

## **Lakeland Bond Election Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### ***What is a school bond?***

A school bond is like a home mortgage with principal and interest to be paid off over a set period of time. School districts in Idaho use bonds to finance school construction, building improvements and preservation of facility assets.

### ***Does the state provide funding for school construction bonds?***

No. The State of Idaho does not provide funding for school construction or major renovation. It does, however, provide the majority of dollars that we utilize to deliver instruction to students and operate.

Idaho's school funding model is somewhat unique. The legislature allocates dollars each year for teaching and learning, but the construction of new schools and the modernization and preservation of existing schools is the responsibility of the local community. Funds for capital construction can be raised through elections and the support of community members for local tax levies.

Idaho is one of the few states in the nation that does not provide direct funding support from the state for building schools or major capital renovations. School districts are expected to finance these projects with general obligation bonds (construction bonds) authorized by the district's local voters (66 ⅔% supermajority is required).

### ***Can a school district collect impact fees from developers?***

No. Currently, Idaho Law asserts that impact fees may go to benefit "public facilities. Including wastewater collection, roads, flood control, parks, law enforcement, fire, street lighting and more, but excludes public school facilities.

### ***What can bond money be used for?***

Proceeds from a bond issue can be used for the construction and renovation of facilities, the acquisition of land, and the purchase of capital items such as equipment. Bond proceeds can not be used for teacher and administrator salaries. See Idaho Code sections 33-1102 for authorized uses.

### ***What Projects will be funded by this bond?***

1. The construction of a new Lakeland High School, alternative high school space, and athletic facilities located on District owned property adjacent to KTEC.
2. Move Lakeland Junior High School across Highway 41 to Lakeland High School. Renovations for the new "Lakeland Middle School" will include building system upgrades, move offices to create a primary single point of entry, and renovate the commons.
3. Minor improvements to LJHS to improve bus parking and to accommodate District support services.
4. Building Additions for Timberlake Junior High School including 6 classrooms, new auxiliary gym, minor site work.

5. Building Renovation for Timberlake High School including a new auditorium, improvements to commons, upgrade athletic facilities, and minor site work.

***When will the new school open?***

The Fall of 2020 is the projected opening date for the new Lakeland High School and Alternative school.

***Is this the right time for these projects?***

Lakeland Junior High School is a deteriorating building in need of a major renovation or replacement. The cost of renovation is estimated to be greater than new construction. The Long Range Facility Planning Committee determined that relocating LJHS to Lakeland High School and building a new comprehensive high school on property owned by the district is the best course of action. The committee also determined that future facility costs will be significantly greater if we wait.

***What will happen to Lakeland Junior High School?***

Our plan is to use the LJHS site for District Support Services. It will be a multi-purpose building that will house District Office staff, Student Support Services, Technology, Transportation, and Maintenance. The gym will continue to be used by our schools for practices during peak gym times, by Rathdrum Parks and Recreation, as well as a rental for other sports teams in the community.

***What will happen to Lakeland High School?***

The current High School will become Lakeland Middle School. This will allow for the accommodation of the 6th grade students at the middle school level to alleviate space at our elementary schools.

***When was our last bond?***

Our last bond was approved 14 years ago in 2005. This provided the resources to build Twin Lakes Elementary school.

***When will the current bonds be paid off?***

The District's current bonds will be retired bonds in 2023 and 2025.

***How will these projects impact Traffic?***

One of the greatest benefits of the proposed bond projects will be the move of LHS to a new location. This will take traffic away from Highway 41 congestion and make a safer route for our student drivers. Also, the City of Rathdrum has an in-depth road upgrade plan that includes a round-about at Meyer and Lancaster as well as several new stop lights and expansion of Lancaster Road to 4 lanes. A light at Lancaster and Highway 41 is also planned. Assuming that there are no delays, completion will be the Fall of 2020.

**What is the tax impact that the Bond will have?**

We estimate that the impact will be \$41 per \$100,000 of taxable value for homeowners living in our community. See the table below.

Home Value	Homeowners Exemption	*Taxable Value	Annual Cost	Monthly Cost
\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$41	\$3.42
\$250,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$62	\$5.13
\$300,000	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$82	\$6.83
\$350,000	\$100,000	\$250,000	\$103	\$8.54
\$400,000	\$100,000	\$300,000	\$123	\$10.25
\$450,000	\$100,000	\$350,000	\$144	\$11.96
\$500,000	\$100,000	\$400,000	\$164	\$13.67

\*Idaho has a homeowner's exemption equal to the lesser of 50% of the assessed value or \$100,000 for owner occupied homes that are primary dwellings. The exemption applies to your home and up to once acre of land.

**The ballot language states “The estimated average annual cost to the taxpayer on the proposed bond is a tax of \$147 per \$100,000 of taxable assessed value, but you are estimating that the impact is only \$41 per \$100,000. Why is there a difference?”**

The ballot language is a reflection of a new law that passed just a year or so ago. The law requires us to calculate the impact of the bond as of "today". The limitation with this is that the law does not allow us to take into future factors (growth in tax base due to new construction, debt retirement, etc.) that impact our tax rate. For example, we have bonds that will be paid off in 2023 and 2025. The new bonds will be structured to have lower payments at the start and then increase when the old bonds retire. This allows us to flatten the impact of the new bonds over time. The \$147 dollar per \$100K calculation assumes that these older bonds will last forever, and that is not the case.

**I am not a registered voter. Can I still vote?**

Community members can register the day of the election at their polling location by bringing Photo ID/Proof of residence/proof of residency in Kootenai County for 30 days. Registration and Voting information can be found on the Kootenai County Website.

<https://www.kcgov.us/329/Registration-Voting>