



TPSD School Bond Frequently Asked Questions Innovation, Modernization, Safety

What is a school bond?

A school bond is a financial practice allowing a school district to borrow money for capital improvements, similar to a home mortgage. Money will be used to fund major capital projects such as building expansions, renovating existing facilities, and upgrading safety and technology. To pass, a 60 percent voter approval is required.

Why is TPSD requesting a school bond issue?

TPSD is a top-performing district with aging facilities needing major capital projects. Over the past seven years, \$29 million has been spent from the district's own funds, but more is needed as we face major projects. The city of Tupelo has grown and to keep up with the growth, TPSD has to adapt to the changing needs of the community and the students it serves.

What will the bond be used for?

From nearly 30 focus group meetings, it has become apparent that the three biggest needs are:

- Bathroom renovations throughout the district,
- Classroom renovation/expansion at Carver,
- Classroom renovation/expansion at Lawhon.

Other projects include constructing outdoor learning and play spaces, a new multi-purpose building at Tupelo Middle School, science lab renovations and other small projects.

What is the amount of the bond?

The Tupelo Public School District is seeking \$34M.

How much will my taxes go up?

This is **no-tax increase bond**, structured to avoid raising tax rates. Any tax increases from reassessments are unrelated to this bond.

When/Where will the election be held?

The election will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2025, from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. at all local voting precincts. Absentee ballots are available until Aug. 16, 2025, at the city clerk's office.

Can bond dollars be used to hire more teachers or reduce class sizes?

Bond money cannot be used toward operating expenses, such as salaries to hire more teachers. Rather, bond funds are restricted for use on brick-and-mortar projects such as constructing, equipping, maintaining and furnishing district facilities.

How do I register to vote?

If you are not registered, visit: <https://vote.gov/register/mississippi>

What will we do if the bond issue fails?

If the bond vote fails to meet the 60 percent approval rate, improvements will be made based on urgency and need. Without the additional funding, however, the larger renovations or new construction projects will not be possible.