



August 8, 2023

2023 SISD Trustees Vote to Send Bond Referendum to November Ballot

August 8, 2023 – The Silsbee Independent School District Board of Trustees unanimously approved an \$84.5 million bond referendum to be included in the November 2023 election. It has been 10 years since the last Silsbee ISD bond, which included a new Silsbee Elementary School campus.

The proposed bond has been developed through the collaborative efforts of the superintendent, campus administration and the Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC), a distinguished task force composed of campus administration, classroom teachers, community leaders and business owners. Their mission was to identify the district's needs and present a comprehensive plan to the Board of Trustees.

“Working with our Facility Advisory Committee throughout this process has been a great experience. Our collaborative efforts have been instrumental in identifying and refining capital improvement projects for our bond referendum,” explained Superintendent Dr. Gregg Weiss. “We are excited to present this opportunity for our community to vote.”

Over the course of one year, District Administration has been planning to identify the scope of work for the bond project. The FAC undertook an extensive process that involved facility tours, thorough needs analysis, and assessments of current facility requirements. The most significant components of the proposed bond projects are as follows:

- • Safety and Security updates to protect students and staff across multiple campuses.
- • Construction of a new Edwards-Johnson Memorial Silsbee Middle School to provide state-of-the-art facilities which will include a competition gymnasium, a new ag facility, band hall, and four lane track. Reconfiguration of grades to include only 7 th and 8 th grade students. • Renovating Laura Reeves into an Intermediate campus which will house 4 th , 5 th and 6 th grade students. Pre-K and Kindergarten will relocate to Silsbee Elementary.
- • Construction of a Career and Technical Education Building at Silsbee High School, preparing students for real-world opportunities. The building will include floral design, technology, culinary, robotics, and nursing.
- • Updates to the softball and baseball complex, including the installation of turf fields and drainage improvements.
- • Resurfacing of Tennis Courts and addressing longtime drainage issues.
- • Construction of a new Ag Barn



The FAC presented its formal recommendation to Trustees on August 8, 2023 during the regularly scheduled board meeting. Texas school districts do not receive state funding for renovating or building new schools. Instead, they must receive funds through school bond elections.

If Silsbee ISD voters pass the bond in November, the estimated impact would be \$7.86 per month on a home valued at \$150,000.

In 2019, Texas Legislators passed a new law as part of House Bill 3 that requires all bond propositions for any school district to have the phrase 'THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE' on all ballot language for bond propositions. Due to this requirement, all voters will see this statement on the official ballot language, even if the tax dollar amount is frozen and will not exceed the tax ceiling.

Homeowners age 65 and older will not be impacted by the passage of the bond propositions if they have filed for and received the Over 65 Homestead Exemption with the Hardin County Appraisal District. For more information, go to hardin-cad.org. Silsbee ISD is committed to providing easy access to information for all voters.

For more details about the Silsbee ISD Bond, we encourage everyone to visit silsbeeisd.org/bond2023. The website will be regularly updated with additional information and resources as they become available.

"I want our community to know that we will continue to communicate with everyone about the bond proposal," Weiss said. "They will be receiving lots of factual information from us over the next few weeks."

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7, and Early Voting is October 23 to November 3.

For media inquiries, please contact the district's Director of Communications, Kelsey Johnson at 409-980-7800 or via email kelsey.johnson@silsbeeisd.org.