



2023 Bond Frequently Asked Questions

Q.

What will Raytown voters be asked to decide about their schools on the April 2023 ballot?

Voters in the Raytown School District will vote on a \$35 million no tax increase bond and a levy on the April 2023 ballot. If approved, the funds will be used to improve arts and athletics and both Raytown and Raytown South High Schools.

Q.

What is a bond issue?

A bond issue is a traditional way for schools to borrow money to pay for capital projects that are too costly for a typical budget. In Missouri, this requires voter approval even if the bond issue will not raise the tax rate.

Q.

How can there be no tax increase when a bond issue passes?

Each year the district pays off old debt from past bond issues. As the loan balance decreases, the district can borrow more and pay it back from existing revenue sources such as growth in assessed valuation and low interest rates. To generate additional revenue, the existing tax rate is extended, but not increased.

Q.

What is the proposed no tax increase bond for and what would it pay for?

The no tax increase bond will allow the district to address the immediate needs at Raytown South High School and Raytown High School for updated arts and activities spaces for students.

If passed, bond funds would support the district in moving forward with a two-part plan at Raytown South High School to raze the existing performing arts center and turn it into an auxiliary gym, and to build a new, modern performing arts center. These necessary changes would set the RSHS arts and athletics program on par with the school districts in the metropolitan area.

Additionally, if passed, bond funds would also allow the district the opportunity to build a much-needed auxiliary gym at Raytown High School. Auxiliary gyms at both high schools would allow for space to host sports tournaments and provide room for various school groups and activities to meet and have practice.



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Q. What is the proposed levy?

While bond funds must be dedicated to construction and renovation of buildings, levies are for all other costs of running our schools. The proposed zero tax increase levy transfer would authorize the transfer of 18 cents in excess levy from our debt service fund into our school operating fund. This would allow us to address some important needs and continue to pay our debts on time with zero increase to the total tax rate.

Q. How much will the no tax bond increase and levy cost taxpayers in Raytown?

A bond issue is a traditional way for schools to borrow money to pay for capital projects that are too costly for a typical budget. In Missouri, this requires voter approval even if the bond issue will not raise the tax rate.

Q. Will the district's no tax increase bond issue change the tax rate?

No, whether it passes or fails the tax rate will remain the same.

Q. What happens if the no tax increase bond doesn't pass?

Without bond money, the need for facility improvements and upgrades still exists – the only other place for the money to come from is the operating budget which supports our current programs, salaries, etc. The current performing arts center at RSHS has structural issues and requires repairs that must happen regardless if the bond passes.