

April 19,
2024



Elgin Independent School District

PAW *Prints*



*District breaks ground on Trinity Ranch Elementary:
See page 2 inside*

BOND 2024



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jana Rueter poses with Elgin ISD employees after a bond presentation on April 3 at the EISD Administration Building Auditorium. Early voting for the May 4 election begins Monday. See inside for more information on the bond election.

Superintendent's Message:

Another school year has almost wrapped up in Elgin ISD! Nothing makes me more hopeful for our future than visiting our kindergarten classrooms as they prepare to enter first grade. As an educator, witnessing the remarkable personal and academic growth of students from the beginning to the end of the school year is truly gratifying. They grow so much in their early years. And, by the time our current Kindergartners in Elgin ISD are about to enter high school, Elgin ISD enrollment is projected to double and could possibly triple.



Dr. Rueter

Currently, our student enrollment in Elgin is approaching 5,800, with third-party demographers anticipating an increase to over 15,000 by 2032. As we plan for the future of Elgin ISD, it is important that we are prepared to continue providing high-quality instruction to our growing student population while increasing the educational opportunities we offer. Therefore, as a school district, we must proactively assess how we serve our students and families both presently and, in the years to come. That is why I am writing to provide information about the upcoming May 4 Elgin ISD bond election.

The proposed \$375 million bond, which was developed by a group of over 40 engaged Elgin citizens, encompasses various projects intended to touch every campus and student within our district. The primary focus of this bond is addressing our growth by constructing a new elementary school and middle school, as well as expanding Elgin High School's capacity. These new facilities and upgrades will not only accommodate our current students but also provide space for our increasing enrollment.

In addition to addressing growth, Proposition A of Bond 2024 includes projects prioritizing the safety and security of our students and staff, as well as addressing necessary maintenance and facility upgrades across all Elgin ISD campuses. Proposition A also provides for phase two of the Transportation Building, the purchase of new buses, land acquisition for future growth, and upgrades to facilities for our softball, baseball, and tennis programs.

Proposition B of Bond 2024 extends beyond physical infrastructure to expand educational opportunities for our students. By renovating the existing press box at Wildcat Stadium, we will create additional classroom space for career and technology education and audio/video academic programming, which will increase career-oriented academic programs for our students. It is important to note Proposition B is not just about football and Friday night lights.

Last year, there were over 70 events held at Wildcat Stadium, which provide students with unique and innovative learning opportunities, and we aim to expand educational offerings through the resources that would be provided through Prop B. In fact, over 600, or 1 out of every 4 students at the middle and high school levels would have expanded educational opportunities through Proposition B.

I would like to take a moment to address the district's tax rate. If approved by voters, both bond propositions would be funded without any increase in the Elgin ISD property tax rate. Elgin ISD can achieve this due to the growth in our tax base and our responsible management of taxpayer resources over the last several years. In fact, Elgin ISD's overall tax rate has decreased by over 31 cents since 2019, and our district holds the highest school district financial rating given by the state of Texas.

I encourage you to learn more about Bond 2024 and its impact on our district by visiting elginisdbond.org. Please remember to cast your vote during the upcoming May election. Early voting begins on April 22 and continues through April 30, with Election Day on Saturday, May 4.

Thank you for your continued support of Elgin ISD, our students, and our community.

More on the 2024 Bond Election: Page 6

District Starts Work on Newest Elementary School



Elgin Independent School District on Tuesday, April 2 broke ground on its fifth elementary school, Trinity Ranch Elementary, within the Trinity Ranch master-planned community.

The construction marks a significant milestone in

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projects funded through a voter-approved 2021 Elgin ISD Bond Referendum. The bond package included funds for two new elementary schools, including Trinity Ranch Elementary. Just over \$39 million was set aside in the bond issue for this elementary school.

“This is such an exciting moment for the Elgin community,” said Elgin ISD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jana Rueter. “Every student deserves access to engaging and innovative learning experiences so they will have choice and opportunity for their future. Trinity Ranch Elementary will provide a safe and nurturing environment for students to learn and grow, fostering a sense of community and collaboration. Future staff and students will benefit from the school’s overall design, which reflects Elgin ISD’s commitment to providing high-quality education for its students. We are excited to celebrate this investment in our community, and our children, and to see this new facility come to life.”

Planning for Trinity Ranch Elementary has been completed, and construction is currently underway. The project is scheduled for an August 2025 opening.



Students Take in Solar Eclipse

Our scholars enjoyed the once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse event on April 8. Maximum darkness took place around 1:37 p.m. and lasted about two minutes.

Our Teaching and Learning team provided instructional activities tailored to different levels, encompassing science, language arts, math, and the fine arts. Students explored the science behind the solar eclipse and its significance.

Solar eclipse glasses were made available to all staff and students on the day of the event.

The next total eclipse is expected to occur 300 years from now.



Now Hiring: Harvest Ridge Elementary School

Join Our Family



Harvest Ridge Elementary will become the newest member of the Elgin ISD family when it opens its doors for the 2024-25 school year! We are looking for educators to join us on our new campus! Call 512-281-3434.

Theatre Student Captures Scholarship

Caleb Clemons of Elgin High School on Wednesday was awarded a Texas Arts Project musical theatre intensive camp scholarship from Impact Arts. The scholarship award came during

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the Heller Awards ceremony in Austin. Caleb captured a Heller Awards Featured Performer nomination this year.



Elgin ISD

Wildcat Showcase

Wildcat Showcase Scheduled for April 25 at EMS

The Elgin ISD Wildcat Showcase takes place from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 25 at Elgin Middle School.

We'll provide information on various district programs and provide information on the 2024 Bond.

[Click here](#) to watch videos on some of the featured programs at Showcase.

Clever Tiger to Host Art Show

We are so excited for you to see the extraordinary art works of our Elgin High School AP Art Students!

Come on out to The Clever Tiger this Saturday at 5 p.m.



Athletics: EHS Softball Makes Playoffs for 31st Straight Year

In Athletics, Elgin High School Softball has secured a playoff spot, marking the 31st consecutive year qualifying for the playoffs for the Lady Cats. Going into this season, EHS was only one of two schools in Texas that could claim that accomplishment.

The team will face a District 24-5A opponent in the bi-district round.

EHS Baseball was in second place in district going into this week. They finish district play on Friday at Hendrickson.

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EHS Tennis will take part in their District meet April 29-30 at Georgetown East View.

The EHS Spring Football Game takes place Tuesday, May 21. Gametime is 7 p.m.



Pearls of Youth Art Competition
Attracts Students in Grades K-12

Students from each Elgin ISD campus recently competed in the Pearls of Youth art competition, hosted by the Elgin Art Association, on April 6. The show included students across K-12 grade levels.

Also, Elgin Middle School educator Catherine Brock captured the Pearls of Education award for her work in theater arts.



PEARLS
OF
YOUTH
ART SHOW

EHS Student Qualifies For Regional Academics

Madison Hastings of Elgin High School is headed to regional UIL Academics on April 27 after qualifying in Spelling. Her coach is Emma Davis.



EMS Successfully Defends
One-Act Play Title

Ms. Brock and the cast of "Pinocchio Commedia" took home first place in UIL District One-Act Play, as well as the Best Performer award.

The achievement marked back-to-back wins for the EMS Theatre Program! Bravo!

Choirs Excel at UIL Event

EHS Choirs recently earned record-breaking ratings at UIL Concert & Sightreading. Both Treble and Varsity Mixed choirs captured Sweepstakes Superior ratings for both Concert and Sightreading portions of the contest. The men's choir earned an Excellent rating.



EMS Bands Stand Out As Well

Both EMS Bands recently earned 1st division "superior" ratings at Concert and Sightreading:


- Wind Ensemble on both the Concert Stage and in Sightreading
- Symphonic Band on Sightreading and Excellent on the Concert Stage

ELGIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND 2024

BOND 2024 EXTRA

**ELGIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOND 2024**

Bond 2024 can be funded with
NO TAX RATE INCREASE



Prop A
\$366,000,000

- New Elementary School #6
- New Middle School #2
- High School Capacity Improvements
- Priority Maintenance
HVAC, electrical, windows, fire alarms, and other priority items
- General Campus Upgrades
General refreshes, ADA accessibility compliance, cafeteria and serving lines, library modernizations, collaboration + student choice, comparability, fine arts upgrades, gymnasium updates, safety & security, technology infrastructure
- Athletic Improvements
Softball, Baseball, and Tennis upgrades
- New Buses
Replace aging fleet and provide transportation for growing student body
- Transportation Building (Phase 2)
- Land Acquisition

Prop B
\$9,000,000

- Career, Technology and Educational Arts, Audio/Video Technology Programs & Press Box Renovation

Renovate and expand press box and elevator to address aging conditions, ensure ADA accessibility compliance, improve safety, and accommodate growth of EHS.

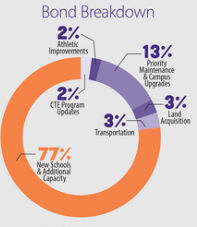
Include instructional classroom space that serves multiple functions.

Improvements to safely accommodate growing number of students, staff, and guests during instructional time, games, and competitions.

Install new scoreboard, video and sound system to address aging conditions and to better support CTE and A/V program instructional needs.

The 2024 Elgin ISD Bond Proposal addresses growth, safety, aging schools, comparability & infrastructure without raising taxes.

Bond Breakdown



77% of Bond 2024 is dedicated to additional learning spaces for our growing enrollment.

Early Voting April 22 – April 30
Election Day Sat. May 4

elginisdbond.org

Why a Bond Election?

- 1 Rapid enrollment growth & capacity
- 2 Building age, safety & condition
- 3 Facility & program comparability
- 4 Evolving educational delivery & programs



ELGIN ISD GROWTH

The Elgin community has witnessed historic growth over the last 4+ years. It is estimated that a new home is built every day in Elgin.

If you have a kindergartener today, by the time they are preparing to go to high school, Elgin ISD enrollment is projected to at least double. In fact, it could triple.

The 2024 Elgin ISD Bond Proposal would address this growth by building new schools, renovating for additional capacity and upgrading and repairing aging facilities.

ELSD Enrollment Projections



TAX IMPACT

The district's tax rate will not increase as a result of this bond election.

Due to Elgin ISD's growth and conservative fiscal approach, there will be NO Elgin ISD ISD tax rate increase if voters approve the bond propositions on the May 2024 ballot.

How is this possible?

When the tax base grows, like it has in Elgin ISD, the same tax rate produces more dollars. This allows the district to keep the ISD rate the same when issuing new bonds.

Elgin ISD has received the highest possible Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) rating each year since 2003.

Since 2019, Elgin ISD's total tax rate has decreased by more than 31 cents.

Early Voting
April 22 – April 30

Election Day
Sat. May 4

elginisdbond.org

Early Voting

Bastrop County:

Elgin Recreation Center: 361 N. Highway 95, Elgin
Bastrop County Courthouse Annex
Smithville Recreation Center
Bastrop County Cedar Creek Annex
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 22–26 and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 29–30

Travis County: (closest to Elgin):

You may vote at any Vote Center in Travis County.
ACC Elgin: 1501 Highway 290, Multi-Purpose Room 1143, Elgin
April 22–April 27: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
April 28: Noon to 6 p.m.
April 29–30: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Community Center at Del Valle: 3518 S. FM 973, Building D, Del Valle

April 22–27: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
April 28: Noon to 6 p.m.
April 29–30: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Pflugerville ISD Rock Gym: 702 W. Pecan St. Gym, Pflugerville

April 22–27: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
April 28: Noon to 6 p.m.
April 29–30: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Lee County:

American Legion Hall: 304 S. Rockdale, Lexington
April 22–26: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
April 29–30: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Attend Remaining Bond Presentations:

Upcoming information sessions on the 2024 bond take place:

- Friday, April 19 | 6 p.m.
Community Bond Information Meeting | Sacred Heart Catholic Church
- Tuesday, April 23 | 6 p.m.
Community Bond Information Meeting | Administration Auditorium
- Thursday, April 25 | 6:30 p.m.
Wildcat Showcase | Elgin Middle School Cafeteria

For Residents Ages 65 and Older

For residents age 65 and older, school district tax bills will not increase, even if their property values increase (excluding significant property improvements) as long as an approved Homestead and Over-65 Exemption application is on file with the appropriate county appraisal district, and the property has been owned as of Jan. 1 of the tax year.

Election Day: Saturday, May 4



Bastrop County:

7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

On Election Day, a voter may vote at any of the locations listed below:

Aqua Water Supply 415 Old Austin Hwy., Bastrop
 River Valley Christian Fellowship 1224 W. Hwy 71, Bastrop
 Bastrop County Courthouse Annex 804 Pecan St., Bastrop
 Paige Community Center 107 S. Main St., Paige
 Bastrop County Community Center 15 American Legion Dr., Bastrop
 Smithville Rec Center 106 Royston St., Smithville
 Roanky Community Center 135 Main St., Rosanky
 Bastrop County Cedar Creek Annex 5785 FM 535, Cedar Creek
 Red Rock Community Center 114 Red Rock Rd., Red Rock
 Elgin Recreation Center 361 N. Hwy 95, Elgin
 Faith Lutheran Church 230 Waco St., McDade
 Family Worship Center 2425 FM 1704, Elgin
 Bastrop County ESD No. 2 Station 41432 N. Hwy 95, Bastrop

Travis County:

7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

On Election Day, a voter may vote at any of the locations listed below:

Austin Energy Headquarters 4815 Mueller Blvd Capital Training Room Austin
 East Nineteenth St Baptist Church 3401 Rogge Ln Fellowship Hall Austin
 General Marshall Middle School 4401 Tilley St Community Room Austin
 Memorial United Methodist Church 6100 Berkman Dr Gym Austin
 YMCA East Communities Y 5315 Ed Bluestein Blvd Lobby Austin
 Community First! Village 9301 Hog Eye Rd Unity Hall Austin
 Founders Classical Academy 9100 US-290 Room 145 Austin
 Turner Roberts Recreation Center 7201 Colony Loop Dr Arts and Crafts Room Austin
 Grandview Hills Elementary School 12024 Vista Parke Dr MPR Austin
 Peace Lutheran Church 10625 N FM 620 Narthex Austin
 Davis Elementary School 5214 Duval Rd Portables 9 & 10 Austin
 Milwood Branch Library 12500 Amherst Dr Meeting Room Austin
 Wells Branch MUD Recreation Center 3000 Shoreline Dr Art Room #103 Austin
 YMCA Northwest Branch 5807 McNeil Dr Bowen Room Austin
 River Place Elementary School 6500 Sitio Del Rio Blvd MPR Austin
 Old Quarry Branch Library 7051 Village Center Dr Meeting Room Austin
 Canyon Ridge Middle School 12601 Country Trails Ln Main Gym Austin
 Ce Bar Fire Department 353 Commons Ford Rd Training Room Austin
 Laura Bush Community Library 9411 Bee Caves Rd Commons Austin
 Dan Ruiz Branch Library 1600 Grove Blvd Meeting Room 1 Austin
 Good Shepherd on the Hill 1700 Woodland Ave Parish Hall Austin
 George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center 5801 Ainez Dr Dance Studio Austin
 Addison Amenity Center 6108 Kara Dr Amenity Center Austin
 Langford Elementary School 2206 Blue Meadow Dr Science Room Austin
 Ojeda Middle School 4900 McKinney Falls Pkwy Foyer of Gym Austin
 Berkeley United Methodist Church 2407 Berkeley Ave Christian Life Center Austin

Dittmar Recreation Center 1009 W Dittmar Rd AB Room Main building Austin
 Menchaca Road Branch Public Library 5500 Menchaca Rd Meeting Room Austin
 Odom Elementary School 1010 Turtle Creek Blvd Portable 4B Austin
 Pleasant Hill Branch Library 211 E William Cannon Dr Meeting Room Austin
 Sunset Valley City Hall 3205 Jones Rd Council Chambers Austin
 Randalls Flagship West Lake Hills 3300 Bee Caves Rd Café Austin
 Riverbend Centre 4214 N Capital of Texas Hwy QUAD4ABCD Austin
 Hill Country Middle School 1300 Walsh Tarlton Ln Main Gym Austin
 Lost Creek Limited District 1305 Quaker Ridge Dr Board Room Austin
 St Alban's Episcopal Church 11819 IH 35 S Assembly Room Austin
 Mosaic Church South Austin 9910 Bilbrook Pl The Commons Austin
 Randalls Brodie 9911 Brodie Ln Café Austin
 Villages of Shady Hollow Amenity Center 12006 Gatling Gun Ln Amenity Center Austin
 State Firefighters' & Fire Marshals' Association 707 FM 1626 Training Room Austin
 upRising Austin 8601 S 1st St Worship Center Austin
 Austin Oaks Church 4220 Monterey Oaks Blvd Family Life foyer Austin
 Will Hampton Branch Library 5125 Convict Hill Rd Meeting Room Austin
 Unity Church of the Hills 9905 Anderson Mill Rd Unity Oaks Room 204 Austin
 Lakewood HOA 7317 Lakewood Dr Community Room/Main Clubhouse Austin
 Baker Center Alamo Drafthouse 3908 Avenue B Cafetorium Austin
 Winters Building 701 W 51st St Main Lobby Austin
 Austin Permitting and Development Center 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Dr Room Number #1407 Austin
 Austin Achieve Northeast Campus 7424 E Hwy 290 High School Gym Austin
 Gus Garcia Recreation Center 1201 E Rundberg Ln Senior Room Austin
 Connally High School 13212 N Lamar Large Gym Foyer Austin
 Our Savior Lutheran Church 1513 E Yager Ln Narthex Austin
 Village at Collinwood 1001 Collinwood W Dr Breakfast Room Austin
 Austin Fire Station No 41 11205 Harris Branch Pkwy Bay Austin
 Pioneer Crossing Elementary School 11300 Samsung Blvd Cafeteria Austin
 Yarbrough Branch Library 2200 Hancock Drive Meeting Room Austin
 Northwest Recreation Center 2913 Northland Dr Classroom #2 Austin
 Grace + Peace Austin 6301 Woodrow Ave Gym Austin
 North Village Branch Library 2505 Steck Ave Meeting Room Austin
 Disability Rights Texas 2222 W Braker Ln Board Rooms Austin
 Grant AME Worship Center 1701 Kramer Ln Leon Thomas Annex Austin
 Balcones Woods Shopping Center 11150 Research Suite 102 Austin
 St Matthew's Episcopal Church 8134 Mesa Dr Huffman Hall Austin

Lee County:

7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Blue United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall 4184 W. FM 696, Lexington