Marquette Area Public Schools May 2026 Bond Proposal FAQ

Why is a bond proposal being considered?

Independent facility studies (state-funded and district-commissioned) identified more than $100 million in infrastructure and systems needs across MAPS. A renewed sinking fund provides about $1.3 million annually for repairs, but large, multi-site improvements require a bond to complete at scale.

- Large portions of building systems are at or beyond useful life; delaying major work risks higher costs and reactive repairs.
- Combines safety, infrastructure, and program improvements into coordinated, bid-ready packages to minimize disruption and maximize value.
- Complements — not replaces — the sinking fund so routine maintenance can continue without crowding out strategic upgrades.

The District is grateful to taxpayers for supporting a $1.3 million annual sinking fund that was renewed in 2022, but large, multi-site improvements require a bond to complete updates of this scale. The District will continue to utilize sinking funds for annual capital maintenance repairs, to ensure our buildings are well-maintained.

What would the bond proposal accomplish?

If approved, the May 2026 bond would fund improvements aligned with three priority areas identified through the district's Facilities Master Plan:

- **Safety:** Secure entrances, upgraded communication systems, classroom door hardware, and ADA improvements.
- **Infrastructure:** Heating and ventilation systems, electrical upgrades, exterior doors and windows, lighting, building envelope improvements, and other major system replacements that exceed the capacity of the district's $1.3 million annual sinking fund.
- **Programming:** Modern learning spaces—including science labs, CTE areas, arts and music rooms, athletic facilities, and classroom technology—to ensure MAPS students have safe, flexible, future-ready environments.

Every school in the district would benefit from the proposal, with investments tailored to each building's highest-priority needs as identified through the facilities studies and community input. These improvements are designed not only to meet current instructional and safety standards but also to reduce long-term operational costs and improve reliability across the district.

MARQUETTE AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOND VOTE MAY 5 Every Building • Every Student

MARQUETTE AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS FACILITIES PLANNING — SAFER, MODERN SCHOOLS FOR EVERY BUILDING & EVERY STUDENT

	Safety & Security		Infrastructure Updates							Educational Programming					Other	
	Security	ADA	HVAC	Plumbing	Electrical	Technology	LED	Exterior	Interior	Gym/locker Room Renovation	Science Lab/Tech Ed Updates	Music Updates	Library/ Media Center & Cafeteria Updates	Auditorium Updates	Playground	Outdoor Athletic Updates
Cherry Creek ES	•					•	•	•	•						•	
Graveraet ES	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•					•	•	
Sandy Knoll ES	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•			•			•	
Superior Hills ES	•					•	•		•							
BMS	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				
MAHS	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•					
MSHS	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Athletics & Bus Garage		•							•							•

**For more details on what projects will be addressed at each school building, please visit the District's website at: https://www.mapsnet.org/page/2026-bond-information*

Will this bond address all of the district's needs?

The proposed bond would address many significant needs and would allow the district to be proactive rather than reactive with repairs. It would allow the district to use the sinking fund for regular maintenance at a smaller scale (roofs, parking lots, boilers, etc.). The bond would also help to protect the community's resource of schools.

By asking the MAPS community, via community-wide survey, what amount of investment they would support via a bond, the District received feedback that voters were not as likely to support a bond proposal exceeding $60 million. The MAPS Board of Education and administrative teams listened to this feedback, and developed a bond proposal that reflected the voter feedback. *We Asked, We Listened.*

More than $100 million of needs were identified by two independent facilities assessments, and those needs are not going away. The $59,995,000 proposal is a great first step, but the MAPS facilities are still in need of repairs and improvements. This proposal will address the most critical needs.

How would the bond impact learning environments for teachers and students?

This clear, community-driven plan to address safety, aging infrastructure, and student programming needs across Marquette Area Public Schools (MAPS) will definitely improve the learning improvements for our students and staff.

Addressing priority needs now controls long-term costs, develops operational efficiencies, improves safety and accessibility, and modernizes learning spaces for today's and tomorrow's students.

Every school in the district would benefit from the proposal, with investments tailored to each building's highest-priority needs as identified through the facilities studies and community input. These improvements are designed not only to meet current instructional and safety standards but also to reduce long-term operational costs and improve reliability across the district.

What happens if the bond does not pass?
The needs identified by both facilities studies do not go away. The longer we wait to replace the end of life items and repair our building infrastructure, the costs to make these repairs will continue to increase. Due to the school funding formula in the state of Michigan, the District will likely need to return to voters in the near future if this bond proposal is not approved.

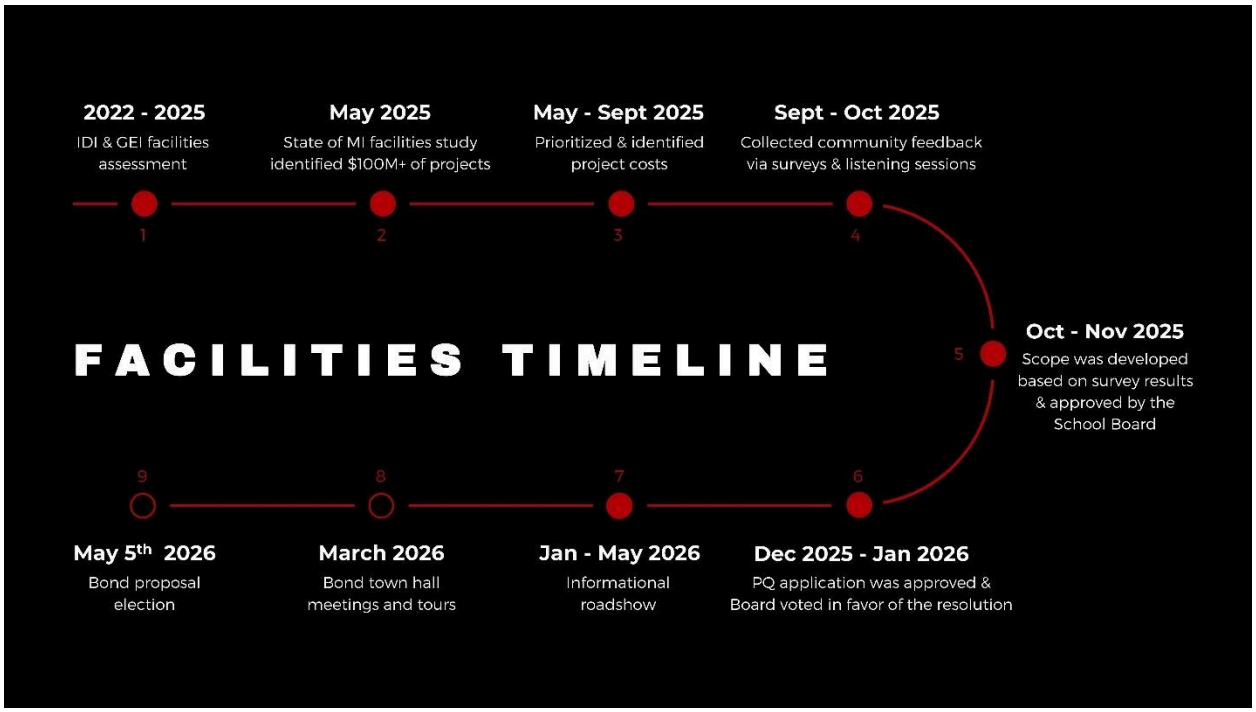
Where can I learn more?

- Visit the MAPS website: https://www.mapsnet.org/page/2026-bond-information
- Call the District Office: **906-225-4200**
- Email: **mapsinfo@mapsnet.org**

Process & Planning

What process did the district use to develop this bond proposal?
This has been an extensive process of analyzing the facility needs of our facilities. We have engaged architects and engineers, as well as MAPS staff, to identify the most strategic use of funds to keep our schools operational and safe for our students.

Below is a timeline of events that led MAPS to this bond proposal:



How were the community-wide survey results from Fall 2025 used?

School Perceptions, an independent, third-party research firm, conducted a mailed survey on behalf of Marquette Area Public Schools. Every household and all staff members received the survey, and those who returned it were able to share their feedback to help to inform scope and priorities.
Two community information sessions were held on September 22 and 23, 2025, while the survey was open for responses, and the survey closed on October 3, 2025.

The results of the community survey were reported at the School Board meeting on October 13, 2025. Based on the results, the Board listened to the community's feedback, and voted to pursue a bond proposal for May 5, 2026.

The survey results and stakeholder feedback guided a right-sized plan with emphasis on safety, infrastructure, and programming at each school. For more information about the survey and survey results, please visit the District's website: https://www.mapsnet.org/page/facilities-planning

How were the community-wide survey responses analyzed?

- School Perceptions is a third-party consultant that facilitated the entire survey progress from design and strategy, to printing and mailing, to analyzing data.
- The survey targeted every district resident with a physical mailing address.
- The survey response indicates statistically valid predictions as more than 1,929 people received and completed the survey.

- School Perceptions has reviewed thousands of school bond elections nationwide and found that, on Election Day, a typical school bond polling place is made up of about **75% voters who are neither parents nor district staff**, and **25% parents or staff**. This voter makeup is a key factor in School Perceptions' statistical models when projecting likely election outcomes.

  While this survey received a higher share of responses from parents and staff, historical voting patterns show that **non-parent, non-staff voters make up the majority of the actual electorate**. As a result, the analysis places significantly greater weight on responses from those voters when estimating Election Day support.

How was the priority list determined?
The priority list was developed through a collaborative team approach involving professionals from administration, operations, architecture & engineering, and finance. The team carefully reviewed both facilities studies (State of Michigan and district-driven), evaluated each need identified in the studies, and ranked them accordingly. These individual rankings were then consolidated, and through collective discussion and collaboration, the priority list was established.

Following the community-wide survey, MAPS used this list in response to voter feedback indicating that $60 million was the highest level of investment the community would support. Not all of the District's $100 million of identified facilities needs can be accomplished with this bond proposal, but using the prioritization listing, the most critical needs for the district can be addressed.

How did you come up with the project budgets and how will the current market impact them moving forward?

Funds are included within the bond amount for both inflation and contingency. These allowances are reviewed throughout the design process and adjusted as needed based on market conditions and contractor bids. Detailed cost-tracking logs are maintained during design to monitor changes in both budget and project scope. This allows the District to make informed adjustments, if needed, to remain within the voter-approved bond amount before construction begins.

In addition, the District completed the State of Michigan Treasury's school bond qualification (PQ) process, submitted its application, and received approval. This state review helps ensure that project costs are appropriate and allows the District to access more favorable interest rates when issuing the bonds. As a

result, the District is able to borrow at a lower cost and pay less interest over time, helping keep more taxpayer dollars focused on improving school facilities rather than financing expenses.

Together, these budgeting, cost-control, and financing steps help ensure the bond program remains financially responsible, well-managed, and responsive to changing market conditions.

Financial Questions & School Funding

What is the estimated millage impact of the bond proposal?

The tax or mill rate would depend on a number of factors (interest rates, property values, etc.). The projected increase in the debt levy is $1.55 mills per $1,000 of taxable property value over the District's 2025 debt levy.

ESTIMATED PROPERTY TAX IMPACT

Estimated Millage Impact: projected $1.55 mills per $1000 of taxable property value net increase over the District's 2025 debt levy.

TAXABLE PROPERTY VALUE	ANNUAL	MONTHLY
$100,000	$155	$12.92
$200,000	$310	$25.83
$300,000	$465	$38.75



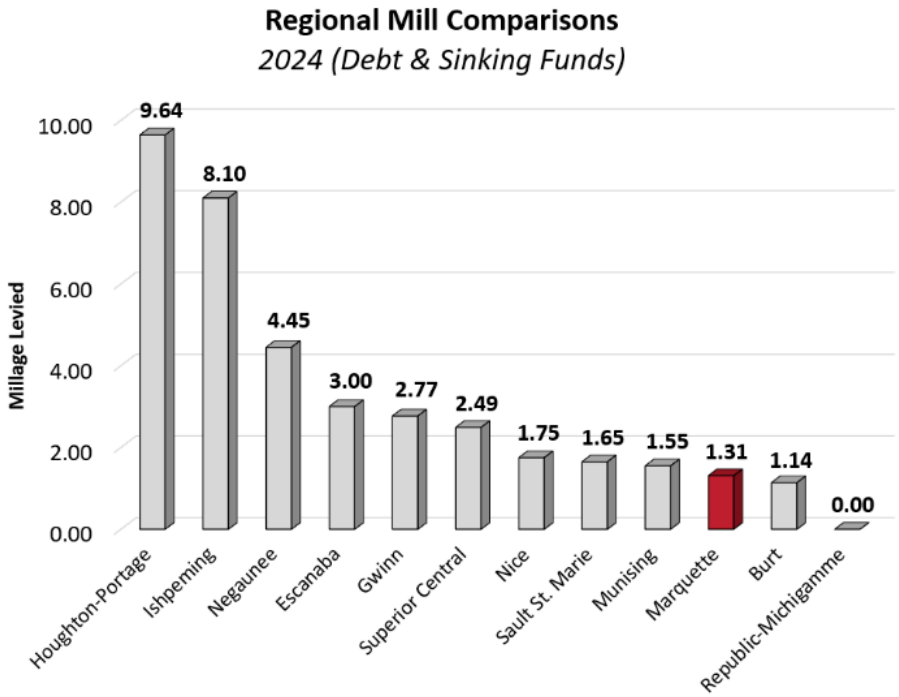
*ASSUMPTIONS: Debt levy of 0.38 mills for 2025. May 2026 vote, First series of Bonds Dated June 2026. Annual change in Taxable Value of 3.0% for 2026 and 2027, 2.75% for 2028 - 2030, and 2.50% thereafter. *Based on a 28-year repayment.*

NOTATION: Interest rates are estimates. The actual interest rates will be determined at the time of sale. Changes in interest rates may impact the millage required. The final millage will be based on actual interest rates, actual bond payments and actual taxable values.

How does MAPS compare to districts in our region financially?

Marquette Area Public Schools has a current mill rate of 1.31 mills, or $1.31 per $1,000 of taxable property value. This is significantly below the state average of Michigan, which is approximately 4.54

mills (*per Michigan Department of Treasury*). Here is a chart that compares some of the districts near MAPS:



How are neighboring school districts addressing the aging conditions of their school buildings?
In Michigan, schools need to get support from their voters to engage large, capital improvements. Other schools are also asking for bond approval for their facility improvements. There are six (6) Michigan school districts with bond proposals scheduled for the May 5, 2026 election that have been submitted for State of Michigan bond qualification.

How many school districts in the state of Michigan have school debt?
Almost every district in the State has school debt. Many schools that have paid off their debt are actually planning new proposals.

What is the difference between a sinking fund and a bond?
A **sinking fund** is a *pay-as-you-go* tax. The district collects a small amount each year and uses it to pay cash for building repairs and upgrades over time. It does **not** involve borrowing money or paying interest, but it is limited in how much can be collected and what projects it can fund.

A **bond** allows the district to *borrow money up front* to complete larger projects right away, such as major renovations or new construction. The money is paid back over time through a property tax, and interest is included, similar to a mortgage.

In short:

- Sinking fund = save and pay as you go
- Bond = borrow now to address larger needs sooner

Why is the bond proposal important to our school district?

The bond proposal is important because it addresses critical facility needs across every Marquette Area Public Schools building that cannot be fully addressed through the District's annual maintenance budget. Independent facilities studies—including one supported by the State of Michigan—identified more than $100 million in essential infrastructure, safety, and learning-environment needs across MAPS schools. If approved, the bond would allow the District to make strategic, districtwide investments in safety and accessibility, aging building systems, and modern learning spaces, helping protect the community's schools and ensure they remain safe, reliable, and supportive of student learning for years to come

Why not use the district's operating budget to fund the needs listed in the proposal?
In the State of Michigan (unlike surrounding states), school funding is to be for educational needs of the students and not intended for large capital improvements. Since Proposal A was passed in 1993, school funding was greatly changed. Property taxes were significantly lowered and major facility projects going forward are done with local voter approval.

Will bond dollars be used for staff salaries or other district expenses?
No; legally, we cannot use bond dollars for staff salaries. These funding mechanisms are separate, and the proposed $59.995 million can only be used to accomplish the facilities improvement projects as listed in the legal ballot language.

<u>Community Connections</u>

I don't have school-aged children, so why should I have to contribute?

- Operational savings to prevent reallocation of funds.
- Good schools bring in younger families, who stimulate the local economy and, in turn, support older adults through income taxes.
- Public education relies on the idea that all households, both with and without school aged children, contribute to funding.

A bond proposal would allow the district to replace items as needed to maximize the useful life of the facilities. Great communities have great schools, and by supporting the schools, everyone in the

community benefits. Passing the bond would also help ensure that there will be educated and skilled graduates to contribute to the future of the community.

Will there be additional public meetings to learn more about the bond proposal?
Yes, the District hosted 2 Bond Town Hall Meetings on March 2 and 3, inviting community members to learn more about the proposal and to provide input. A recording of this presentation can be found on the District's website (https://www.mapsnet.org/page/2026-bond-information) or by reaching out to the District Office at (906) 225-4200 or mapsinfo@mapsnet.org.

Superintendent Zack Sedgwick also has numerous presentations scheduled with local groups and organizations that you may attend. For the schedule of these presentations, please reach out to the District Office at (906) 225-4200 or mapsinfo@mapsnet.org.

Where is the best place to find information out about the bond issue?
The District's website is the best place to find out all the details. If you have additional questions or comments, you can contact Superintendent Zack Sedgwick at (906) 225-4200 or mapsinfo@mapsnet.org.

Voting Information
What are the key dates leading up to the vote?
Election Day: Tuesday, May 5, 2026
Visit https://www.michigan.gov/vote for details on your polling location and hours.

Absentee Voting: All voters in Michigan can request an absentee ballot to be mailed to them for any reason. Voters must be registered before they can request an absentee ballot. To request an absentee ballot, visit https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/AVApplication/Index. You must provide a photo ID with your absentee ballot request.
Absentee voting is open **March 26, 2026.**

In-Person Absentee Voting: Voters can request and vote via absentee ballot in-person at their municipal clerk's office beginning on **April 25, 2026** through May 3, 2026. Office hours vary by municipality, some municipal offices may not offer additional in-person absentee hours. Please contact your municipal clerk for available options.

Voting Day is **May 5, 2026.**

How will the actual bond proposal appear on the ballot?

MARQUETTE AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOND VOTE MAY 5 Every Building • Every Student

THE MARQUETTE AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOND PROPOSAL

Shall The Marquette Area Public Schools, Marquette County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Fifty-Nine Million Nine Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand Dollars ($59,995,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

erecting additions to, and partially remodeling, furnishing and refurnishing, and equipping and re-equipping Bothwell Middle School, including a full remodeling of the second floor, remodeling of the locker rooms, band/music rooms, science classroom, and art room, and security and ADA improvements; partially remodeling, furnishing and refurnishing, and equipping and re-equipping Marquette Senior High School, including remodeling of locker rooms, music room, CTE/trades rooms, and natatorium, and security and ADA improvements; partially remodeling, furnishing and refurnishing, and equipping and re-equipping Graveraet Elementary School, including auditorium remodeling and ADA improvements; partially remodeling, furnishing and refurnishing, and equipping and re-equipping Sandy Knoll Elementary School, including remodeling the art room and ADA improvements; partially remodeling, furnishing and refurnishing, and equipping and re-equipping Marquette Alternative High School, including remodeling to create a science classroom and a meeting area, and ADA improvements; partially remodeling, furnishing and refurnishing, and equipping and re-equipping Cherry Creek Elementary School and Superior Hills Elementary School; acquiring and installing instructional technology and instructional technology equipment for school facilities; erecting a press box/storage structure; partially remodeling the high school athletic complex bleachers; and preparing, developing, and improving playgrounds and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2026 is 1.55 mills ($1.55 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation), for a 1.55 mills net increase over the prior year's levy. The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is twenty-eight (28) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 1.58 mills ($1.58 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district does not expect to borrow from the State to pay debt service on the bonds. The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is $-0-. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is $-0-. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

(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.)

Why is the bond proposal ballot language so long?

Michigan law requires school bond ballot language to include specific details so voters have clear, complete information before casting a vote. By law, the ballot must disclose items such as the total amount to be borrowed, how long the bonds may be repaid, how the funds may be used, and the estimated tax impact. [legislature.mi.gov]

In addition to meeting these legal requirements, Marquette Area Public Schools chose to clearly list the elements of the proposed plan to be as transparent as possible with the community. The detailed language is intended to help voters understand exactly what is being proposed, how the funds could be used, and how the district plans to address facility needs if the bond is approved.

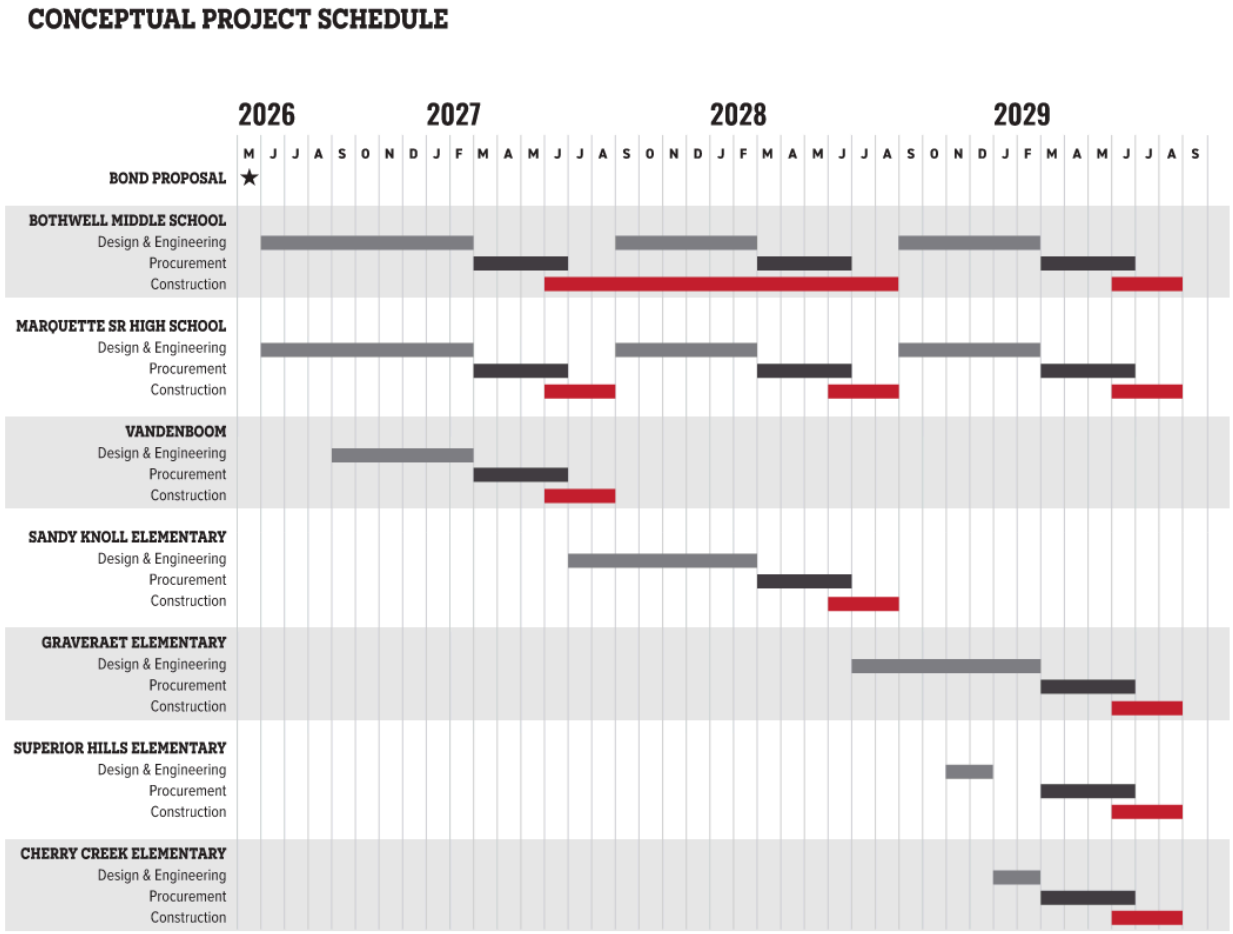
How many votes are needed for the bond to pass?

Each bond question needs 50% plus 1 of the votes cast to be “yes” in order to pass. In recent years, many school bonds have been decided by less than 10 votes–this demonstrates that everyone’s vote is important!

Design & Construction

When would work begin if the bond passes?
If the community approves the bond proposal in May of 2026, depending on the scope of work, then work would most likely start in the summer of 2027. The architects and engineers would work with relevant stakeholders to determine the final design aspects. All school designs must be approved by the Bureau of Construction Codes and the Bureau of Fire Safety. We will continue to update the community as the process progresses.

Below is a preliminary, conceptual project schedule:



Will special emphasis be placed on hiring local contractors and suppliers?
Yes. Our Board of Education decides which contractors are awarded the contracts. Bid packages can be designed to help assist local contractors engage the bidding process, and the District's construction manager, Miron Construction, will work with MAPS to be sure to include any local contractors that the District has existing relationships with.

All aspects of the proposed bond projects will be competitively bid.
The Board of Education makes the final decision and chooses which bids to accept.

What is the plan to keep facility improvement disruptions to a minimum?
The District team will keep the disruptions to a minimum so that the educational environment is protected for our students. Through strategic phasing and construction timelines, most of the heavy construction would be accomplished when staff and students are out of the building; on the occasion that construction noise or activities interfere, the construction manager will ensure that all students, staff and parents are kept safe and informed.

How will staff be involved in the design process?
Staff involvement in the design process is paramount to ensure that the facilities meet the needs of our educators and support staff effectively. Throughout the planning stages of the school bond project, we are committed to engaging staff members in various ways.

Additionally, staff will have opportunities to participate in meetings, surveys, and workshops to provide input and suggestions. By actively involving staff in the design process, we aim to create learning environments that are conducive to both student success and staff satisfaction.

Will the project discussed go to bid, or has Miron already been awarded the work?
Our construction manager, Miron Construction, Inc., was hired to assist the District with preconstruction work including budgeting and capital maintenance planning. They will also manage any projects should the bond be successful, and there will be opportunities for local businesses to be part of any projects. Miron has a long track record of using local companies, vendors, and subcontractors on their projects. They understand the value of local businesses who employ local people.

All aspects of the project will be competitively bid.

Will local contractors be able to bid on the projects?
Yes, we plan to publicly bid the projects so any contractor who can meet the bid requirements can submit a bid. When the time comes, Miron Construction will reach out to local companies, vendors, and subcontractors to invite them to submit bids on the projects.