



Re: Tarkington ISD Board of Trustees Announces \$80 Million Bond Election

August 20, 2024

The Tarkington Independent School District (TISD) Board of Trustees has voted to call for a bond election totaling \$80 million, scheduled for **Tuesday, November 5, 2024**. The bond aims to fund critical infrastructure improvements across the district, including the construction of a new elementary school and various renovations and expansions at other campuses.

The proposed projects included in the bond, as recommended by the Future Forward Committee (comprised of local citizens, parents, civic and business leaders, and school staff) in May of 2024 are based on thorough facility assessments, demographic studies, enrollment projections, and district financial audits. Additionally, feedback was gathered from a bond survey that showed support for the proposed projects from a majority of the respondents.

Key projects in the bond include:

- **Early Childhood Renovations:** (TECS built in 1957; 67 yrs old) Improvements to early childhood education spaces.
 - Roof Leak Repairs
 - Interior Painting
 - Flooring Upgrades
 - Energy Efficient LED Lighting and Controls
 - New Ceiling Tiles
 - Plumbing Upgrades
 - Restroom Upgrades
 - Gym Upgrades
 - HVAC Upgrades (Scope TBD)
 - Replace Interior Signage to meet ADA requirements
 - Upgrades to Door Hardware to meet ADA requirements
 - Repairs of any unknown issues

- **Elementary School Renovations** (Current building built in 1971; 53 yrs old)
 - Functional capacity of 775 students
 - Major Interior Renovations:
 - New lighting
 - New ceiling tile and grid
 - New flooring

- Repainting all interiors
 - Secure Entrance
 - Repairs
- **New Elementary School:** Construction to accommodate the district's growing student population.
 - New location/building
 - 900 Student Capacity
 - Approximately 110,000 SF
- **Middle School Additions & Renovations:** (Current building built in 1974; 50 yrs old) Expanding and upgrading facilities to meet current educational needs.
 - Roof Leak Repairs
 - Cafeteria & Kitchen Renovation (increase core space)
 - New Vestibule to Meet ADA & Security Requirements
 - New Main Entrance Canopy
 - Science Lab Renovations
 - Flooring Upgrades throughout to address moisture issues
 - Covered Walkways
 - Energy Efficient LED Lighting
 - Telescoping Bleachers in Gym
 - New Ceiling Tiles
 - Replacement of Interior Signage to meet ADA requirements
 - HVAC Upgrades (Scope TBD)
 - Repairs of any unknown issues
 - Interior Repainting
- **High School Renovations & CTE Addition & AG Renovations:** (THS built in 2003) Enhancements to the high school, including new spaces for Career and Technical Education (CTE).
 - Career & Technical Education Wing Addition
 - Additional classrooms
 - Ag Shop Addition and Renovation
 - Fencing/Gates for Ag Shop
 - Science Labs Renovations (Fume hoods, flooring)
 - Energy Efficient LED Lighting and Controls Per Energy Code
 - Roof Leak Repair
 - Replace Interior Signage to meet ADA requirements
 - HVAC Upgrades (not in previous bond scope)
- **Band Hall and Auditorium Expansion & Renovations:** Upgrading the following to better support the district and its fine arts programs.
 - HS Band Hall Renovations, Upgrades & Expansion:
 - Increased rehearsal space
 - Practice rooms
 - Additional storage space for instruments and equipment

- MS Band Hall Renovations & Upgrades:
 - Soundproofing
 - New carpet
- MS Auditorium Renovations & Upgrades:
 - Upgrades to sound system
 - Upgrades to lighting
 - Stage repairs
- **District Renovations:**
 - Utility Upgrades
 - Upgrades to Parking Lot Lighting
 - Campus Marquees
 - Mechanical Upgrades & Repairs
 - Electrical Upgrades & Repairs
 - Plumbing Upgrades & Repairs
 - Wastewater Management Plant (1974)
- **Safety and Security Enhancements:** Upgrades across all campuses to ensure student and staff safety.
 - Upgrades to Security Vestibules at Every Campus:
 - Tarkington High School
 - Tarkington Middle School
 - Tarkington Early Childhood
 - Entry Access Hardware Upgrades

To fund these projects, the District is projecting a tax rate increase of **10 cents**, resulting in a total TISD tax rate of **\$1.0325**. The District plans to complete the proposed projects in phases, which allows for a smaller tax rate increase. For example, a homestead assessed at \$250,000 (with a taxable value of \$150,000 after exemption) is projected to see a tax difference of **\$12.50 per month**, or **\$150.00 per year**, in 2025 compared to 2024.

Importantly, there will be **no increase over the taxpayer's frozen dollar amount on the homesteads of taxpayers aged 65 years and older** who have applied for and received the "Age 65 or Older Exemption." Additionally, due to the recently increased homestead exemption, homesteads with an appraised value of \$100,000 or less will not pay any school taxes to Tarkington ISD.

Key Dates to Remember:

- **Election Day:** Tuesday, November 5, 2024
- **Early Voting:** Monday, October 21 – Friday, November 1, 2024
- **Voter Registration Deadline:** Monday, October 7, 2024

Voters must be 18 years of age by Election Day to participate in the bond election.

For more details about the bond election, the proposed projects, or to ask questions, please visit the Tarkington ISD website at www.tarkingtonisd.net

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This press release was prepared by Tarkington ISD for distribution to local media and community stakeholders.