

Maintaining Affordable, High-Quality Education

Monterey Peninsula College (MPC) provides a high-quality, affordable college option for local students and is a designated Hispanic Serving Institution. In recent months, MPC has adapted to changing and challenging circumstances to continue providing quality education and job training to local students. Another challenge we must meet is upgrading our aging college facilities in order to keep our students safe and continue providing a modern education.



Providing Affordable Access to Higher Education

Because the cost of attending Cal State and the University of California (UC) system has become so expensive, more students are starting their education at community colleges like Monterey Peninsula College. In fact, around 50% of all local high school graduates rely on MPC for higher education and career training.

MPC ensures all local students, including lower and middle-income students who may not otherwise be able to afford the high price of a university, have access to high-quality education that prepares them for successful futures.

Serving Our Community and Local Workforce

As our community navigates these challenging times, it is important MPC remains a vital community resource and economic engine, providing career training for the region's in-demand jobs and generating millions of dollars per year for the local economy. MPC also educates the essential workers the community depends on, including the nurses and healthcare professionals that serve our medical needs, the police, firefighters and first responders that keep us safe and the skilled workers who fuel our economy.

While MPC has served the community well for over 70 years, several college buildings were built so long ago that they have asbestos, lead pipes, and do not meet proper earthquake safety standards. By law, these safety hazards need to be fixed. Upgrades to facilities, classrooms and technology are also needed to give students the tools they need to complete their first two years of college affordably.

Addressing Facilities Needs at MPC

MPC recently commissioned a survey of local residents that found 66% support for an investment to improve aging local college facilities. As a result, on July 30, 2020 the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to place a \$230 million local facilities bond measure on the November 3, 2020 ballot. The measure would cost property owners \$18 per \$100,000 of assessed (not market) value annually, or approximately \$87 per year for the typical homeowner while bonds are outstanding.

If approved by 55% of local voters, the local measure could:

- Repair leaky roofs, old rusty plumbing and dry rotted beams, replace faulty electrical systems to improve energy efficiency and upgrade facilities so the College can operate in a more environmentally sustainable way
- Keep computer systems and instructional technology up-to-date
- Upgrade classrooms and labs to help local students complete the first two years of college affordably and transfer to the Cal State or UC system
- Upgrade classrooms and career training facilities for science, technology, engineering, math, computer science, healthcare and nursing
- Make the computer and technology upgrades needed for students to be able to take classes, listen to lectures and complete assignments online

Fiscal Accountability and Independent Oversight

- A clear system of accountability is required, including a project list detailing exactly how the funds would be used, a Citizens' Oversight Committee and independent audits to ensure the funds would be spent properly
- All funds raised by the measure would stay local and no funds could be taken away by the State
- By law, no money from this measure could be spent on administrators salaries or pensions
- If approved, the measure would help MPC qualify for up to \$230 million in state matching funds

For More Information

Please contact Kristin Darken at kdarken@mpc.edu or (831) 646-4001 with any questions or visit www.mpc.edu/localmeasure.