



Twin Ridges Elementary School District

Facility Needs & Measure “A”

Frequently Asked Questions



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Why did the Board place Measure “A” on the ballot?

All three Twin Ridges school sites – Grizzly Hill, Oak Tree and Washington – are relatively well-maintained, but they are also considerably older than many County schools and need repairs. All three sites have received very little modernization or updates over the years. So over the past year and a half, our District has been working hard to determine just how we can provide our students with the classrooms and facilities they deserve while preserving the character, history and continued use of schools within our community. At the beginning of last summer, we commissioned a needs assessment, which was delivered to the Board in the fall. We continue to gather input from staff, parents and the community to refine the needs lists, but total estimated costs are nearly \$15 million.



To meet our needs, the District has already sought many potential funding sources (the State, philanthropy, etc.) – and we’ve gained access to nearly \$2.5 million for classrooms for our youngest students. However, even if we received all potential resources (most of which require a local ‘match’), many needs would remain. So, after gathering considerable community input, the Board decided to place Measure “A” – a General Obligation (GO) Bond, which the District has never before sought - on the March ballot.

Measure “A” would provide \$2.6 million to:

- Make basic repairs and upgrades to classrooms
- Replace outdated HVAC systems
- Ensure ADA access
- Improve safety and security systems
- Build new kindergarten and pre-K classrooms
- Provide matching funds for millions of dollars of potential State facilities grants

How can we make sure Measure “A” a Twin Ridges bond measure is responsible?

The Board has included binding rules, restraints and commitments within Measure “A” itself (e.g. a cap on the repayment ratio). Most importantly, specific priorities have been determined based on our needs and considerable community input. The bond project list serves as both a promise for how we use your investment as well as a plan to make the improvements a reality.



Are there additional safeguards for taxpayers?

State law requires an independent citizens’ oversight committee and annual audits to ensure funds are only spent on voter-approved projects improving classrooms and facilities in Twin Ridges, and not used for administration or salaries.



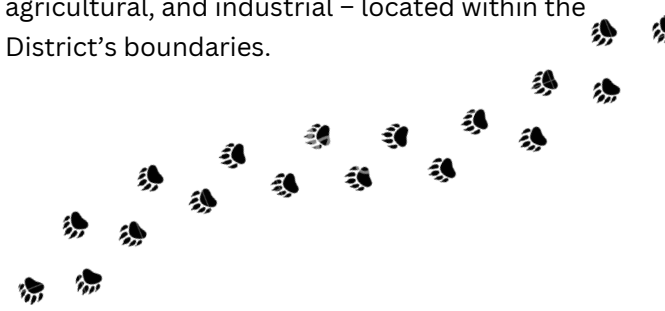
Who can vote on Measure “A” and what happens without it?

All of the voters within Twin Ridges Elementary School District are able to vote on Measure “A”. Without it, important improvements will be further delayed.



What are General Obligation (GO) bonds?

GO bonds have funded a significant portion of school construction projects throughout the State and Nevada County, and can help communities qualify for matching funds from the State. The source of repayment for general obligation bonds is an ad valorem tax on all taxable property – residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial – located within the District’s boundaries.



What would Measure “A” cost me?

The projected annual tax rate is \$30 per \$100,000 of taxable value while bonds are outstanding. Taxable values are typically lower than market value, due to Proposition 13 limits.

How long would we have to pay that amount?

Similar to a home loan, any bonds would be repaid over approximately 30 years.

How much will the total repayment cost be for Measure “A”?

Including interest, Measure “A” is projected to cost \$5.25 million – just over a 2 to 1 repayment ratio, similar to a typical home mortgage. Additionally, Measure “A” caps the total repayment ratio to no more than 2.5 to 1, in an attempt to be mindful of putting taxpayer dollars to good use.