



November 6, 2018, Bond Proposal **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board of Education will ask voters to decide on a bond proposal on Nov. 6. If approved by the voters the bond proposal will finalize capital improvements throughout the district which will strengthen innovation in the classroom and throughout the District. It will provide our community with safe and secure buildings, safer transportation by purchasing new buses, more welcoming learning environments with building and infrastructure renovations, and updated technology to provide our students the latest tools they need to be 21st-century learners.

What is on the November 6, 2018, ballot?

On November 6, 2018, voters in Wayne-Westland Community Schools will be asked to consider a bond proposal to implement improvements and renovations at each of our schools. This program focuses on upgrades to address safety, security, and infrastructure needs, as well as improvements to learning environments to meet 21st Century curriculum and educational goals. The bond proposal authorizes the issuance of \$158 million in bonds. The District plans to issue the proposed bonds in three separate series over five years.

What are the major features of this bond proposal?

Bond 2018 is a comprehensive facilities upgrade and construction program that touches every building across the district. The highlights of this program encompass four key areas:

- Safety and security upgrades at every building;
- Learning environment upgrades to meet modern teaching and learning practices;
- Improvements to address the aging infrastructure of buildings;
- Energy and operational initiatives to improve the environmental quality and efficiency of our buildings, as well as reduce operational expenses;
- Replacing 80% of the bus fleet.

Why is Wayne-Westland Community School 's proposing a bond?

The Board of Education and school administrators believe that Bond 2018 will benefit students and the community in a variety of ways, including:

- Improving learning environments at all schools for all students;
- Enhance the safety and security of our schools
- Schools are major community assets and we have a responsibility to maintain those building
- To ease the use of general fund dollars for much-needed capital projects
- Providing improved environmental quality, operational control and operational efficiency by upgrading our outdated building systems and finishes;
- Protecting our residential property values by having a strong and solid school system. Realtors often point to the school system as one of the primary reasons a family chooses where they will make their home.

Is there an increase in the estimates debt millage rate in this bond proposal?

Yes, the debt service millage rate is estimated to increase by 1.76 mills in the first year and an estimated average increase over the term of the bonds of 1.66 mills.. For a \$100,000 market value home this equates to an increase of \$88.00 per year or \$7.33 per month.

How does the estimated debt millage rate of 4.38 mills for this bond proposal compare to the 1998 bond issue's 2016 historical debt millage rate?

The 1998 bond issue's debt millage rate in 2016 was 5.56 mills or 1.18 higher than the estimated millage debt millage rate for this proposal. Therefore, with approval of this bond proposal, the debt millage rate is estimated to be lower than what it was just 2 to 3 years ago. Included in this packet is a historical millage chart back to 2014.

Can the bond money be used to pay for salaries?

No.

Explain what bond money can cover and what it can't.

Bond proceeds cannot be used for the following items:

- a) Staff salaries and wages;
- b) General operating expenses, repairs and maintenance;
- c) Classroom supplies and textbooks; and
- d) Administrative costs.

Bond proceeds can be used for the following items:

- a) Construction and remodeling of facilities;
- b) Purchase of technology equipment and infrastructure;
- c) Purchase of equipment and furniture;
- d) Site improvements; and
- e) Purchase of buses.

Why are the improvements needed?

Wayne-Westland Community Schools encompasses 2 million square feet of space across 23 facilities that, on average, are 57 years old. Our last major bond program was passed in 1998 and it is now time to invest in keeping our facilities in proper condition to serve the needs of our students and staff. The majority of the infrastructure is past its useful life.

It is the District's primary goal to continue to provide instructional facilities that support new and emerging educational methods and to advance learning conditions for all students to better prepare them for meeting the expectations and demands of colleges/universities and employers in the future. Additionally, the Board of Education believes that the upgrades that have been identified in this process support proper stewardship of the community's investment in our schools.

Is Wayne-Westland Community Schools investing bond money in technology?

The bond proposal contains significant upgrades for classroom technology.

Are we purchasing buses with bond proceeds?

Yes. Approximately 80% of the bus fleet will be replaced. Each school day, approximately 8,000 of the District’s more than 11,000 students are transported to school via the District’s fleet of buses. The District has found that, as buses reach 12 years of use or 200,000+ miles, replacement becomes necessary so that the District avoids increasing maintenance costs and downtime. By using bond proceeds for the purchase of buses, the District avoids diverting funds from our general operating budget that could otherwise be used to support classroom instruction.

How will this bond help retain and attract students to Wayne-Westland Community Schools?

The District receives operational funding from the State of Michigan for every student attending Wayne-Westland Community Schools. The quality of a community’s school district is generally regarded as an important consideration by potential home buyers. Also, the quality of a school district’s programs and the condition of its facilities are two factors that parents consider when deciding where to send their children to school.

The goal of the bond proposal is to address the aging infrastructure of our buildings and to make learning environment upgrades in all of our schools to meet current teaching and learning practices. The educational landscape is becoming more competitive, and parents have many choices as to where to enroll their children in school. The Board of Education and administration believe that the bond proposal will provide a learning environment for all students that complements the District programming and supports efforts to attract new students.

What impact will this bond proposal have on the average taxpayer in Wayne-Westland Community Schools?

For a home with a market value of \$100,000 which is assessed at \$50,000, bond passage will result in an estimated property tax increase of \$7.33 per month or \$88.00 per year in the first year. The chart below provides estimates for various home values in Wayne-Westland Community Schools. The table below is based on first year millage rate of 4.48.

Approx. market value of your home	Taxable value of your home	Annual amount you will pay	Monthly amount you will pay
\$80,000	\$40,000	\$70.40	\$5.87
\$90,000	\$45,000	\$79.20	\$6.60
\$100,000	\$50,000	\$88.00	\$7.33
\$110,000	\$55,000	\$96.80	\$8.07
\$120,000	\$60,000	\$105.60	\$8.80

What is the breakdown of total estimated costs for the bond program by school?

Building	Estimate of Costs
Edison Elementary	\$4,424,448
Elliott Elementary	\$5,671,011
PD Graham Elementary	\$725,727
Hamilton Elementary	\$4,731,363
Hicks Elementary	\$4,543,457
Hoover Elementary	\$5,013,833
Roosevelt-McGrath Elementary	\$6,616,207
Schweitzer Elementary	\$4,898,936
Taft-Galloway Elementary	\$2,010,009
Walker-Winter Elementary	\$2,250,504
Wildwood Elementary	\$849,676
Adams Upper Elementary	\$5,287,231
Marshall Upper Elementary	\$10,032,037
Franklin Middle School	\$7,682,154
Stevenson Middle School	\$7,146,933
John Glenn High School	\$26,091,763
Wayne Memorial High School	\$32,452,100
Stottlemeyer Early Childhood	\$2,434,130
William D. Ford Career Technical Center <i>(\$1,000,000 is for phone system)</i>	\$9,169,540
Administration Building	\$4,357,023
Buildings & Grounds	\$1,000,000
Maintenance equipment	\$977,786
80% of bus fleet	\$9,385,854
<i>Plus Interest Earnings / Minus Bond Issuance Costs</i>	<i>\$248,278</i>
Amount of Proposed Bond Issue	\$158,000,000

Why doesn't the District use the general fund to pay for all of this?

Quite simply, the general fund cannot afford to pay for these large capital investments. Even during times of significant student growth and more robust per student state funding, the District has relied on support from taxpayer-approved bond issues.

Why does it make financial sense to present this bond to the voters at this time?

- It allows the District to preserve general fund dollars for instruction and classroom needs by providing a dedicated funding source to address identified and prioritized site, facility, and equipment upgrades;
- Current interest rates are historically low, translating to a relatively low cost of borrowing money for both the District and taxpayers.
- Conversely, construction costs are rising. Deferral may raise overall costs of the planned projects.

How are other schools addressing the aging condition of their schools?

Neighboring and peer districts have experienced the same issues of aging buildings, safety and security enhancement needs, and outdated technology and learning environments. Bond programs have been approved and implemented in several area school districts including Livonia, which passed a \$195 million bond in May 2013. The following chart includes our neighboring and peer school districts’ recent voter approved bond authorizations.

School District	Total of All Bonds	Students
L’Anse Creuse Public Schools	\$210.6 MILLION	11,266
Livonia Public Schools	\$195 MILLION	14,944
Rochester Community Schools	\$185 MILLION	15,051
Wayne-Westland Community Schools (Proposed)	\$158 MILLION	10,816
Farmington Public Schools	\$131.5 MILLION	10,716
Troy School District	\$125 MILLION	12,540
Plymouth-Canton Schools	\$114.4 MILLION	17,646
Utica Community Schools	\$112.5 MILLION	28,316
Roseville Community Schools	\$110 MILLION	5,017
Warren Consolidated Schools	\$65.7 MILLION	15,116

What if the bond proposal doesn't pass?

Over the past decade, several cuts in school funding coupled with the rising cost of operating the school system have put tremendous pressure on the District's general operating fund. Failure to approve the bond proposal will mean the District will have to delay much-needed improvements, and that any emergency improvements to address potential safety issues at the District's facilities will have to be paid for with reprioritized sinking fund dollars or with general operating funds that would otherwise go to support educational programs for students.

Where and when do I register to vote?

To vote in the November 6, 2018 school election, you must be a U.S. citizen; at least 18 years of age by Election Day; a resident of Michigan and Wayne-Westland Community Schools and registered to vote. Please contact your Clerk to register or visit any Secretary of State office. The official "last day to register" for the November 6, 2018 election is Tuesday, October 9, 2018. Printable voter registration forms are available on the state website, www.michigan.gov/vote.

What is the process for voting by absentee ballot?

Applications for Absentee Ballots are available:

- On-line at www.michigan.gov/vote
- In your school building offices
- At your Clerk's office

Note: Once election ballots are available in the clerk's office, you can walk into your clerk's office, receive an absentee application, fill it out, and immediately be given your ballot to cast your vote.

What are the key dates leading up to the November 6th vote?

Final day to register to vote is Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Final day to vote absentee is Monday, November 5, 2018

Election Day is Tuesday, November 6, 2018.

How will the bond proposal appear on the ballot?

School Improvement Bond Proposition

Shall the Wayne-Westland Community Schools, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed One Hundred Fifty-Eight Million (\$158,000,000) Dollars and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds, in one or more series, for the purpose of paying for the cost of the following projects:

- Remodeling, equipping, re-equipping, furnishing, re-furnishing school buildings, athletic fields and other facilities for safety and security, energy conservation and other purposes;
- Acquiring and installing instructional technology equipment and infrastructure in school buildings and other facilities;
- Construction of additions to existing school buildings and athletic field houses at both high school sites; and
- Preparing, developing and improving sites at school buildings, playgrounds, athletic fields and other facilities and the purchase of school buses?

The maximum number of years any series of bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of refunding, is not more than twenty-five (25) years; the estimated millage that will be levied to pay the proposed bonds in the first year is 4.48 mills (which is equal to \$4.48 per \$1,000 of taxable value); and the estimated simple average annual millage that will be required to retire each series of bonds is 4.38 mills annually (\$4.38 per \$1,000 of taxable value).

If approved by the voters, the bonds will be guaranteed by the State under the School Bond Qualification and Loan Program (the “Program”). The School District currently has \$6,370,000 of qualified bonds outstanding and \$0 of qualified loans outstanding under the Program. The School District does not expect to borrow from the Program to pay debt service on these bonds. The estimated computed millage rate required to be levied to pay the proposed bonds may change in the future based on changes in certain circumstances.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for teacher, administrator or employee salaries, repair or maintenance costs or other operating expenses.)

Who may I contact if I have additional questions?

For more details on Bond 2018, you can visit www.wwcsd.net

You are welcome to contact Jenny Johnson at johnsonje@wwcsd.net or 734-419-2001 or Maria Mitter at MitterM@wwcsd.net or 734-419-2036.

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