

Frequently Asked Questions

The "No-Tax-Increase" Aspect

How can this be a "no-tax-increase" bond issue?

This is the most common question. A school district can issue new bonds without raising the debt service tax levy by:

Paying off existing debt: As the district pays off old bonds, it frees up debt capacity. The new bonds essentially replace the old ones, keeping the payment level steady, similar to refinancing a home mortgage.

Managing debt: The district structures the new bond payments to fit within the existing levy, extending the debt but not increasing the annual tax rate.

If the bond passes, will my property taxes go up?

No. A "no-tax-increase" bond" bond is designed to keep the debt service portion of your property tax rate at its current level. You will not see an increase in your school tax rate because of this bond passing.

If the bond fails, will my taxes go down?

No. If the bond issue does not pass, the school district's debt service levy will remain the same. A "no" vote will not lower your property taxes. The district would simply be unable to borrow the new funds for the proposed projects.

Why do we have to vote on this if it doesn't raise taxes?

Missouri state law requires voter approval for all general obligation bonds issued by a school district, regardless of whether it increases the tax levy. This ensures community oversight on all major borrowing.

Use of Funds

What is a bond issue, and can this money be used for?

A bond issue is a way for a school district to borrow money for large, long-term capital projects. This is similar to a homeowner taking out a mortgage for a major home renovation instead of paying for it all at once out of their checking account.

Funds are typically used for:

Safety and security: Secure entrances, new communication systems, and cameras.

New construction: Building new schools or additions to address overcrowding.

Major renovations: Updating old classrooms, roofing, and windows.

Essential infrastructure: Replacing aging HVAC (heating and cooling), plumbing, and electrical systems.

Technology: Upgrading district-wide network infrastructure.

Accessibility: Making buildings compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Can this bond money be used for teacher salaries or operational costs?

No. By state law, money from a general obligation bond issue cannot be used for operational expenses like salaries, benefits, utilities, or classroom supplies. It is legally restricted to capital projects (bricks and mortar, infrastructure, etc.).

How were these specific projects chosen?

Our Facility Committee and administration, along with our partners from Navigate Construction and Bond Architects, have thoroughly assessed our district facilities to identify areas of greatest need. This two-year process focused on safety, fiscal responsibility and student learning to prioritize specific projects. The resulting long-range facility master plan will guide our district into

the future while ensuring high-quality environments for our students. This plan allows us to address these critical needs without increasing the current debt service tax levy.

What projects will be funded by this bond?

The priority list includes:

- Improving the high school front entrance for security purposes
- Upgrading the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems in the middle school
- Overhauling existing parking lots by repairing, replacing, or paving them
- Renovating existing and constructing additional restrooms in the middle school
- Improving exterior lighting and masonry walls
- Replacing the playground surface at the elementary school

Voting and Impact

What happens if the bond issue doesn't pass?

If the bond fails, the proposed projects will be delayed or canceled. The district would still have to address critical needs, but it would have to use funds from its operating budget. This could mean diverting money that would otherwise be used for student programs, educational materials, or staffing to pay for emergency repairs.

What is the required majority for the bond to pass?

In Missouri, a general obligation bond issue like this requires a four-sevenths (or 57.14%) “YES” vote in order to pass on April 7, 2026.

I don't have children in the district. Why should I vote yes?

Strong schools are essential to thriving neighborhoods and a strong local economy.

Demographic and economic data consistently shows that vibrant, successful schools are assets to their communities, increasing property values, attracting investment and benefiting neighbors.

How does a Bond Issue protect money spent on students and teachers & support staff salaries?

General Obligation bonds provide funds for capital improvements so that a district does not have to use their Operating Funds (money used for educating students and paying teachers and staff) on such improvements.

Why Now?

Waiting to address these issues will likely lead to higher costs. For example, we currently have 1.5 million dollars of tuckpointing that needs to be addressed to prevent water from penetrating our exterior walls and causing even more significant, costly repairs. These projects are designed to protect our community's investment and extend the life of our school buildings.

When will the projects be completed?

If approved by voters in April 2026, the district plans to finalize designs as soon as possible. Major work would be scheduled as soon as possible while also working to minimize disruption to the learning environment. If passed, improvements would tentatively begin in the summer or 2027. Additional projects would likely begin in the summer of 2027.

When is the election?

Election Day is on Tuesday, April 7, 2026.