

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2021 BOND PROPOSAL

The Next Step Forward



2021 BOND PROPOSAL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ZERO TAX RATE INCREASE



2021 BOND PROPOSAL Q&A

On Tuesday, May 4, 2021, Livonia Public Schools will place a \$186 million bond proposal on the election ballot.

Q: Why is the district proposing this bond?

Livonia Public Schools (LPS) is committed to providing students with outstanding educational opportunities and modern learning environments. We have an unwavering drive for LPS to be a destination district for student growth and success. This **ZERO TAX RATE INCREASE** bond program would address remaining critical needs, protect and enhance our investments across nearly 3 million square feet of facilities, and provide innovative, future-forward offerings for our students and the LPS community.

Q: What are the major goals of the 2021 bond proposal?

PLAN

With most of our school buildings averaging 50 to 60 years of age, our facilities require continuous improvements, which can be completed with the passage of this proposal. In previous funding initiatives, LPS has begun to address critical facility needs across each of our 28 school facilities. The 2021 bond program would give LPS the capability to complete previously identified needs in alignment with plans for the district's future.

PROTECT

In addition to addressing previously identified needs, we know our facilities still require additional investments that will make our district a destination for student growth and success. The 2021 bond program would allow the district to protect and enhance its investment in areas such as safety, technology, athletics and equipment replacements.

PROVIDE

We are committed to providing our students with exceptional educational experiences and modern learning opportunities. One of our main goals with the 2021 bond program is to expand and create new educational offerings to better serve our students and the LPS community.



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Q: What areas are included in the bond proposal?



INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

- Modernize school library media centers for 21st century learning
- Update school kitchens and serving areas (most 50–60 years of age)
- Enhance air quality with HVAC upgrades, including air conditioning in classrooms, labs, and offices
- Upgrade furniture and instructional equipment
- Replace aging school buses and maintenance equipment
- Renovate school restrooms
- Upgrade facility infrastructure (electrical, plumbing, doors, hardware)



NEW EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Expand space for career technical education workforce development at the Livonia Career Technical Center
- Create dedicated space for robotics programs
- Expand opportunities for Project Lead the Way (gold standard in STEM education)
- Open state-of-the-art, comprehensive Early Childhood Center



ATHLETICS, PLAYGROUNDS, AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS

- Update athletic areas (high school field houses, pools, stadium annex buildings, middle school gymnasiums)
- Continue the replacement of aging playground equipment



TECHNOLOGY AND SECURITY

- Replace classroom technology (computers, mobile learning devices, presentation technology, etc.)
- Further enhance school security (additional cameras, card access readers, etc.)

Q: How was this plan developed?

Livonia Public Schools maintains a 10-year Facility Plan, which is a living document that guides long-term projects for the district's 28 properties. The plan details the needs for each school, categorized into different areas based on urgency and project area. With funding initiatives in the past, the district was able to tackle some of the major needs of aging infrastructure, but there remains a lot of work to be done. Additionally, we want to continue looking forward and providing our students with the best education possible. We now propose this new series of improvements at a time where there would be no increase to the current debt millage rate, and while interest rates are historically low.

Q: How would our students and community benefit?

The bond proposal would benefit students by providing them with modern learning environments and new educational opportunities. The bond proposal would also support the continuation of the school district's long-term facilities plan, which means an improved education for generations to come. All bond proposal projects are designed to maintain the community's investment in LPS.



Q: What technology upgrades are planned in this proposal?

The 2021 bond would allow the district to replace and upgrade student mobile devices and classroom technology needed to facilitate 21st century learning. Additionally, LPS would make required hardware and infrastructure upgrades to promote a high-quality experience for our students and staff. This would include classroom technology, student devices, and security technology upgrades.

Q: What security enhancements are included in the bond program?

The safety of our students is our number one priority. Over the past several years, we have taken significant steps to improve our school security systems as we seek to continue to provide our students with the safest learning environments possible. In alignment with our vision for secure school buildings, we have identified the need for additional security equipment at our schools. This would include additional interior and exterior security cameras, as well as additional card readers for more secure entry.

Q: How is the district proposing to enhance educational programs?

Over the past several years, LPS has sought to provide future-forward educational options to our students. The 2021 bond program would give our district the opportunity to further enhance our curriculum offerings. We would like to continue to grow our Project Lead the Way and STEM pathway opportunities. We would also like to create a permanent home for robotics, which has continued to grow and thrive in our district. The 2021 bond program would provide students with additional learning opportunities and 21st century educational environments, including workforce development programs and experiences.

Q: What will be the improvements to career technical education programs?

LPS provides a comprehensive array of career educational programs for more than 1,000 high school students from the LPS community and surrounding districts. With growing demand from our career readiness programs, we understand the need to upgrade our facilities to reflect our students' learning objectives and prepare our students to be leaders in our communities. This bond program would allow for the improvement of our current career technical educational (CTE) offerings and provide new workforce development learning opportunities for students across the district.

Q: What athletic improvements are included in the bond?

Another focus of the 2021 bond program is continuing to improve and update our athletic facilities to promote the health and wellness of our students and community. This would include upgrades to our pool areas at the high schools, field houses, stadium annexes, tennis courts and school gymnasiums, including locker rooms. We see this as an opportunity to further enhance these spaces for our students to grow and compete. Upgrading our athletic facilities also serves our community, as many of our facilities serve our broader community groups as gathering places.

Q: How will the Early Childhood Center serve the community?

The bond would allow the district to construct an early childhood center that would be utilized by LPS families and the community. A new early childhood center would present the opportunity to grow our comprehensive and nurturing educational offerings for our young children. We also see this as a means to attract and retain students in our district while remaining competitive with our neighboring school districts.



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Q: How are neighboring districts addressing their facility needs?

Over the past several years, we have witnessed our peer districts make significant investments in their schools through bond programs. Most districts comparable to LPS have passed two bond issues within a six year period. With our last bond in 2013, the 2021 bond proposal would keep LPS competitive as a destination district for student growth and success.

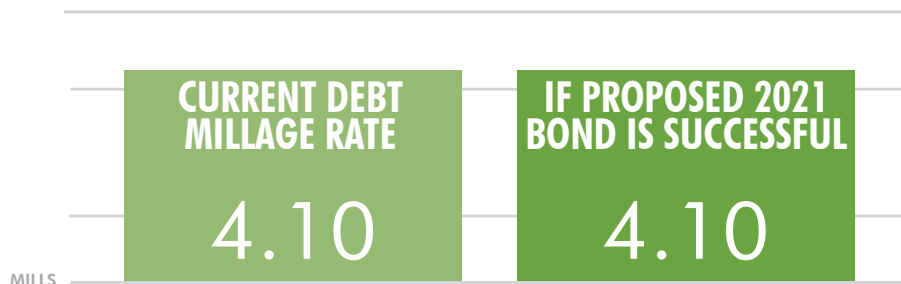
<u>Birmingham</u>		<u>South Lyon</u>	
2015 Bond	\$66 M	2015 Bond	\$65 M
2019 Bond	\$185 M	2020 Bond	\$100 M
<u>Bloomfield Hills</u>		<u>Walled Lake</u>	
2012 Bond	\$59 M	2013 Bond	\$68 M
2020 Bond	\$200 M	2018 Bond	\$316 M
<u>Farmington</u>		<u>Plymouth-Canton</u>	
2015 Bond	\$132 M	2013 Bond	\$114 M
2019 Bond	\$98 M	2019 Bond	\$275 M
<u>Novi</u>		<u>Woodhaven-Brownstown</u>	
2014 Bond	\$75 M	2015 Bond	\$57 M
2019 Bond	\$185 M	2021 Bond	\$144 M (planned)

Q: Would my home value benefit if the 2021 bond passes?

Studies have shown that real estate values tend to be higher in communities with school districts that offer a quality educational program and up-to-date facilities. It is important that we re-invest for student success by having safe, well-maintained, high-functioning facilities with technology resources and collaborative spaces to meet the needs of today's learners.

Q: Will my tax rate increase if the bond program is successful?

No. The 2021 bond proposal is a **ZERO TAX RATE INCREASE** proposal. This means that the 4.1 debt millage the district is currently levying per household will not increase. The bond would allow LPS to fund proposed capital projects while keeping general fund dollars in our classrooms.





Q: How are Michigan schools funded?

The state of Michigan provides operational funding to school districts on a per-pupil basis. The per-pupil funding, called a foundation allowance, has never been calibrated to the actual cost to educate students and does not take into consideration the cost to address major facility needs. There are two ways that school districts can raise funds for major facility improvements: through voter-approved sinking funds and bond issues.

Q: What is the difference between a sinking fund and a bond proposal?

A sinking fund can be used to address both the immediate needs and long-term projects in school buildings, facilities, and surrounding school sites. It can be used for emergency repairs as well as planned replacements needed, based on the district's long-term facility plan. This is used on a "pay as you go" basis. Bond proposals are used to finance major capital projects. Unlike a sinking fund, bonds enable districts to borrow money upfront, tackle large-scale projects quickly, and pay back the bond over time.

Q: In 2013, the Livonia community passed a bond proposal. What was the scope of work completed?

With the community's support, LPS was able to accomplish many important improvements with the 2013 bond. Although our need was much larger than what was requested in the bond issue, we were able to tackle projects in several areas:

- Safety and security upgrades
- Technology upgrades
- New buses and maintenance equipment
- Performing arts centers
- Facility improvements
- Furniture and instructional equipment

Click [here](#) to view the December 2019 summary of the 2013 bond projects.

Q: What items were not included in the 2013 bond?

Although the district made significant strides forward with the 2013 bond, there were several areas identified as facility needs that were not able to be included in the scope of the bond program. The 2021 bond would allow the district to address these previously identified needs, as well as make additional improvements to school facilities. Below is a list of some of the identified needs:

- Library media center renovations
- Kitchen and serving line renovations
- Locker rooms and pool areas
- District-wide air conditioning
- High school field houses and middle school gyms
- Computer and science lab spaces

Q: How has LPS managed taxpayer dollars in the past?

LPS has shown strong fiscal stewardship with taxpayer dollars. This has been identified not only within the district, but also by our third-party auditors, Yeo & Yeo. In October 2020, the district refinanced current outstanding debt that saved taxpayers over \$15 million. The district's financial department continues to receive the highest ratings on district audits, including separate bond fund audits.



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Q: Where can I vote in person on May 4, 2021?

Please click [here](#) to find your voting location based on your precinct.

Q: Who can I contact if I have more questions about the 2021 bond proposal?

For more information, please contact LPSbond@livoniapublicschools.org. You can also call the Communications Office at 734-744-2522.

Important Voting Information

ELECTION DAY

May 4, 2021

ABSENTEE VOTING

March 20 - Absentee ballots become available to voters

April 19 - Last day to register to vote by mail

To request an absentee ballot, visit michigan.gov/vote

IN-PERSON VOTING

Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

To find your voting location, visit michigan.gov/vote



Ballot Language Breakdown

Below is what will appear on the voter ballot, along with an explanation for each section

Shall Livonia Public Schools School District, Wayne County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed One Hundred Eighty-Six Million Dollars (\$186,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefore, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

This section means the district would be allowed to sell bonds to raise \$186 million for identified projects

acquiring, installing, and equipping educational technology for school facilities; furnishing, equipping, and erecting additions to and remodeling, furnishing and refurnishing, and equipping and re-equipping school facilities; constructing, equipping, developing, and improving playgrounds and athletic facilities; purchasing school buses; and preparing, developing, and improving sites?

This section describes the allowable uses for the bond proceeds, including:

- Upgrades to safety and technology
- Improvements and expansions of facilities and program spaces for academic success
- Upgrades to playground and athletic facilities

YES _____
NO _____

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2021 is 1.37 mills (\$1.37 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a -0- mill 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 (20) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 1.82 mills (\$1.82 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

(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.)

- ZERO TAX RATE INCREASE
- Your debt millage rate would not increase if the bond passes
- Bond funds can only be used for physical improvements and cannot be used for salaries or the maintenance/repair of facilities