The Joshua ISD Future Planning Committee is a community-driven team that includes 48 members. A total of 128 community members responded to the district’s form online. Membership encompasses a broad cross-section of the community, including parents, staff members, business owners, and community members.

Members were randomly selected.

The purpose of the Future Planning Committee is to study and analyze data related to student enrollment projections, district finances, and facility condition and to prepare a recommendation to the Board of Trustees for a bond election in May 2024. After careful review and deliberation, the Board voted to call a bond election with four propositions with a total of $106.2 million.

School districts do not receive state funding to make repairs to schools or build new ones when enrollment grows, rather they must rely on voter approval to issue bonds. It’s been 9 years since the last bond passed in JISD.

Delaying implementation of the bond program exposes the District to escalating construction costs, which are expected to increase the total cost of the proposed bond projects by an additional estimate of 12% or $13 million in the next year and each subsequent year.

Since 2019, state law 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. Homeowners age 65 & older who have filed for and received the Over 65 exemption will not see an increase over their frozen dollar amount. Check your most recent Notice of Assessed Value Change to see if you will be impacted.

School districts have two budgets: Maintenance & Operations (M&O) for instruction and daily operations and Interest & Sinking (I&S) for capital investments. Each budget has its own tax rate generated by local property taxes which add up to the district’s total tax rate.

JOSHUA ISD FUTURE PLANNING COMMITTEE

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As Joshua ISD continues to grow, the elementary and middle schools are at or near capacity.

Prop A includes a new, 92,000-square-foot elementary school to be located in the Panchasarp Farms subdivision located behind the QuickTrip on 174. Currently, North Joshua Elementary and Elder Elementary are over maximum capacity. Joshua ISD announced that some students zoned to North Joshua and Elder will have to be bussed to Plum Creek Elementary beginning next school year due to growth. This would cause some elementary students to spend almost two hours riding the bus each day.

Growth has caused some teachers to share a regular classroom split with a dividing wall.

Nichols Middle School is a year ahead of its growth projections with 603 students currently enrolled. The school’s current max capacity is 700. Prop A includes a 13,500-square-foot addition to Nichols Middle School that includes 10 additional classrooms along with a science lab to increase campus capacity to 1,000 students.

Currently, a 7th grade science teacher does not have a classroom and teaches her class in the choir room due to space constraints. Because the science teacher teaches in the next available room, lab space must alternate with other classes, taking away hands-on lab instruction.

Prop C includes a 26,000 square-foot renovation and a 31,000 square-foot addition of the Career & Technical Education facility at Joshua High School. The project includes renovated spaces and expansions for Business, Marketing and Finance, Culinary Arts, Cosmetology, Health Science, Information Technology, Construction Technology, Arts, Audio & Video, Technology & Communications, Engineering, and Criminal Justice.

The current CTE facilities are 20 years old and were constructed as part of a renovation to Joshua HS in 2003. Currently, many CTE classrooms at JHS lack adequate space required for specialized programs, creating safety concerns and limiting enrollment for students pursuing a specialized career pathway. Culinary Arts, Cosmetology and Construction Technology programs are currently at capacity which means students who wish to enroll in these programs are unable to.

Some CTE classes are offered in the main portion of JHS. Adding space would allow all CTE classes to be offered in one location. This would free up classroom space in the main portion for core classes such as science, English, math and history. Currently, JHS does not have any available classroom space available for growth.

Prop D includes HVAC replacement, as well as paving upgrades at multiple campuses.

Current HVAC systems average 20-25 years of age and are past their useful life at several sites across the district. Some school sites contain 30-year-old units. Many parts are starting to fail and require the manufacturer to construct these outdated replacements which are no longer available.

Due to shifting in the ground, the parking and paving around Loflin Middle School and Caddo Grove Elementary is significantly cracked and needs new concrete.

Safety and security was a top priority for the district and board when considering the 2024 Bond proposal. Prop D includes a fire alarm replacement allowance, new PA systems, and security cameras.