheduled and necessary replacements, upgrades and updating of technology.
- Acquisition of all or a portion of any school site or facility, or an interest therein, or make lease payments with respect to any school site or facility, encumbered in order to finance or refinance the listed school facilities projects.
- All other costs and work necessary or incidental to the listed bond projects.

**PROJECTS INVOLVING RENOVATION,
REHABILITATION OR REPAIR**

For any project involving renovation, rehabilitation or repair of a building or the major portion of a building, the District shall be authorized to proceed with new replacement construction instead (including any necessary demolition) if the Board of Education determines that replacement new construction is more practical than renovation, rehabilitation or repair, considering the building's age, condition, expected remaining life, comparative cost and other relevant factors.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Interpretation. The terms of this bond proposition and the words used in the Bond Project List shall be interpreted broadly to effect the purpose of providing broad and clear authority for the officers and employees of the District to provide for the school facilities projects the District proposes to finance with the proceeds of the sale of bonds authorized by this proposition within the authority provided by law, including Article XIII A, Section 1(b)(3) of the California Constitution, California Education Code Section 15000 *et seq.* and the Strict Accountability in Local School Construction Bonds Act of 2000. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such words as repair, improve, upgrade, expand, modernize, renovate, and reconfigure are used in the Bond Project List to describe school facilities projects in plain English and are not intended to expand the nature of such projects beyond, or have an effect on, and shall be interpreted to only permit, what is authorized under Article XIII A, Section 1(b)(3) of the California Constitution, California Education Code Section 15000 *et seq.* and the Strict Accountability in Local School Construction Bonds Act of 2000. In this regard, the Bond Project List does not authorize, and shall not be interpreted to authorize, expending proceeds of the sale of bonds authorized by this proposition for current maintenance, operation or repairs. The school facilities projects on the Bond Project List only authorize capital expenditures.

Estimated Ballot Information. The Board hereby declares, and the voters by approving this bond proposition concur, that the information included in the statement of the bond proposition to be voted on pursuant to Section 13119 of the California Elections Code is based upon the District's projections and estimates only and is not binding upon the District. The amount of money to be raised annually and the rate and duration of the tax to be levied for the bonds may vary from those presently estimated due to variations from these estimates in the timing of bond sales, the amount of bonds sold and market interest rates at the time of each sale, and actual assessed valuations over the term of repayment of the bonds. The dates of sale and the amount of bonds sold at any given time will be determined by the District based on need for project funds and other factors. The actual interest rates at which the bonds will be sold will depend on the bond market at the time of each sale. Actual future assessed valuation will depend upon the amount and value of taxable property within the District as determined by the County Assessor in the annual assessment and the equalization process.

Headings. The headings or titles of the sections of the bond proposition, including any headings or titles included in the Bond Project List, are solely for

convenience of reference and shall not affect the meaning, construction or effect of the bond proposition.

Severability. The Board hereby declares, and the voters by approving this bond proposition concur, that every section and part of this bond proposition has independent value, and the Board and the voters would have adopted each provision hereof regardless of every other provision hereof. Upon approval of this bond proposition by the voters, should any part be found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid for any reason, all remaining parts hereof shall remain in full force and effect to the fullest extent allowed by law, and to this end the provisions of this bond proposition are severable.

TAX STATEMENT

An election will be held in the Mountain Empire Unified School District (the "District") on March 5, 2024, to authorize the sale of up to \$20,000,000 in bonds of the District to finance school facilities as described in the proposition. If the bond proposition is approved by at least 55% of the voters of the District voting on the bond proposition, the District expects to issue the bonds in multiple series over time. Principal and interest on the bonds will be payable from the proceeds of tax levies made upon the taxable property in the District. The following information is provided in compliance with Sections 9400 through 9405 of the California Elections Code.

1. The best estimate of the average annual tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue over the entire duration of the bond debt service, based on assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is \$40.00 per \$100,000 (4.00 cents per \$100) of assessed valuation. The final fiscal year in which the tax to be levied to fund this bond issue is anticipated to be collected is fiscal year 2057-58.
2. The best estimate of the highest tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is \$40.00 per \$100,000 (4.00 cents per \$100) of assessed valuation in fiscal year 2025-26 and such tax rate is expected to continue through fiscal year 2057-58.
3. The best estimate of the total debt service, including the principal and interest, that would be required to be repaid if all of the bonds are issued and sold is approximately \$40,529,406.

Voters should note that estimated tax rates are based on the *ASSESSED VALUE* of taxable property on the County's official tax rolls, *not* on the property's market value, which could be more or less than the assessed value. In addition, taxpayers eligible for a property tax exemption, such as the homeowner's exemption, will be taxed at a lower effective tax rate than described above. Property owners should consult their own property tax bills and tax advisors to determine their property's assessed value and any applicable tax exemptions.

Attention of all voters is directed to the fact that the foregoing information is based upon the District's projections and estimates only, which are not binding upon the District. The average annual tax rate, the highest tax rate, the final fiscal year in which the tax is anticipated to be collected and the year or years in which they will apply, and the actual total debt service, may vary from those presently estimated for a variety of reasons, including, without limitation, due to variations in the timing of bond sales, the amount or amortization of bonds sold, market conditions at the time of each sale, and actual assessed valuations over the term of repayment of the bonds. The dates of sale and the amount or amortization of bonds sold at any given time will be determined by the District based on need for project funds and other factors, including the legal limitations on bonds approved by a 55% affirmative vote. Market conditions, including, without limitation, interest rates, are affected by economic and other factors beyond the control of the District and will depend on the bond market at the time of each sale. Actual future assessed valuation will depend upon the amount and value of taxable property within the District as determined by the County Assessor in the annual assessment and the equalization process. The growth or decline in assessed valuation is the result of a number of economic and other factors outside the control of the District.

Dated: Nov 28, 2023.

Superintendent
Mountain Empire Unified School District