

Measure U: Affordable Recreation Special Tax Measure

On the ballot Tuesday, November 3, 2026
Soledad-Mission Recreation District

Provided by the Soledad-Mission Recreation District for informational purposes only.



Who We Are

The Soledad-Mission Recreation District is an independent special district established September 11, 1962 under the California Recreation and Park District Law.

Separate from the City of Soledad
The District receives no City funding.



Independent local government agency



Adopts its own budget



Governed by its own Board of Directors



Operates the Soledad Swimming Pool, built in 1972

What We Provide



Aquatics

Swim lessons, water aerobics, youth swim team, lifeguard training



Youth

Day camps and youth sports leagues



Toddlers

T-ball, soccer, and tumbling



Community

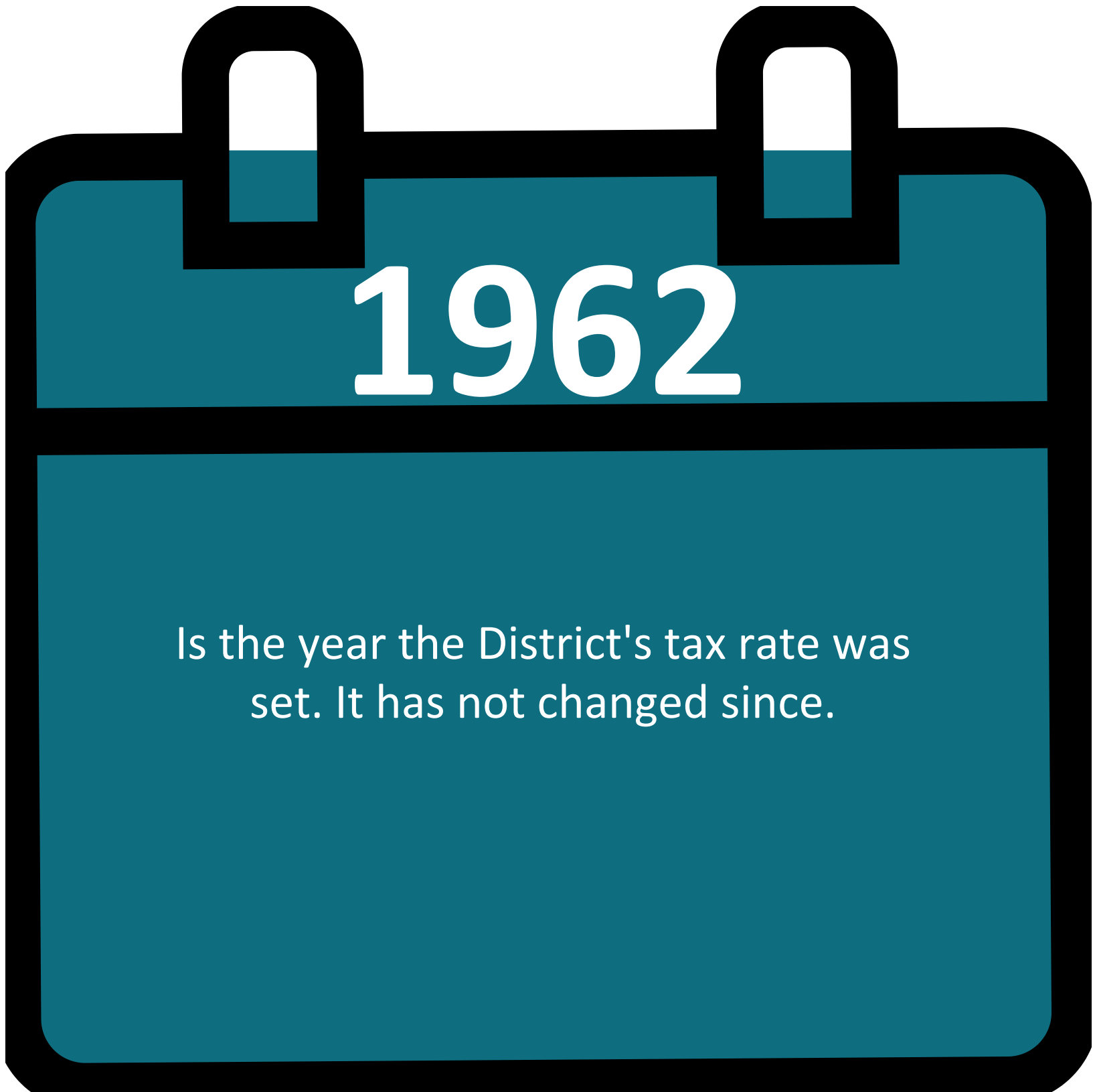
Martial arts, senior programs, and community events



Facilities

Care and operation of the Soledad Swimming Pool

How the District Is Funded Today



1962

Is the year the District's tax rate was set. It has not changed since.

- The District's dedicated revenue is a share of the 1% ad valorem property tax.
- This reflects a rate of \$0.17 per \$100 of assessed value, set at formation in 1962.
- That rate has not been increased in 64 years.

The Financial Picture

~3%

Average annual growth in
District revenue

~8%

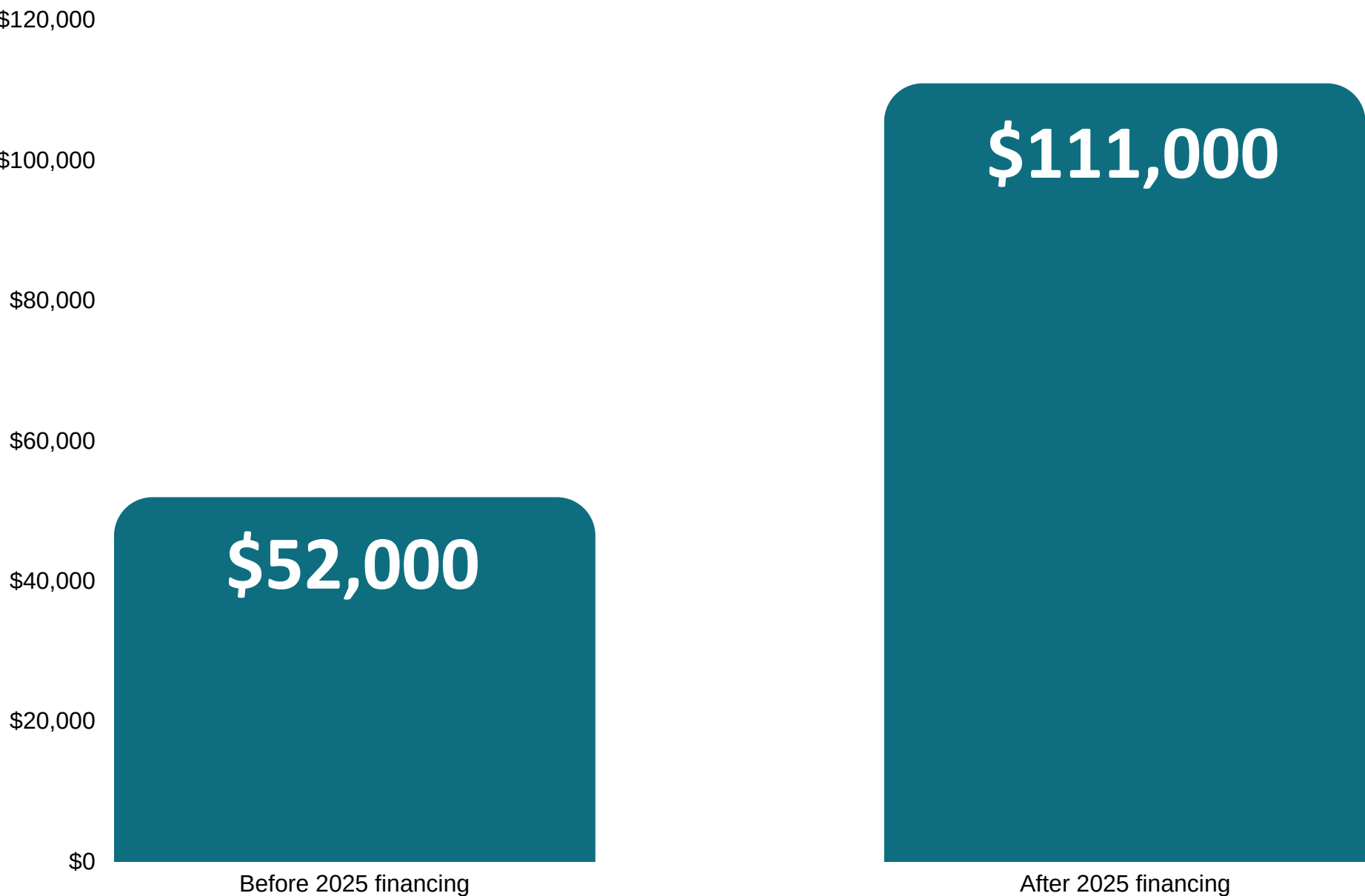
Average annual growth in
cost of services over the last
five years

- Some expense categories have grown faster than 8%.
- Existing revenue is not sufficient to fully fund facility maintenance, staffing, programming, and capital investment.

When costs grow faster than revenue, the gap widens every year.

Deferred Maintenance and Debt

Annual Debt Payments



- The District financed deferred maintenance projects in 2008 and again in 2025.
- The annual tax apportionment does not support capital planning.
- These are lease payments that require repayment with interest to keep the pool operating.

Options the District Explored

The District has analyzed the revenue options available to special districts and weighed the tradeoffs of each.



Raising prices to patrons

The community has told the District since 2021 that programs need to stay affordable.



School district partnerships

These contract awards fluctuate in size and in some years are unavailable making them not reliable multi-year funding.



Continued financing of capital needs

This adds interest cost without adding the additional funds to repay them.



A voter-approved special tax

Locally controlled, dedicated, and restricted by law to stated purposes.

How Measure U Works

3.5¢

Per building square foot
on improved parcels
within District boundaries

Parcels with no building	Would not be taxed
Estimated revenue	Approximately \$292,000 per year
Duration	Until ended by voters
Annual adjustment	Inflation, limited to 3% per year
Approval required	Two-thirds of votes cast
First levy	FY 2027-28 tax roll (Mails approx. October 2027)

What It Would Fund

Revenue could only be used for:



Facilities

Maintenance and operation of the Soledad Swimming Pool and District facilities



Staffing

Lifeguards, recreation coordinators, maintenance, and administrative support



Programs

Recreation programs for all ages



Capital and reserves

Renovation and long-term preservation of District facilities

Accountability



Separate Account

Held apart from other District accounts



Annual Report

Filed with the Board each year the tax is in effect



Independent Audit

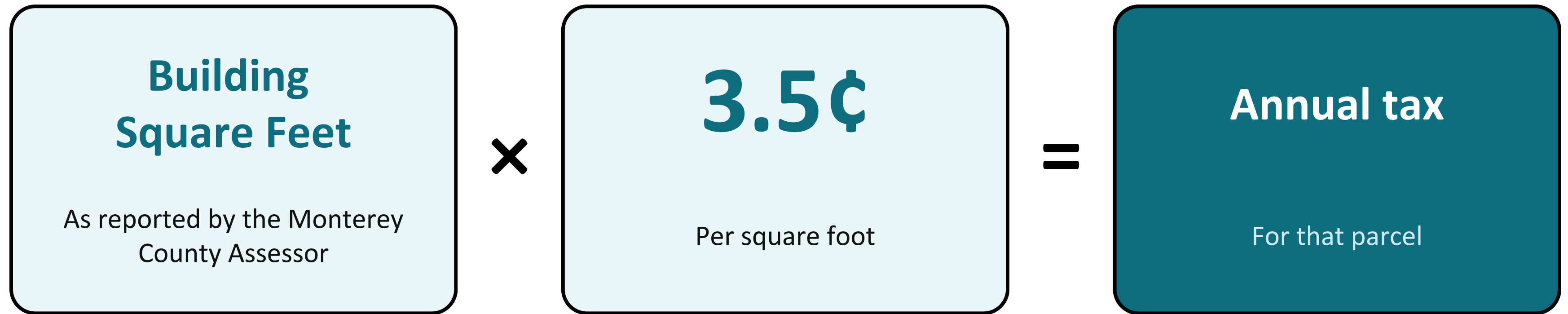
Included in the District's annual audit



Citizens' Oversight

Committee formed within 12 months of first levy; reviews report and audit

How the Amount Is Calculated



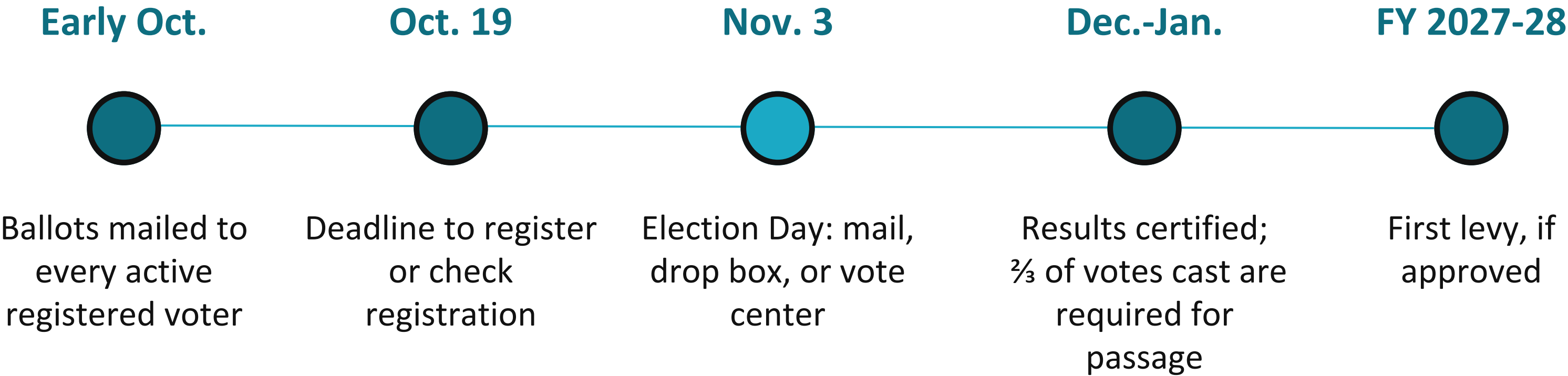
- Applied across all improved parcels, this is estimated to produce approximately \$292,000 per year.
- Unimproved parcels are taxed at zero. Public property otherwise exempt from property tax is also exempt.

What It Would Cost

Building size	Annual cost
1,000 sq ft	\$35.00
1,710 sq ft (District average home)	\$59.85
2,500 sq ft	\$87.50
4,000 sq ft	\$140.00

Cost = building square feet × \$0.035. Parcels with no building would pay nothing.

What Happens Next



Learn More

Scan the QR code to visit the District website for more information.



Provided by the Soledad-Mission Recreation District for informational purposes only.