

Clark County School District Capital Improvement Plan 2012 –Question 2

The capital improvement plan (CIP) ballot initiative

- Question 2 on November 6, 2012, will ask voters to support a 21-cent increase (per \$100 of assessed valuation) to the property tax for 6 years. Funding would be limited to \$120 million each year toward the most critical CCSD capital improvements, including replacement of essential building equipment and systems, two replacement schools and two new schools.

Why the capital improvement plan is vital

- The plan provides much-needed relief for failing roofs, heating, air conditioning, plumbing, electrical and security systems at some of the older schools in the county.
- Without adequate funding for capital improvements, as aging systems fail at our schools, money for repairs would have to come from the general operating budget, which would require the Board of School Trustees to make some tough choices, such as cuts to existing programs, increased class sizes, a return to year-round calendars, reductions in bus service or even school closures.

What the plan would provide for the community

- **Equity for our schools**, so that students who attend some of the older schools have the same educational opportunities as those in the newer schools.
- **Critical renovations and repairs** to the schools to provide adequate power, plumbing, HVAC and alarms.
- **Support for technology**, a part of the core education standards in 45 states and essential in preparing students for a technology-driven workforce.
- **Learning environments** with direct impact on **academic achievement**. Major projects at more than 40 schools throughout the district will directly serve more than 43,000 students.
- **Improved energy and operational** efficiencies when the 30 to 50 year old systems are replaced.
- **A targeted solution for overcrowding**, with two schools in areas of the valley that continue to grow (five elementary schools currently teach more than 1,000 students on campuses intended for 750 children).
- **Local jobs**, putting people to work and putting money back into our community.

How the capital levy would work

- This is a “pay-as-you-go” approach, which means no debt and no long-term obligations. Funds will go directly to school projects, which would be prioritized and implemented as funds become available.
- For \$6.19 per month, the average homeowner with \$100,000 of assessed valuation would provide for vital, basic needs of reliable water, air conditioning and power for the learning environment.
- The funds cannot be used for teacher salaries or operating expenses. The levy would cease in six years; any extension or new plan would require future voter approval.

Why now

- The 1998 ten-year bond program, with good management, successfully provided for capital improvements for the past 14 years. However, the capacity for new bonds is not estimated until 2018.
- The Board of School Trustees decided not to pursue a new plan in 2008 due to economic conditions. The Board reviewed the situation regularly and selected the “pay-as-you-go” option.
- While years of record growth made providing seats a priority, the focus now shifts to repairs and other major needs. With economic recovery emerging, the lead time for a capital improvement plan is now, since funds would not begin supporting the projects until the fall of 2013.

The last time CCSD went before voters: the 1998 Bond Program

- The voter-approved 1998 bond generated \$4.9 billion for projects and provided 101 new schools, 19 replacement schools or initial phases, 2 transportation satellite facilities and renovations/upgrades at 229 schools. Oversight included the Board of School Trustees, Bond Oversight Committee and Clark County Regional Debt Management Commission, along with established regulations, policies and procedures.