

COLLEGE OF THE DESERT EXPANSION GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND MEASURE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Bond Measure?

The simple fact is that the need for our education and training programs has grown beyond the college's physical capacity to accommodate the demand.

Today, with its largest graduating class in history having just received their diplomas, College of the Desert is once again being asked to grow.

To meet the increasing demands for higher education and training, the College is planning to place a bond measure on the ballot in November 2016. This bond measure is part of an overall plan to strengthen the main missions of the College: give students the skills they need to be prepared for a successful career or transfer to four-year universities.

Final plans, including the total amount to be proposed for the measure, are still in process and not yet finalized.

How Will the Bond Funds Be Spent?

The measure will allow essential upgrades and improvements in all campus locations, including:

- Upgrading nursing, first responder, law enforcement, job and career training classrooms
- Expanding career and support facilities for veterans and military families
- Improving and expanding science labs, electrical systems, and computer technology
- Repairing leaky roofs, bathrooms and disabled accessibility
- Acquiring, constructing and repairing facilities, sites and equipment
- Ensuring classrooms and buildings meet current earthquake, health and safety standards

Why is a Bond Measure Needed?

College of the Desert is in the midst of incredible growth. This year, we had our largest graduating class ever.

The bond measure will help prepare COD to meet increasing demand by adding more classrooms, science labs and technology improvements throughout the District. This added capacity will allow the college to continue serving students with our two main missions: giving them the skills they need to begin their careers or preparing them to transfer to a four-year university.

How Has Increasing Enrollment Affected Our College and Community?

More and more local families are turning to College of the Desert for affordable, local higher education. In fact, student enrollment at College of the Desert has doubled over the last two decades. However, even with improvements in recent years, the College cannot provide enough classroom space to serve the growing student body and meet the needs of local business and industry for a skilled workforce.

More than 50% of students are part-time – often students cannot find the spaces in class to commit to a full-time schedule.

Additional classrooms and science labs are needed at all College of the Desert campuses to accommodate these increased demands and growing student enrollment.

How Does College of the Desert Prepare Students For Careers?

Our community relies on College of the Desert to prepare students of all ages for local jobs. The local economy requires trained and educated workers. By the year 2020, California will require 1 million more workers with associate degrees or certificates.

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The college partners with industry leaders in healthcare, tourism, the hospitality industry, transportation technology, designing arts, and others right here in the Coachella Valley to help boost our local economy and train students for today's jobs.

Training nurses is important now more than ever. California's nurse-to-patient ratio has ranked 48th in the nation for the past 10 years, and by 2030 we will be more than 193,000 nurses short of our needs.

The college is also a major training partner for local police and fire departments, renewable energy and the hospitality industry.

As the demand for these professional skills continues to grow, classrooms, labs and technology need to be improved to ensure the college can continue providing a high-quality education required to train tomorrow's workforce.

What Upgrades Are Needed To Support Continued Student Achievement?

Facilities on all COD campuses need to be expanded, modernized and constructed to prepare students for careers and to support high-quality education.

The college needs to expand and add up-to-date classrooms, labs, equipment and technology that prepare students for jobs in science, aerospace, teaching, nursing, public safety, energy and manufacturing. Technology infrastructure, networks and wiring are outdated and need to be improved.

The measure will also help build new University Centers to bring high demand bachelor's degree programs to our campuses in partnership with leading 4- year universities.

Funding will also expand and rebuild existing facilities on the Palm Desert campus to provide for a one-stop jobs and career

placement center to better connect students with employers and vice versa.

Additional Palm Desert Campus improvements include:

- Modernizing and repairing the Pollack Theater
- Expanding career and support facilities serving military veterans and their families
- Creating an Arts District connecting the Marks Gallery, Visual Arts Center and campus with the McCallum Theatre
- Expanding career and skills training classrooms
- Repairing and renovating aging classrooms and science labs to provide for more students
- Restoring and repairing of historic Albert Frey designed Velma Dawson structure to save costs, restore full functionality, and increase efficiency

The future West Valley Campus of College of the Desert represents an unprecedented opportunity for our students, business partners and community residents.

The bond measure will allow the complete build out of the new Palm Springs campus including:

- Constructing a joint use library
- Developing a working hotel training center and hospitality university
- Building the Healthcare Institute
- Developing the Film, Television and Digital Arts Institute
- Constructing the Energy and Sustainability Institute

Population projections for the East Valley over the next decade call for continued double digit growth. The College needs to be ready to meet increased demands over the next two decades and beyond.

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Plans to accommodate increasing demands for service expansion and modernization at the Indio Campus include:

- Adding academic classrooms and science labs
- Expanding Early Childhood Education facilities
- Constructing a library
- Adding a Career Placement Center

The full build-out of the East Valley Campus includes:

- Adding classrooms for Agribusiness and related technologies
- Expanding Engineering Technology facilities
- Constructing a Science and Space Observatory
- Expanding Environmental Sciences facilities
- Developing community centered college sites
- Constructing a Roadrunner working farm

Desert Hot Springs expansion includes:

- Developing a permanent community centered college site
- Adding career and job training facilities
- Expanding classrooms and science labs
- Adding Adult Education facilities

How Does College of the Desert Help Our Veterans?

The college serves over 350 veterans each year, one of the highest concentrations in California. Returning veterans need skills to re-enter the workforce and guidance on how to access the benefits they are entitled to receive from the federal government. Career and support facilities need to be expanded and upgraded for veterans and military families.

Have We Ever Passed A Local Bond Measure For College of the Desert?

Our local community has continued to support College of the Desert over the years. In 1962, a bond measure was passed by

local voters to build the original Palm Desert Campus.

In 2004, a \$346.5 million bond (Measure B) was passed to continue to meet the demands of student growth and to modernize and renovate existing classrooms and labs.

Members of the Measure B independent Citizens' Oversight Committee, as well as the annual public audits of Measure B spending, have demonstrated that funds have been spent as promised.

Is A Bond Measure The Only Option For Improving The College's Facilities?

College of the Desert is a critical resource for our community, providing high-quality, and affordable higher education. Unfortunately, we cannot depend on the state to be a reliable partner in funding the college's facility needs.

For What Specific Needs Will The Bond Funds Be Used?

The bond funds will be used to renovate classrooms, laboratories, and career/technology centers, improve technology infrastructure, enhance access to facilities for persons with disabilities, and repair unsafe and deteriorating buildings. Specific programs to be enhanced include: Tourism/Hospitality, Health Occupations, Police and Fire Science, Construction Technology, Automotive Technology, Computer Science, as well as all transfer level courses.

Can The Funds Generated By The Bond Measure Be Used For Purposes Other Than Those Specified On The Ballot?

California law states that the college may use these bond funds only for projects specified on a list provided to the County Registrar of Voters. The funds may not be used to pay staff salaries or fund any other projects.