



# SANTA MARIA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties

Proposed November 2024 Bond Measure  
Progress and Updated Plan of Finance

**May 14, 2024**



# Background

- In 2000, District voters passed Measure “C-2000”, authorizing the sale of \$30 million in General Obligation (GO) Bonds; all Bonds under this authorization have been issued
- In 2004, District voters passed Measure “C-2004”, authorizing the sale of \$79 million in GO Bonds; all Bonds under this authorization have been issued
- In 2016, District voters passed Measure “H”, authorizing the sale of \$114 million in G.O. Bonds; all Bonds under this authorization have been issued
- The District has successfully used bond proceeds to construct and modernize school facilities; however, additional needs remain, including the construction of a new school
- There are insufficient funds on hand to pay for needed improvements; therefore, the District is considering a new bond program in November to generate the required funds

» **GO Bond**

**\$30,000,000**

**November 2000**

Santa Maria Joint Union High  
42-69310

**Purpose**  
New construction, renovation, modernization

**Vote Count**

Vote in Favor	67.2 %
Vote Required	66.7 %
Average Daily Attendance	5,561

✓ Passed

» **GO Bond**

**\$79,000,000**

**November 2004**

Santa Maria Joint Union High  
42-69310

**Purpose**  
Construct new HS, acquire, construct, improve facilities; safety; technology

**Vote Count**

Vote in Favor	58.8 %
Vote Required	55.0 %
Average Daily Attendance	5,912

✓ Passed

» **GO Bond**

**\$114,000,000**

**November 2016**

Santa Maria Joint Union High  
42-69310

**Purpose**  
Rebuild Santa Maria High, improve student safety, renovate and construct classrooms and support facilities at Rogers, Pioneer Valley and Delta high schools that provide modern learning environments, increase classroom technology and infrastructure.

[Read More](#)

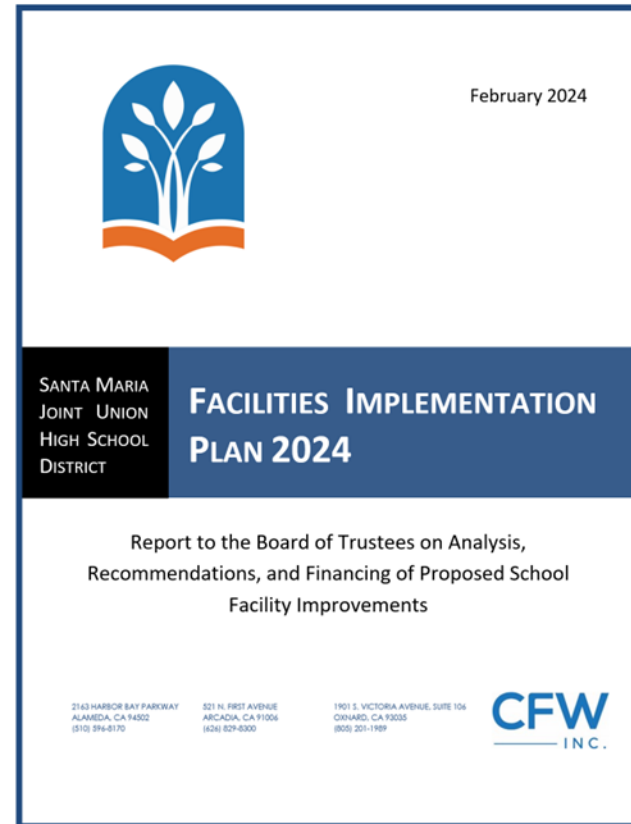
**Vote Count**

Vote in Favor	57.3 %
Vote Required	55.0 %
Average Daily Attendance	7,372

✓ Passed

# Goals of a Proposed New Bond Program

- Construct a new high school to reduce overcrowding at all of the District's existing school
- Continue the modernization of Santa Maria High and Pioneer Valley High, and construct additional support facilities at Righetti and Pioneer Valley High to achieve the District's desire to house every student in modern 21st Century Learning Environments
- Further expand academic pathway programs and specialized facilities to prepare students to be career and college ready upon graduation



# Progress Made Towards a New Bond Program

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## Complete

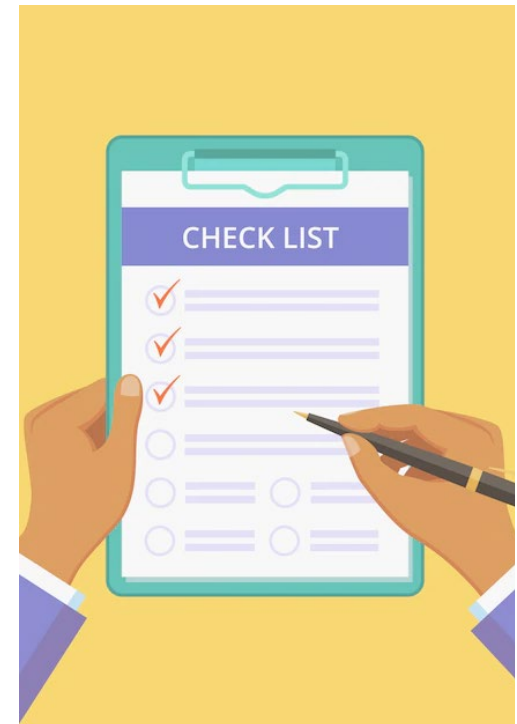
- ✓ Prepare a Facilities Improvement Plan
- ✓ Conduct voter opinion survey to determine attitudes to projects and a new Bond Election

## In Progress

- Conduct public information community outreach
- Establish bond finance plan

## Pending

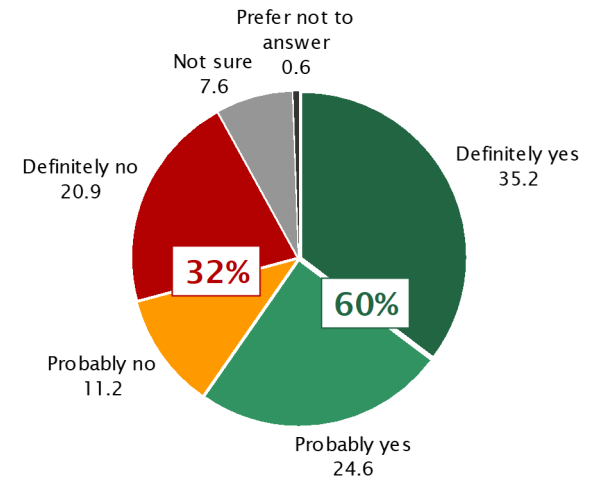
- Conduct a tracking poll (optional)
- Board considers resolution calling an election
- Independent campaign committee is created to engage a consultant and execute campaign strategy (no District resources may be used)
- County conducts the election



# Key Voter Opinion Survey Findings

- True North Research completed a voter opinion survey last month and concluded that a new bond program appears to be feasible for the 2024 ballot, with some adjustments to the proposed program
- Positive factors identified in the survey included:
  - ✓ Voters rank improving the quality of education in local schools as the most important issue facing the community
  - ✓ Solid natural support for bond measure (61%)
  - ✓ Popular projects and improvements
  - ✓ Strong positive arguments
  - ✓ All ballot tests meet or exceed 55%, even after opposition arguments
- However, one of the main challenges indicated in the survey was the tax rate sensitivity, and True North suggested lowering the rate to less than the Prop. 39 limit of \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed value to keep the measure affordable

## Interim Ballot Test



# Proposed Revisions to the Plan of Finance

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- The same amount of bond proceeds, \$194 million, may be generated at a lower tax rate of \$24 per \$100,000 of assessed value, as indicated in the table below
- This would require an additional series of bonds, and the funds would be available over a longer period of time
- The overall impact to funding the program is anticipated to be limited, as bifurcating the initial issuance could coincide with the requirement for funds to first design and then construct a new high school

Bond Proceeds (\$ millions)	Original	Revised
2025 Series A	\$155	\$28
<b>2028</b> Series B	-	\$128
<b>2029</b> Series B	\$39	-
2031 Series C	-	\$38
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$194</b>	<b>\$194</b>

Tax Rate (per \$100,000 AV)	\$30	\$24
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Maximum Bond Term (years)	32	33
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# Possible Next Steps

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- Continue to provide information to the community
- Conduct a tracking survey (optional)
- Prepare a resolution calling a new bond election that reflects the input sought from the community
- School Board considers the resolution
- Conduct election



# General Information Exclusion Disclosure

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