

GFW PUBLIC SCHOOLS - INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2365

Planning with Purpose. Strengthening Our Future.



CAPITAL PROJECTS LEVY AND BUILDING DEMOLITION REFERENDUM

Investing in Students, Not Short-Term Fixes

Learn more at : www.gfwschools.org/election

Question #1: Capital Projects Levy

What is Being Requested?

- \$400,000 annually
- 10-year authorization
- Approximately \$4 million total investment

Funds can only be used for:

- Transportation
- Technology
- Curriculum and instructional materials

By law, these funds **cannot** be used for:

- Teacher or Admin Salaries
- Utilities
- General Operating Expenses

Why is this Funding Needed?

TECHNOLOGY

Technology is no longer optional in education.

By the Numbers:

- Every GFW student in grades K-12 uses a Chromebook
- District technology costs average \$980,842 annually
- Chromebooks cost approximately \$350-450 each, including security systems to protect our students
- Network equipment and cybersecurity systems require ongoing replacement and upgrades

Cybersecurity threats continue to rise nationally, with approximately 60% of K-12 schools reporting at least one cybersecurity incident in 2024.

Community Impact:

Without dedicated funding, technology replacement costs must come from the district's general budget, increasing pressure on educational programming and other district priorities.

CURRICULUM

Students depend on up-to-date instructional materials and digital learning resources.

By the Numbers:

- Curriculum costs average \$188,416 annually
- GFW used \$532,166 in one-time federal COVID relief funds to purchase curriculum resources.
- Many of those subscriptions and resources will begin expiring within the next 2-3 years.

Community Impact:

As federal funding expires, the district must identify a long-term funding source to maintain current instructional resources and learning opportunities.



TRANSPORTATION

Student transportation remains one of the district's largest capital expenses.

By the Numbers:

- Transportation costs average \$722,217 annually
- Several district buses are more than 20 years old, with at least two buses no longer passing inspection
- The average district bus has over 160,000 miles
- Replacement buses cost \$130,000-\$155,000 each

Community Impact:

The district estimates that outsourcing transportation services would cost approximately *32% more per year than maintaining district-operated transportation.

** This doesn't include the rising cost of fuel.*

Dedicated funding would help preserve local transportation services while reducing the need for emergency vehicle replacements.

What happens **if School District Question #1 is approved?**

Long Term Stability

Provides dedicated funding for major capital needs without diverting funds from classroom operations.

Fiscal Stewardship

Allows future budget decisions to be driven by enrollment trends rather than unexpected technology, curriculum, or transportation costs

Educational Excellence

Supports updated curriculum, reliable technology, and strong instructional practice

Transportation Reliability

Helps maintain district-operated transportation and avoid potentially higher contracted transportation costs.

Question #2: Facility Demolition Bond

Question #2 can only be approved if Question #1 passes

What is being requested?

\$3.2 million in bond funding to demolish aging facilities that no longer serve instructional purposes.

The estimate includes:

- Demolition
- Asbestos abatement
- Environmental compliance

- Site surveys and investigations
- Utility disconnections
- Site restoration

Why is this funding needed?

Even unused buildings continue to generate significant costs.

Current Annual Costs:

The district spends approximately:

- \$70,000-\$82,000 annually on the former Gibbon building
- \$150,000-\$191,000 annually on the former Winthrop building

Community Impact

Resources spent maintaining unused buildings are resources that cannot be invested in student learning, educational programming, staff or student services.

The district remains legally responsible for these facilities and cannot simply abandon them.

Combined annual costs average approximately \$224,000 per year for:

ELECTRICITY	INSURANCE
HEATING	TELEPHONE
WATER	BASIC MAINTENANCE & UPKEEP

What’s on the Ballot?

School District Question 1 - Approval of Capital Project Levy Authorization

The school board of Independent School District No. 2365 (Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop) has proposed a capital project levy authorization in the amount of 1.53% times the net tax capacity of the School District. The proposed capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$400,000 for taxes payable in 2027, the first year it is to be levied, and would be authorized for ten (10) years. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$4,000,000. The additional revenue from the proposed authorization will be used to provide funds for the acquisition and maintenance of software, technology, and technology systems, and to pay the costs of technology-related personnel and training; the purchase and replacement of school buses and school-related transportation vehicles; and the acquisition of curriculum, textbooks, and materials. The projects to be funded have received a positive Review and Comment from the Commissioner of Education.

BY VOTING “YES” ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

School District Question 2 - Approval of School District Bond Issue

If School District Question 1 is approved, shall the school board of Independent School District No. 2365 (Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop) also be authorized to issue its general obligation school building bonds in an amount not to exceed \$3,200,000 to provide funds for the acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities, including the demolition of decommissioned school buildings?

BY VOTING “YES” ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

Why is GFW Holding this Election?

GFW Public Schools is facing increasing financial pressures from:

Inflation and rising operating costs

Declining Statewide Student Enrollment

Underfunded state mandates

Over the past two years, the district has already reduced spending by more than \$850,000, but significant needs remain in transportation, technology, and curriculum.

The proposed funding would provide dedicated resources for these needs without using dollars intended for classroom operations and daily school expenses.

Taxpayer Impact

Question #1



For a home valued at \$175,000:
approximately \$22 per year



Agricultural Property:
For a homesteaded acre that is valued at \$13,000 approximately \$1.00 per year



For non-Homestead:
approximately \$2.00 per year



Question #2



For a home valued at \$175,000:
approximately \$24 per year



Agricultural Property:
For a homesteaded acre that is valued at \$13,000 approximately \$0.33 per year



For non-Homestead:
approximately \$0.66 per year



The State's Ag2School Building Bond Credit is expected to cover approximately 55% of the total bond cost, or roughly \$1.76 million, reducing the local taxpayer burden.



Use the Online Tax Calculator to check your impact.

