



2017 Bond Election Questions and Answers

Why has the Governing Board called for another bond election?

With the growth our District has experienced over the last two years, and is expected to get in the next 5, our schools are quickly reaching capacity, or in some cases are beyond capacity. To maintain small class sizes, our District needs additional schools District-wide. Over the next 5 years, we will need: 3 elementary schools, 1 new high school, and a middle/junior high school. Our average growth in enrollment projected by our latest demographic report indicates we'll be growing by an average of 1100 students per year, which is greater than the capacity in our K-8 schools!

Why can't the District just ask the state for more money?

Our state legislators have worked hard to get QCUSD some funds to build new schools. In fact, QCUSD is receiving funds to purchase land for a high school, and a portion of the needed funds to build a Phase I high school. However, the funds that they are providing are not enough, which leaves the District to supplement the need through bonds. The District will continue to ask, and hopefully the state budget can continue to give, but the reality is that state funding comes later than the need arises, and is often much less than is needed to build a complete structure.

Why has the District called for a two-question election?

Our Governing Board recognizes the fiscally conservative nature of our community stakeholders, and wants to honor a tradition of fiscal responsibility and transparency. With that in mind, the District already has bond authority for some of its needs through existing 2010 and 2014 bonds. The 2014 bond, however, includes new construction of high school and middle schools, but does not include new construction of an elementary school. By asking the voters to simply repurpose the existing language to allow authority to build new elementary schools, the District is using a fiscally responsible approach to supplementing its needs. The second question is for the remainder of the District's needs to cover the next 5 years. The second question calls for a brand new 2017 Bond for \$63 million to allow the District to construct the remainder of its needs. The combination of the two questions provides enough for the District to construct: one Phase I high school #2, 3 elementary schools, and one middle school/jr high addition. It also allows the District to maintain a

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consistent approach at every existing site by improving security, technology and media centers, athletic facilities, and the performing arts center. Each campus would receive a much –needed improvement under this new bond.

Where would the new high school go?

The District was fortunate enough to receive some much needed funds to purchase a 60 acre parcel of land in the Mesa portion of our boundaries to begin construction of our new high school. This parcel is located just east of Ellsworth Road on the North side of Ray Road. The new high school will be nestled within the fast growing community of Eastmark, not far from our newest K-8 school, Gateway Polytechnic Academy.

When does the new high school open?

The District is planning to open its doors to students in July 2019.

What does it mean to build a “Phase I” high school?

The District intends to build a fully comprehensive high school which will eventually be 2400 students large. However, to ensure fiscal responsibility, and to meet the demands of the area at an appropriate pace, the District will be building a campus which will accommodate over 1200 students when completed in July 2019. This will allow the District to have what is called a “soft opening”, of one to two grade levels only. Full build out will depend on the number of enrolled students and the funding ability of the District. The second phase of the school will provide the final touches to a fully comprehensive high school such as a performing arts center, stadium seating for the football fields, and of course, additional classroom space.

Where would the newest elementary school (Elementary School #6) go?

The District currently has 5 parcels of donated land which are large enough to accommodate an elementary school, within the Town of Queen Creek. Using a demographer to help determine where in this area was the highest level of demand, it was determined that a property along Ocotillo Road and Signal Butte Road is the best area to accommodate growth in the area. This site is over 13 acres and will house Pre-K through 5th grade.

When will Elementary School #6 open?

This elementary school is currently in design phase and will be open in July 2018. The site will hold roughly 800 students.

How are you building an elementary school with no bond money?

The newest elementary school will be funded through a lease, and if the bond passes, will be paid off through the bond. It has been decided by the Governing Board that, although it will continue to pursue State dollars for new construction, the community needs schools much sooner than state funding can provide. They also recognize that enrollment growth is coming whether we have funding or not. To that end, the District, along with its Governing Board, carefully constructed a budget which would include making lease payments out of

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its much needed general budget while asking for bond dollars to eventually pay for the school. In the event the bond does not pass, the District will be required to pay for the lease using general budget funds, which restricts the amount of money used in the classroom. However, the need for a new school is so severe that the Governing Board felt obligated to put the community's needs at the top of its priorities. In other words, keeping class sizes down by building new schools puts students' academic achievement at the top of its priorities list.

How does the middle school fit into this bond, and where will that addition be located?

The Middle School portion of the 2017 bond (\$10 million) is intended to be used to add classroom space for grades 6-8 within the District. The exact location of that extra space is unknown at this time, as there are still many variables which are unknown, and the District uses factual data to drive those decisions. This is also true of elementary schools #7 and #8.

Where will the new elementary schools go?

Our new elementary school #6 is going to be located in the Meridian subdivision off of Ocotillo Road just East of Queen Creek High School. However, the location of elementary schools #7 and #8 are still unknown at this time, as there are still many variables which are unknown. The District uses factual data accumulated through a demographics study to drive its decisions as to where the next school locations should be.

Why is the bond asking for money for a high school when it will be built regardless if the bond questions pass or not?

The decision to give an option to repurpose the existing 2014 bond categories included a discussion of how those monies would be used to supplement the construction of phase I high school #2. Although it is true the 2014 bond does already allow the use of these funds to construct new facilities in the high school grades, it did not specify high school #2. It was a fiscally responsible decision on the Governing Board's behalf to clarify in that repurpose exactly what the monies would be used for. This clarification is an example of the transparency with which the Governing Board strives for in every decision they make, and so it was a logical addition to the repurpose question (Bond Question #2).

What is the financial impact to individuals for bond questions 1 and 2?

Bond question 1 is for a new \$63 million bond, while bond question 2 is simply a repurpose of already authorized bond dollars to allow the District to utilize unused bond dollars for the new construction of an elementary school. The financial impact would be solely for the new \$63 million dollar question (question 1), which is estimated to have an average monthly impact of \$5.77 on a \$100,000 assessed valuation home (not market valuation). This is based on a conservative estimate using modest growth projections. There is no additional fiscal impact on an individual for the repurpose question (question 2).