

Frequently Asked Questions November 7, 2017 Bond Election

When is the election?

Tuesday, November 7, 2017. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Absentee ballots will be available after September 23rd.

What is on the ballot?

Registered voters residing within the boundaries of the Madison Public School District will vote on a \$29.2 million bond proposal.

Why is this bond election necessary?

The primary purpose of the bond election is to address Phase 2 of Madison Public Schools' *One Campus One Community* plan to have all traditional K-12 programs on one campus.

If voters approve the bond proposal, the current high school will be remodeled to accommodate both the high school and the middle school.

The bond proposal on the November 7 ballot is an outgrowth of the school district's strategic planning process and has implications for every Madison student and every member of the Madison community.

The bond projects fall into five major categories:

1. Remodel the existing high school into a facility that accommodates both high school and middle school students
2. Adding a new middle school cafeteria to the remodeled high school/middle school.
3. Including instructional designs and technology that will support 21st Century teaching and learning.
4. Adding new adding new athletic/fitness facilities, including an indoor track, community fitness center, improvements to the pool, and improvements to outdoor athletics facilities that can be used by students and community members.

5. Adding play structures and pavilions to Sunset Park to serve students, families, and other members of the community.

How will the bond proposal benefit students and the community?

The bond proposal was designed benefit students and the community in several ways, including...

- ✓ enhancing school security and student safety
- ✓ upgrading instructional spaces and technology
- ✓ accommodating all students on a single campus
- ✓ improving athletic facilities and health and fitness opportunities for students and other members of the community
- ✓ making Sunset Park more useable by students and other members of the community

All bond proposal projects were designed to reflect positively on homeowner property values and the school district's reputation.

What will the bond proposal cost?

If voters approve the \$29.2 million bond proposal, the current tax rate will increase by 5.24 mills. The annual cost for a person living in a \$90,000 home be \$235.80. That's \$4.50 per week or 65¢ per day. Some people will pay more; most people living in the Madison District Public Schools will pay less than 65¢ per day.

What will appear on the ballot?

The actual ballot language appears below:

MADISON DISTRICT
PUBLIC SCHOOLS BONDING
PROPOSAL

Shall Madison District Public Schools, Oakland County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Twenty-Nine Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$29,200,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor for the purpose of:

erecting, furnishing, and equipping additions to and remodeling, furnishing and refurnishing, and equipping and re-equipping school buildings; acquiring and installing instructional technology in school buildings; and erecting, furnishing, equipping, developing, and improving playgrounds, athletic fields, and sites?

ballot language continued

The following is for
informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2018, under current law, is 5.24 mills (\$5.24 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation). The maximum number of years the bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is thirty (30) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 9.80 mills (\$9.80 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district expects to borrow from the State School Bond Qualification and Loan Program to pay debt service on these bonds. The estimated total principal amount of that borrowing is \$1,891,505 and the estimated total interest to be paid thereon is \$8,111,644. The estimated duration of the millage levy associated with that borrowing is 29 years and the estimated computed millage rate for such levy is 13 mills. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is \$12,265,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is approximately \$1,987,089.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

What will happen to the current middle school?

If the bond proposal is approved by voters, the Advanced Manufacturing Training Facility will continue to be housed in the current middle school. In addition, Keys Grace Academy, which now serves students in grades K-6, will remain in the current middle school. Over the next few years the Keys Grace Academy program will remain in the middle school and expand to serve students in grades K-12. Keys Grace Academy will continue to pay rent to the Madison Public Schools for the use of the current middle school.

What will happen if voters do not approve the bond proposal?

The bond projects cannot be addressed as proposed.

Why is this bond proposal so comprehensive?

The bond proposal is part of a master plan to have all Madison District Public School facilities on a single campus. When the bond proposal projects are completed, Madison District Public Schools will be *One Campus One Community*.

What is the schedule for bond proposal projects?

Work on the projects will begin immediately after voter approval of the November 7th bond proposal. It is the school district's intent to have all projects completed in approximately two years.

Will all bond proposal revenue remain in the Madison School District?

Yes. All revenue from the bond proposal will stay in the Madison School District. None of the revenue will go to Lansing or to any other school district or political entity.

If the bond proposal is approved by voters, will property values be affected?

Real estate values tend to be higher in communities with school districts that offer a quality educational program and have up-to-date school facilities. Property values tend to be lower in communities that do not offer an adequate curriculum or that have schools that are out-of-date and poorly maintained. All Madison District Public School bond proposal projects were designed to reflect positively on homeowner property values and the school district's effectiveness and efficiency.

What is a bond proposal?

A bond is a State-approved funding process that specifies a set scope of projects. When voters approve a bond proposal, the school district sells bonds in the authorized amount and uses the proceeds of the sale to pay for those projects in the bond proposal. Bonds are usually issued for 20-30 years. If voters approve the November 7th bond proposal, the Madison Public School's bonds will be issued for 20 years.

In many ways, the bonding process is like a homeowner obtaining a mortgage and making payments over a period of years.

Bonds can be used for:

- Constructing new school buildings
- Constructing additions to existing school buildings
- Remodeling existing school buildings
- Energy conservation improvements
- Land purchases
- Site development and improvements
- Athletic and physical education facility development and improvements
- Playground development and improvements
- Refunding debt (if new present value savings can be demonstrated)
- Direct bond program costs such as professional fees, election fees, issuance costs, qualification fees, insurance fees, final audit costs
- School bus purchases

- Loose furnishings and equipment purchasing
- Technology purchases limited to hardware and communication devices that transmit, receive or compute information for pupil instructional purposes only. The initial purchase of operating system and customized application software is allowed if purchased with the initial hardware.

Bonds cannot be used for:

- Salaries, service contracts, lease payments, installment contracts, and supplies
- Repairs, maintenance, or maintenance agreements
- Purchasing automobiles, trucks, or vans
- Portable classrooms purchased for temporary use
- Uniforms
- Textbooks
- Upgrades to an existing computer operating system or application software
- Computer training, computer consulting, or computer maintenance contracts.

Can any of the bond proposal funds be used for employee salaries or operating expenses?

No. Bond proposal funds cannot be used for employee salaries. They also cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs or other operating expenses. Bond proposal funds must be used only for purposes specified in the ballot language, and, as required by State law, they must be independently audited.

Who can vote in this bond proposal election?

Residents of the Madison District Public Schools who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, and are registered to vote by October 10, 2017.

Where can I get information about voting (such as how to register, where to vote, and absentee voting)?

Go to the Michigan Voter Information website (webapps.sos.state.mi.us) or call the Clerk's Office where you reside.

Do I need to update my voter registration?

You need to update your voter registration if you have changed your name or address since the last time you voted. You can do this at any Secretary of State Office or at the Clerk's Office where you reside.

Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Registered voters can vote by absentee ballot if they meet one of the following:

1. They expect to be out of town on Election Day;
2. They are 60 years of age or older;
3. They are unable to vote without assistance at the polls; or,
4. They cannot attend the polls due to religious reasons.

Absentee ballots will be available to voters after September 23rd. The Clerk will mail absentee ballot applications to residents on the permanent absentee voter list shortly before or shortly after that date. After September 23rd, voters can complete their absentee ballot application and vote in one stop at their Clerk's Office. The whole process takes about five minutes.

Get more information about the bond election and answers to your questions...

- Go to www.madisondistrict.org and click on *School Election Information*
- Call any Madison school principal
- Call Superintendent of Schools Randy Speck at 248/399-7800 or email him at rspeck@madisondistrict.org