

LVEA TODAY



LVUSD Puts Facilities Bond on March 2020 Ballot

It's official...LVUSD has approved a \$198 Million bond initiative for the March 3, 2020 ballot! This is huge for our students and employees. Many of you have raised concerns about the state of our facilities, like classrooms with intolerable classroom temperature extremes during our warmer and colder months, leaking roofs, structural safety issues, etc. These concerns degrade learning and working environments for our students and employees. Students and employees deserve safe and modern school settings that enhance learning.

The bond measure is officially called the "Las Virgenes Unified School District Safety, Repair, Career Readiness Measure." Safe, modern school facilities are essential to providing an outstanding education to the students we serve. We have significant facility needs in our schools! Several were built in the 1960's and 70's and need basic repairs and the State does not provide us enough funding to keep up the repairs. All schools need ongoing updates to keep pace with modern teaching and learning standards, so passing this bond measure is extremely important.

LVEA will actively promote this bond measure and we'll need your help to convince at least 55% of local voters to support this bond measure. January and February will be busy months as we promote this new funding source!

403(b) Transfers Delayed

Many of you have tax-deferred 403(b) money withheld from your paycheck that is transferred to your financial investment company via LA County since it handles our district's payroll. There was a delay in the transfers for your September and October withdrawals and this impacted over 250 LVUSD employees! By now, most of these transfers should have been made. IRS rules give employers (LA County in our case) up to 15 business days to complete the transfer of these funds after withdrawals have been made from your paycheck, and it requires that LA County makes up for any loss of earnings due to a delay. LVEA has worked with our district office to ensure that LA County satisfies its responsibility. We have also retained CTA legal counsel to make sure this happens.

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Please check your financial institution account and make sure the transfers have been made and the lost earnings are eventually credited to your account.

Schools and Communities First November 2020 Proposition Collecting Signatures Now

CTA and many other organizations are supporting a proposition for the November 2020 presidential ballot that will provide more funding to schools.

What does Schools and Communities First do?

- RECLAIMS over \$12 billion per year for K-12 schools, community colleges and local communities.
- CLOSES commercial property tax loopholes and ends shady schemes that big corporations and wealthy investors use to avoid paying their fair share of property taxes.
- PROTECTS all homeowners and renters by maintaining tax protections for all residential property.
- INVESTS in educating all of our kids and in the vital services necessary to support our families and communities.
- PROVIDES one of the largest tax incentives in a generation to spur new investment in small businesses.
- LEVELS the playing field for all the businesses that already pay for their fair share.
- ENSURES strict accountability so that money goes directly to our students and communities.

LVUSD Budget Cuts – Get Ready!

You may have heard that our district is planning to cut millions of dollars in its budget in the near future. At our last board meeting, our School Board approved a commitment to cut \$4.6 Million over the next two school years. Many of you are already feeling this tightening with higher class sizes, fewer sections at your site and reduced funds for supplies, materials, activities, etc. This is also a big reason why the School Board has approved a bond measure for the March 2020 ballot since our district doesn't have the financial resources to make needed upgrades for our aging infrastructure. The district has vowed to eliminate all classes that are deemed too small with lots of co-seating of similar, yet different, classes at our secondary sites. LVEA has looked at the \$4.6 Million in proposed cuts and sees one area that has been untouched: *District Education Services*. The number of Ed Services administrators (excluding recent Dean additions) has doubled over the past ten years ago! The district will argue that this increase has led to more one-time grant money and they are actively seeking new grants. While this may be true, LVEA is concerned with the optics of cutting resources so close to the classroom while maintaining a robust administrative team in Ed Services at the district office. We have been assured repeatedly that these grant-funded positions will go away when the grant money goes away. LVEA will monitor this situation and keep you posted.

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