

Proposition P ... FAQ

1. What is Proposition P and what will it do?

Proposition P is a school bond extension that was placed on the November 2010 election. This proposition will allow local tax dollars to be used to support the students of the Encinitas Union School District.

The Proposition will help the district in three areas. The first is to provide students with **21st Century classrooms**. Money will be designated to pay for infrastructure upgrades and provide technology tools and software for students and teachers. The second area of focus for Proposition P is on **energy efficiency**. The bond extension will be used to provide solar energy, put in solar tubes for lighting, bring reclaimed water for irrigation, replace inefficient heating and air conditioning systems, and upgrade bathroom fixtures. The third area will focus on **upgrading and renovating facilities** around the District. These projects will help the environment and save the District approximately \$700,000 annually which can be used to keep class sizes small!

2. How much will Proposition P raise and will it increase my tax rate?

Proposition P will raise approximately \$44 million to support the District. Fortunately this is a bond extension so taxpayers will not see any increases in their tax bill. This bond extension will take our current bond payments which will expire in 16 years and extend them out for 30 years.

3. Will all schools in the District benefit from Proposition P?

Yes, all schools in the District will benefit from Proposition P. Each school created a needs assessment which was combined with the District facility master plan with projects identified at all sites. This list makes up the majority of the items on the bond project list. In addition, all schools will benefit from the energy savings listed above.

4. I no longer have children in the school district. How does Proposition P affect me?

Good schools are everyone's concern. Research shows that good schools increase property values, lower crime rates, and build higher levels of community engagement.

5. Will Proposition P improve instruction?

Proposition P directly supports quality instruction in many ways. It will pay for technology improvements for student and teacher use. Energy savings will be used to keep class sizes small. Modern and well maintained facilities make for a better learning climate. Although money raised by Proposition P can only be spent on capital facility projects and not teachers' salaries, it will be used to directly support instruction.

6. Are there safeguards in place to make sure that this money is spent wisely?

Yes, there are many protections built into Proposition P to ensure that the money is spent on the designated projects and all funds are accounted for throughout the process. A citizen's oversight committee is required to be in place as long as money is being spent from the bond fund. The bond language is very clear that bond dollars can only be used to fund the listed projects and no bond money can be used for administrative salaries. In addition, the District is required to undergo annual audits tracking bond expenditures.

7. What is the fiscal track record of the school district?

The Encinitas Union School District has an excellent fiscal track record. The District has a fiscally conservative philosophy that has helped it weather a very difficult state funding crisis and still maintain reserves. Although the District is fiscally healthy, it does not have the funding to do the projects listed on the bond extension project list without additional community support.

In addition, the District has a very successful track record of money management related to bond measures dating back most recently to 1996 when Proposition O was passed. The District used these bond funds to gain additional state dollars and completely renovate the District. It has been 14 years since the last bond was passed and it is time to put more dollars into renovating our schools.

8. How is the District ranked educationally?

The Encinitas Union School District is one of the highest performing districts in the state of California. Our schools routinely score among the top five percent of schools as measured by state test scores. All of our schools have earned California Distinguished School ranking with El Camino Creek and Olivenhain Pioneer Elementary earning this title last year.

9. Why is the District putting Proposition P on the ballot now?

Even though our schools look great, there is a need to modernize and upgrade them. There is an immediate need to update our technology infrastructure and increase student and teacher access to technology. Finally, the next opportunity to put a bond extension on the ballot would not happen until 2012. Our Board voted to put this on the ballot now because they believe our students need modern, well-maintained, 21st Century schools.

10. Where can I find out more about Proposition P?

There is more information on Proposition P on the district website at www.eusd.net.