Jefferson County R-VII School District

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January 29, 2026

A Message from the Superintendent: Understanding Proposition S

Dear Jefferson R-VII Community,

On April 7, 2026, the Jefferson R-VII School District will have a capital improvement bond election, titled Proposition S, on the municipal election ballot. As part of our commitment to transparent communication and our "One-Campus Vision," I want to provide you with the facts regarding Proposition S so you can make an informed decision as a citizen and voter.

What is Proposition S? Proposition S is a $14,000,000 **no-tax-rate-increase** bond election designed to fund specific infrastructure and district security projects identified through our long-range planning process. The proposal focuses on three primary areas:

- **Traffic and Infrastructure:** This includes the Blue Jay Way Extension to provide a direct connection to U.S. 61 and traffic flow improvements at Danby Middle School.
- **Modernized Security:** The plan includes a modern, campus-wide security system that aligns video, lock, and alarm systems across the district.
- **Facility Enhancements:** Projects include relocating the softball field to the high school campus, stadium improvements (bathrooms, concessions, and parking), and renovating the Danby Middle School playground.

Fiscal Analysis: Proposition S is structured as a **no-tax-rate-increase** bond election. Based on conservative projections of local property value growth, the District anticipates being able to fund these projects without increasing the current debt service tax levy of $0.8104 per $100 of assessed valuation.

To maintain this rate while funding new projects, the District would extend the current bonding timeline from 2035 to 2046. Additionally, the District will pursue, with voter approval of Proposition S, MoDOT and CMAQ cost mitigation opportunities to potentially reduce local expenditures on road projects; however, these opprtunities require the established local matching funds that Proposition S would provide.

Historical Fiscal Management: The District has a long-standing history of proactive fiscal management. Since 2002, the Jefferson R-VII School District has saved $4,187,843 in interest through strategic debt pre-payments. By paying off principal ahead of schedule, the District reduces long-term interest obligations, which helps maintain the capacity to address new facility needs within the existing tax rate.

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15-Year Financial Analysis: To ensure long-term stability and fiscal transparency, the Jefferson R-VII School District began the development of a 15-year financial plan (2026–2040) in 2025. This ongoing planning process is designed to analyze the impact of anticipated local revenue growth from major regional developments, including the Ameren Big Hollow Energy Center, Buzzi Unicem, and James Hardie Industries. While this analysis remains in progress to account for evolving economic data, these projections allow the District to manage its long-term bonding capacity effectively.

In the Event of Non-Approval: If Proposition S is not approved, the identified projects would remain on the District's long-range needs list without a confirmed timeline for completion. The current campus traffic structure would not change, and the District would not meet the local matching requirements necessary to apply for the identified grant opportunities at this time.

Learn More: I encourage every member of our community to review the full project scope and financial data. You can find detailed information on the District's website at: www.jr7.k12.mo.us/page/proposition-s.

QR Code:

Thank you for your continued engagement with the Jefferson R-VII School District.

Sincerely,

David Haug, Ed.D.
Jefferson R-VII Superintendent of Schools

Paid for by the Jefferson R-VII School District
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