



ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE
Measure I
Questions and Answers

For 85 years, Allan Hancock College has provided excellent, affordable higher education to students preparing to go on to four-year colleges, offered job skills and employment opportunities for high demand careers, provided lifelong learning opportunities to local residents, and trained thousands of police, firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians and HazMat workers.

Today, Allan Hancock College has placed a bond measure, Measure I, on the June 6, 2006 ballot to improve the college and keep up with changes in job training technology, address deteriorating classroom facilities, and add new classrooms.

Q: Why does Allan Hancock College need Measure I?

A: Allan Hancock College needs to replace failing roofs, add classrooms to accommodate more students, and upgrade classrooms and lab space for the highly skilled jobs of today in the healthcare, police, fire, Emergency Medical Technician, HazMat fields and others. Improved disabled access is needed. Classes are overcrowded – some students are being denied access to essential classes due to lack of space. The bond will be used to modernize and upgrade our facilities and construct additional classroom space for students at Allan Hancock College.

Q: How much is the bond and how will it be funded?

A: A general obligation bond to support the Allan Hancock College facilities has been set at \$180 million. Voters are asked to assess themselves \$25 per \$100,000 of assessed value of their property—that is *assessed* value, not appraised or market value.

Q: How can the public be assured that the bond funds will be spent properly?

A: The college's budget for the Facilities Improvement Plan is based on conservative planning and estimates. The proposed bond also includes specific taxpayer protections:

- All funds can only be spent on projects in Allan Hancock College's Facilities Improvement Plan—no money can go toward staff salaries.
- No funds can be taken by the state.
- An independent citizens' oversight committee will review all spending and contractor performance.
- Annual public audits are required.

Q: Aren't community colleges funded by the state? Shouldn't the state solve this problem?

A: State funding for higher education has been slashed in light of California's budget problems. Allan Hancock College can't rely on the state for all of the funding it needs to meet local demand for affordable higher education and facility repairs and upgrades. A bond measure would leverage millions of state dollars in matching funds to help improve facilities at Allan Hancock College.

Q: Why don't you just cut the number of administrators and put that money into infrastructure?

A: Allan Hancock College already runs a very lean budget and always keeps its administrative costs low, making student education its top priority. In California, community colleges like Allan Hancock College provide valuable education to 2.5 million students per year by using funding dollars efficiently. In fact, the California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the world. Even though community colleges are funded less than the other California systems of higher education, they provide job training, guaranteed transfers to four-year universities, and general interest classes for the community at large—all with the lowest tuition in the nation. The bottom line is that the amount of capital required for the facility improvements Allan Hancock College needs is many times greater than the college's entire annual operating budget.

Q: I am retired and on a fixed income, why should I support more property taxes when I don't benefit from any of the college programs?

A: Allan Hancock College does not just serve students who are looking to begin their educational careers. The college serves senior citizens in our community through its noncredit programs and opportunities like PCPA performances. Also, all of us benefit from the nurses and fire fighters who receive excellent training at Allan Hancock College and go on to serve our community, contributing to our strong local economy. The job training and educational opportunities that the college provides put people to work and make our community a better place in which to live. The college is the community's economic engine!

Q: I don't live in Santa Maria. How does Measure I help me?

A: All of the Allan Hancock College campuses and centers provide programs and training for local residents. For instance, about 2,400 students from Lompoc and over 1,000 students from the Santa Ynez Valley attend credit and noncredit classes each semester at Allan Hancock College. Many Allan Hancock College graduates serve your community as fire fighters, nurses, and police officers whether you live in the Santa Maria, Santa Ynez, or Lompoc valleys. Also, Allan Hancock College has learning centers in Lompoc, Solvang and at Vandenberg Air Force Base. These learning centers not only provide college credit classes, but also life-long learning and noncredit community classes for local residents all around northern Santa Barbara County. This bond measure will directly fund improvements to the Lompoc Valley Center nursing program by building lab facilities, classrooms, and a new multi-purpose space for college and community performance use. At the Solvang Center, Allan Hancock College will equip new computer labs to support business and tourism.

Q: Why hold the election now? Aren't there other bonds on the June ballot?

A: Increasing demand for students looking to transfer to four-year colleges and job training programs such as health care, police, firefighter, Emergency Medical Technicians, HazMat and other programs require that Allan Hancock College upgrade now. Aging facilities require attention today; the need for upgrades and repairs will only increase and become more expensive in the future.

Q: From where did the list of bond projects come?

A: The plan is a list of improvements identified in the college's Educational and Facilities Master plan. All planned bond projects support the college's mission of offering quality higher education for all local students.

Q: What projects will be funded by this measure?

A: Measure I funds will be used for needed improvements in high-priority academic programs: repairing and modernizing classrooms and labs for four-year university transfer preparation, job skills training for adults, and training for emergency workers and health care professionals. The funds would also be used to repair the wear-and-tear of aging building hazards like leaky roofs, old wiring and plumbing, and outdated ventilation.

Measure I funds will be used throughout the entire district, including improvements and upgrades at the Santa Maria campus as well as the Lompoc Valley and Solvang centers. See the Facilities Improvement Plan for a complete list.

Projects include:

- Repairing and replacing leaky, deteriorating roofs on campus buildings.
- Improving outdated classrooms and labs for science, nursing, dental and medical assistant programs.
- Building an appropriate facility for the firefighter, police officer, Emergency Medical Technicians and HazMat training to serve our three-county region.
- Improving access for students and teachers with disabilities.
- Adding modern classrooms to house the growing student body and ensure that students aren't crowded out of classes.
- Upgrading classrooms and labs with up-to-date technology and equipment and wiring to support modern computers and other needed learning tools.
- Renovating and upgrading industrial technology facilities for automotive, welding, electrical and other skills training.
- Upgrading air conditioning, ventilation, and plumbing systems for modern building standards and energy efficiency.
- Increasing safety, security and access by improving sidewalks, restrooms, parking, electrical systems, and lighting.
- Consolidating student education and career services into a more efficient One-Stop Center to help students with day-to-day issues relating to registration, admissions, assessment, counseling, financial aid, transfer to four-year universities, and more.
- Modernizing and consolidating fine arts and theatre arts education classrooms to eliminate costly off-campus leased space.
- Replacing condemned classroom space with a Career Skills Center, which will help community members learn new vocational skills and host English-as-a-second language programs.

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: The Facilities Improvement Plan is available from the Public Affairs & Publications office at 922-6966, extension 3280 or online at www.hancockcollege.edu. Click on "G.O. bond info."