



# **Barstow Community College District**

*2026 Facilities Bond Measure*

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

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### **What is this process all about?**

Barstow Community College District is committed to providing affordable, high-quality education and job training close to home for students, veterans, active-duty service members, and working adults across the High Desert. Each year, more than **5,300** students rely on Barstow Community College for career training, skilled-trade programs, and transfer opportunities to four-year universities. The College also serves veterans, active-duty service members, and military families from across the region through its close relationship with Fort Irwin, helping them transition into civilian careers and further their education. As part of responsible long-term planning, the District is evaluating the condition of campus facilities and identifying future needs. Many buildings and infrastructure systems have been in continuous use for more than **60 years** and require ongoing repairs, upgrades, and modernization to support today's workforce training programs and technology. This process helps the College assess facility needs and gather community input. Feedback from students, residents, and community members will help guide future planning and ensure Barstow Community College continues to provide safe, modern learning environments that support student success, workforce preparation, and affordable higher education in our region.

### **Why now?**

**OUR FACILITIES STORY OF NEED IS REAL.** Barstow Community College District has worked hard to stretch every dollar, and to be a responsible steward of taxpayer resources. However, after more than 60 years of continuous use, many Barstow Community College buildings and systems are aging, outdated, and in need of essential repairs. To meet today's job-training, safety, and technology standards, the College must update deteriorating sewer, gas and electrical lines, fix leaky roofs, repair HVAC systems, update computer technology, improve outdated classrooms, and modernize emergency communication systems. Students preparing for careers in skilled trades, healthcare, technology, engineering, and public safety need facilities that reflect real-world industry conditions. These upgrades will also enable Barstow to expand and enhance hands-on classrooms and labs to support in-demand, good-paying skilled-trade careers, such as welding, electrical work, and heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC). Upgrading Barstow's aging infrastructure is critical to ensuring students have safe, functional, modern learning environments that meet workforce needs, and the opportunity to earn credits toward a four-year bachelor's degree locally.

### **What are Barstow Community College's most critical NEEDS?**

- **Prepare** students and veterans for skilled trades including technology and engineering
- **Create and expand** classrooms, labs, and learning spaces to accommodate more students and support workforce training and transfer opportunities
- **Upgrade** technology to help prepare students for careers and transfer to four-year universities
- **Improve** access to skills training, career counseling, and job placement for veterans and active-duty service members
- **Upgrade** facilities supporting career training programs in healthcare, public safety, industrial maintenance, and other in-demand fields
- **Upgrade** deteriorating gas lines, electrical lines, air conditioning, heating systems, and emergency communication systems
- **Improve** accessibility for disabled students and staff

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- **Provide** access to childcare for community college students

### **How do improved facilities result in improved instruction?**

Safe, modern college facilities are essential to supporting high-quality instruction and workforce training programs. Students preparing for careers in healthcare, skilled trades, technology, and other in-demand fields need classrooms, labs, and equipment that reflect real-world industry conditions. Many Barstow Community College buildings and infrastructure systems have been in continuous use for more than **60 years** and were not designed for the technology, equipment, and hands-on training programs students rely on today. In some programs, limited classroom and lab space can make it difficult to expand course offerings or to accommodate all students who want to enroll, which can require limiting class sizes or delaying access to certain courses. Additional classroom and training space would allow the College to offer more classes and ensure more students can enroll in the programs they need to complete their education and career training.

Updated classrooms, labs, and training facilities allow instructors to provide more effective hands-on learning, incorporate modern technology, and better prepare students for good-paying careers or transfer to four-year universities. Improving campus facilities helps ensure Barstow Community College can continue providing safe, modern learning environments that support student success, workforce preparation, and an affordable higher education close to home.

### **How would potential facility improvements be funded?**

Barstow Community College District continually works to maintain and repair campus facilities using available operating funds and other resources. However, many of the repairs, upgrades, and modernization needs associated with buildings and infrastructure that have been in use for more than **60 years** go beyond what regular operating budgets can cover. Accordingly, we are exploring all available options to fund identified needs, including our own existing budget and state and federal funding. We are also considering asking our community to support a school bond measure on the November 2026 ballot. Passing a local school bond is the most common way California communities fund the upgrades we need. **NO decisions have been made yet.**

### **Is Barstow College really that old?**

Yes. Many Barstow Community College buildings were constructed more than 60 years ago and have been in continuous use ever since. While the College has worked hard to maintain its facilities, ongoing repairs and upgrades are needed to ensure classrooms, labs, and equipment meet current safety, technology, and workforce training standards. This includes addressing aging infrastructure such as deteriorating roofs, gas and electrical lines, heating and air conditioning systems, and outdated classrooms and technology. These improvements will help provide safe, modern learning environments and ensure students, veterans, and active-duty members are prepared for in-demand careers and transfer to four-year universities.

### **What about ongoing facilities maintenance? Doesn't the District have a facilities budget?**

District facilities staff work hard to maintain our local college facilities and keep them in good working condition with limited resources. However, the reality is that the types of repairs and renovations that are currently needed go beyond the scope and means of our minimal State-allocated maintenance budgets.

### **No one in my household attends Barstow Community College. Why should this matter to me?**

Investing in Barstow Community College benefits our whole community including people who will never go there. It will help contribute to a skilled local workforce in healthcare and other high-demand careers which will encourage businesses to locate closer to our community, benefitting the local economy and improving the quality of life for everyone.

### **Doesn't Barstow already have classrooms and training facilities?**

Yes. Barstow Community College has classrooms and training facilities that have served students, veterans, and active-duty military members for decades. However, upgrades and repairs are needed to properly prepare students for careers in science, technology, engineering, healthcare, skilled trades, and other in-demand fields, or to support students working toward transfer to four-year universities. This potential measure would replace outdated wiring and upgrade classrooms, equipment, and career training facilities so students and veterans can train using the modern tools and technology required in today's workforce. These improvements would help ensure Barstow Community College can continue providing high-quality education and job training close to home for current and future generations.

### **How would this potential measure help support veterans?**

Barstow Community College has a strong relationship with Fort Irwin and serves thousands of military veterans, active duty military, and their families. Many of the veterans have served in war zones and face challenges including post-traumatic stress disorder and permanent disabilities. This measure will upgrade and expand veteran services and facilities to ensure that returning service members receive the support they need to complete their education and enter the civilian workforce.

### **How does this impact me as a local Barstow resident?**

Barstow Community College is a vital economic engine for San Bernardino County, training thousands of students in key trades and preparing students to enter the workforce with needed certifications in order to find employment in an increasingly global economy. It's a vital resource for local college students and veterans seeking real-world skills to compete for good-paying jobs or prepare to transfer to four-year colleges or universities without facing crushing loan debt. Additionally, our proximity to students spares them from having to travel down the hill to get the training they need for the high-demand careers close to home. Barstow College even invites local high school students to get a jump start on college by taking courses while still in high school and provides a satellite-learning center at the U.S. Army National Training Center at Ft. Irwin to provide education to active service members.

### **How do we know that this measure will actually help students find work locally?**

Barstow Community College District is partnering with local employers such as Barstow Community Hospital, BNSF, and local logistics businesses to ensure it is offering programs that train local people for the good-paying jobs that employers are hiring for right in our community.

### **What is the potential measure about?**

The potential measure is a \$37 million facilities bond proposed to benefit Barstow Community College and could be on the November 3, 2026 ballot. If the BCCD Board of Trustees decide to place the measure on the ballot, the measure would seek voter authorization to establish funding to make the needed repairs, technology upgrades, and various improvements Barstow College facilities need. This Measure would require 55% support to pass. A "YES" vote approves funding for the District's plan; a "NO" vote rejects the plan. **NO decisions have been made yet.**

### **Why is Barstow Community College District looking to place a measure on the ballot?**

Barstow Community College District continuously evaluates its facilities to ensure they support high-quality education, workforce training, and student services. After more than 60 years of continuous use, many campus buildings and systems are aging and require repairs, upgrades, and modernization to meet current educational, safety, and technology standards. Modern classrooms, labs, and training facilities are essential to prepare students, veterans, and active-duty service members for in-demand careers, skilled trades, and transfer to four-year colleges and universities. Maintaining and improving campus facilities helps ensure Barstow Community

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College can continue providing affordable, high-quality education and job training close to home. We are exploring all available funding options, including existing resources, state support, and potential local funding. No decisions have been made, and any future measure would require voter approval.

### **How much would the proposed bond cost?**

**No decisions have been made yet.** A \$37 million bond translates to about \$25 dollars per year for every \$100,000 of assessed valuation for property owners. The assessed valuation refers to taxable value, not the market value of your home. If the bond is approved, the typical homeowner in our school district will pay about \$33 a year, or \$2.78 a month.

### **If voters approve the measure, when will the work begin?**

If voters approve the measure in November 2026, the District would immediately focus on addressing the most critical facility needs. A schedule for funding projects will be developed to complete projects on time and within budget.

### **Is Barstow significantly less expensive than other colleges, and does it actually provide the opportunities needed for our community?**

The cost to attend a California public university is at least six times greater than that of attending a community college such as Barstow. By ensuring Barstow facilities are modern and up-to-date, it allows local students to earn more credits, certifications, and acquire more training in healthcare and other high-demand careers.

### **How can we be assured that the bond money would be spent properly?**

**Taxpayer protections are REQUIRED.** ALL funds generated by the measure **MUST STAY LOCALLY CONTROLLED** for the direct benefit of Barstow Community College. MANDATORY public spending disclosure, annual audits, independent citizens' oversight ensure funds are used as promised. None of the money from this measure can be used to increase salaries, benefits, or pensions for administrators, teachers, or any other District employees. Furthermore, the measure includes strict accountability requirements, and all funds will be used locally to benefit Barstow Community College and cannot be taken by the County or State government.

### **Have there been other Barstow Community College school bonds? If so, when was the last bond?**

Barstow Community College District has not previously asked local voters to approve a bond measure for campus facility improvements. The District has worked carefully to maintain and repair college facilities using available resources and has taken pride in being a responsible steward of public funds. However, many campus buildings and infrastructure systems have now been in continuous use for more than 60 years. As the College evaluates long-term facility needs and necessary repairs, District leadership is reviewing all available funding options and gathering community input to help guide future planning.

### **What about the Lottery funding? Wasn't it supposed to fix our public schools and colleges?**

Unfortunately, Lottery funds can only be used for classroom instruction, not technology or facility upgrades. Moreover, the money our college district receives from the Lottery each year comprises less than 2% of us annual General Fund Budget.

### **Doesn't the STATE provide funding for facility upgrades?**

Very little. In the past, State funding has been available to support local community college upgrades, but especially now, we cannot count on this uncertain source of funding. Moreover, in order to access state funding, community college districts **MUST** generate local matching funds by passing a local facilities bond measure. Passing a local bond is the **ONLY** way to qualify for additional state funding if and when it becomes available. There are no other sources of funding for major facility upgrades.

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**Will businesses share in the cost of the measure?**

Yes, commercial, industrial, and residential property owners will be subject to the potential measures assessment.

**Will the measure support student and staff health and safety?**

If approved by local voters, this ballot measure will support student and staff health and safety by upgrading utility systems, deteriorating infrastructure, removing hazardous materials like asbestos where encountered, and completing general building upgrades. By funding these improvements, we can ensure the College's instructional environment is safer both on a day-to-day basis and in case of an emergency.

**What is a Proposition 39 bond measure and what can it pay for?**

A Proposition 39 bond measure can ONLY be used to fund public education facility and technology improvements (capital projects - not maintenance or regular repairs). A Proposition 39 facilities bond requires 55% to pass. Proposition 39 education facility bonds prohibit the use of the funds for operations, salaries or pensions. It also requires independent financial and performance audits on the use of bond proceeds. No revenue generated by a local bond can be taken away by the State.

**Who would be able to vote on the potential measure?**

All registered voters within the Barstow Community College District would be eligible to vote on this ballot measure if it were placed on the November 3, 2026 ballot.

**For more information or to share your input,** visit our website at: [www.barstow.edu](http://www.barstow.edu). OR contact: The Public Information Office via Email: [BCCListens@barstow.edu](mailto:BCCListens@barstow.edu) / Phone: (760) 252-7349