



***Common Questions & Answers
--For Distribution--***

Q: Why is Measure R on the March 2004 ballot?

A: Many LA schools are over 60 years old, and in need of major classroom repairs. As our schools get older, these types of repairs will only become more expensive. At the same time, tens of thousands more students will be entering LA schools over the next ten years, causing severe overcrowding. Measure R would repair and upgrade aging classrooms and build new neighborhood schools to reduce overcrowding, to keep our kids moving forward.

Q: What types of projects are included in Measure R?

A: Measure R would continue basic repairs and upgrades at older schools, and build new neighborhood schools to reduce overcrowding. Repairs would include "health and safety" projects such as asbestos/lead paint abatement, seismic work, classroom and restroom repair, and fire safety upgrades. Measure R funds would also be earmarked for classroom computer technology upgrades, library books, and the creation of small learning communities to personalize student learning. A comprehensive list of proposed school construction and repair projects can be found at [www.lausd.net/Measure R](http://www.lausd.net/Measure_R).

Q: Why do our schools have these needs?

A: The simple answer is that many of our schools are old, and our student population continues to grow—resulting in severe overcrowding. We didn't pass any school bonds for over 30 years before the late '90s – during a time when our school population was exploding. In fact, we added an average of 8,500 kids per year over the last 20 years, while only building an average of 2,000 seats per year during that time. That means 6,500 kids per year were left to cram in to already overcrowded schools. Generations of students have simply worn down our classrooms.

Q: How many neighborhood schools will Measure R build?

A: Approximately 50 new neighborhood schools would be built throughout the District, providing 49,162 new student seats. This will help many of our existing schools return to a traditional nine month calendar instead of the shortened school year used by our most overcrowded schools – many schools have been on a shortened school year to deal with overcrowding problems for over 20 years.

Q: How will Measure R benefit my neighborhood school?

A: All schools would benefit from Measure R. Repair projects would be completed at schools all over the District and parents, teachers, and community members would be a part of the planning process to decide where and what types of repairs are made. If your neighborhood school is on a year-round schedule, this bond may allow your school to return to the traditional 9-month calendar with summers free, which reduces overcrowding and improves learning – about half of current year round schools would return to a traditional calendar. If your neighborhood school is not on a year round schedule yet, the schools built with this bond may prevent it from having to switch over later. Passing a bond measure in March will also qualify LAUSD for \$1.5 to \$2 billion in state matching funds — money that would also go toward repairing old schools and reducing overcrowding.

Q: What other priorities are included in Measure R?

A: Measure R would provide a variety of benefits to students, teachers and schools. In addition to reducing overcrowding and repairing aging and deteriorating schools, Measure R would also provide library books for all new schools to open with an adequately stocked library, upgrade technology to maintain and equalize internet access and improve telephone and safety alarm systems at schools, provide funding to build five new early education centers, and improve adult education facilities, among other items.

Q: Does Measure R include financial oversight safeguards?

A: Yes, Measure R's financial oversight protections exceed what is required by state law. An independent Citizens Oversight Committee has been formed to monitor projects and issue annual, independent audits. The list of school repair and construction projects published in the voter handbook and available on-line is legally binding. By law, no bond money can be used for administrators' salaries or other operating costs.

Q: How much will Measure R cost property owners?

A: Measure R will cost property owners no more than \$5 per month per \$100,000 of assessed, not market, property value.