



Kremlin-Hillsdale School Bond 2026 Newsletter

For the past year and a half, the Board and I have worked to assess the district's current and future facility, transportation, and technology needs. The result is a bond proposal to invest in many areas of our district infrastructure, technology, and transportation fleet. It is not a secret that our elementary school and gym have had many water drainage challenges in the last year or that several parts of our campus need updating, safety improvements, repairs, and efficiencies.

The Kremlin-Hillsdale Community approved bond issues in 2014 (HS), 2021 (Indoor & lights), & 2023 (transportation). These bond issues allowed for many capital improvements to our district which have benefitted our students in a variety of ways. KHS is very thankful to you for your support of those initiatives. The passage of this 2026 proposal will **not** increase millage rate (i.e. taxes) as prior bond issues are being paid off, and we have structured this bond not to exceed our target rate. This bond issue will not raise property taxes in our school district.

After careful consideration, the Board of Education has voted to hold a Special Bond Election on April 7, 2026. If we gain your approval, we will complete a variety of projects to reinvest in our school district. The primary projects will be a renovation of the elementary, cafeteria, commons, and library in order to address security, safety, and utility efficiency needs; renovation of locker rooms; replacement of the game gym roof; and installation of a practice track among several other important projects.

The elementary school has become a concern for maintenance, health, and safety due to ongoing stormwater runoff issues that need a permanent solution. In addition, the building does not have a secure entry which limits abilities to follow the most recommended safety protocols. The cafeteria/commons/library section of our campus needs a new roof and HVAC due to both systems being close to end-of-life and needing ongoing maintenance. This area of our campus also has old lighting that can no longer be used without full replacement in some areas. The locker rooms in the gym have been used well and are in need of a facelift in order to maintain a healthy environment for student use. The roof over the game gym is about 40 years old and is in need of replacement in order to prevent failure. In addition to other projects, the installation of a practice track will provide a new facility for our students that is not currently available. At this time, our students must travel to other schools and borrow facilities in order to train on a track surface.

While this bond proposal will not increase taxes, it is still a commitment. Bond issues are much different in my opinion than other tax dollars. Every dollar that you pay in taxes for a bond issue is utilized for that purpose. 100% of the projects listed will be completed with the bond money. If additional money remains, additional capital improvement needs can be addressed with the bond money.

Kremlin-Hillsdale is a great school system with amazing students and families. I am proud of the accomplishments of our children and the faculty that supports them. I appreciate the time and consideration you are investing by reading this newsletter. I urge you to vote on April 7. If you have any questions concerning the bond election, please call me at 580-874-2284 or email me at the following address: szymanskic@kremlin.k12.ok.us

Sincerely,

Crystal Szymanski

What you will be voting on in the April 7, 2026 Bond Election:

- Renovation of the existing elementary school w/secure entry, cafeteria, commons, kitchen
- Renovation of locker rooms
- Replace football home bleachers
- Construct a practice track
- Repair storm water drainage issues
- Replace game gym and cafeteria/library roofs
- Replace baseball lighting
- Repair basketball bleachers & Replace gym sound system
- Replace HVAC for library and cafeteria
- Update technology
- Update transportation fleet including a new activity bus

Frequently Asked Questions about the April 7, 2026 Bond Election

How was the need for the bond election determined?

The faculty, administration, Board of Education, and patrons have participated in discussions to determine the needs for the students of our school district moving forward. The needs included in this bond issue will provide many improvements and additions to assist in the mission of providing a quality educational experience for your children.

When is the bond election and where do I vote?

The election date is Tuesday, April 7, 2026. The polls will be open from 7 AM to 7 PM. Voting will take place in precincts where all other elections are held. All registered voters living in the Kremlin-Hillsdale School District (I-18) are eligible to vote. You may also vote at the election board at 903 Failing Drive on Thursday, April 2 or Friday, April 3 from 8 AM to 6 PM.

How much is the bond election and will approval increase my taxes?

The bonds will total \$10,480,000. Proposition #1 is \$9,700,000, and Proposition #2 is \$780,000. This is an eleven-year proposition with a focus on maintaining a consistent tax rate **without an increase in taxes**. Property taxes are affected by old bond levies that are paid off and new bonds that are added. **Great effort has been made to plan this bond in a fiscally responsible and conservative manner in order to avoid an increase in property taxes upon its passage.**

What percentage of voters must support a bond election to gain approval?

The State of Oklahoma requires a super majority of votes cast. At least 60% of those votes must be in favor of the bond election for approval. A simple majority does not pass. This bond consists of 2 separate proposals. Each requires a separate vote, and each must gain 60% or more yes votes to pass. Oklahoma law requires transportation proposals to be separate.

Can bond money be used for staff salaries?

No, the law only allows bond money to be used for capital improvements and certain instructional materials. This money cannot be spent on salaries or benefits for employees.

Can I still vote if I am going to be out of town on Election Day, April 7, 2026?

Yes. You can vote at the Garfield County Election Board in Enid on April 2 or April 3 or vote via absentee ballot. Applications for absentee ballots are available at the Garfield County Election Board or online and must be submitted by 5:00 PM Monday, March 23, 2026. Mailed absentee ballots must be received by the county election board no later than 7:00 p.m. on April 7, 2026.

What happens if the bond election does not pass?

Bond issues are critical for preventative maintenance, major repairs, and capital improvements. Without it, many of our buildings fall into disrepair. The quality of facilities affects the learning environment, safety, and security of students. In addition, the quality of education is improved when students attend school in facilities which are well-maintained and updated. Our students deserve the opportunity to learn in facilities that are modern and allow them to maximize their educational experience. Teachers must have instructional technology and materials so all students are prepared to compete and succeed in today's world. The vitality of our school district is assured with passage of bond issues to enhance the facilities of our school.

This is a ZERO Tax Increase Bond.

Residential property maintains a better value when the local school district is progressive and improving its facilities.

If you would like additional information regarding the April 7, 2026 Bond Election or you would like a presentation accompanied by a question and answer session to a community group, please contact Crystal Szymanski at 874-2284, or email me at szymanskic@kremlin.k12.ok.us

***“Learning Today and Leading Tomorrow”
The Bronc Way!***