

ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOND FACTS



**Please Remember to Vote on
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28**

Polls Open 6 a.m.-9 p.m. @ District Office

Inside: Details of the Proposed Bond



***Bond Vote* 2017**
ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for your consideration of the bond referendum that is being proposed to the community for vote on Tuesday, Nov. 28. The project is the result of more than a year of research and planning by the district's facilities committee, as well as input and feedback from community residents.

Quite simply, our buildings do not reflect Elwood pride. While our buildings and grounds crew has done an outstanding job over the years, "band-aid" repairs are no longer the answer. From roofs that leak resulting in rain pouring down walls and into our hallways, to cracked and uneven sidewalks, to classrooms that no longer best meet the needs of our students, our facilities lag behind the evolving, 21st-century program that Elwood provides its students.

This is why the board is proposing the project for community consideration. Our community members and board have worked transparently to craft a proposal to meet the basic needs of our district and to respond to the well-known, documented facility challenges.

We encourage voters to learn more about what is being proposed by reading this newsletter and the extensive amount of information that can be found on our website, www.elwood.k12.ny.us, by clicking on the "Bond 2017" link on the homepage. Additionally, the district will host a Superintendent's Community Forum on Monday, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. at Elwood Middle School to present an overview of the projects and to answer any questions residents may have.

Thank you for your participation.

Proposition #1: What Is Proposed at Each School?

All Schools

- Replace roof.
- Repair existing sidewalks and curbing.
- Renovate cafeteria.
- Improve ventilation and exhausts.
- Fix drainage issues.
- Remove asbestos insulation in crawl spaces.
- Replace original flooring throughout the building.
- Make improvements in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Upgrade interior doors and hardware.
- Upgrade fire alarm system.
- Install air conditioning in the cafeteria.

Additional Projects @ Harley Avenue

- Install wall padding around gymnasium.
- Repair exterior walls.

Additional Projects @ James H. Boyd Intermediate School

- Reconfigure drop-off loop.
- Create additional parking lot in rear of building.
- Replace original flooring throughout the building.
- Install wall padding around gymnasium.

Additional Projects @ Elwood Middle School

- Renovate cafeteria, art room, family and consumer science room, music suite and auditorium.
- Renovate locker room.
- Reconfigure parent drop-off loop and bus parking lot.

Additional Projects at Elwood-John H. Glenn High School

- Renovate cafeteria, art room, science rooms, family and consumer science rooms, guidance suite and auditorium.
- Reconfigure current woodworking classroom into new robotics lab.
- Replace tennis courts.



Roofs at all four schools leak when it rains.



Cracked curbing and siding present safety issues for our students and staff.



Art and science rooms are original to the construction of our buildings and are extremely outdated.



An additional parking lot would be created at Boyd that would allow the school to hold schoolwide events after hours.



The high school tennis courts, also used by community residents, are cracked and in disrepair, creating a safety issue.



Drainage issues around the district, like the one pictured here, would be corrected through the proposal.



Broken seating and torn carpets would be replaced through auditorium renovations at the middle and high schools.



The locker rooms at Elwood Middle School, original to the building's construction, are in disrepair.

What Is Proposition #2?

Proposition #2 proposes the conversion of the existing football field to synthetic turf and also includes the addition of a new press box, concession stand and outdoor restrooms. Proposition #2 can only be approved by voters if Proposition #1 is also approved. The total cost of projects proposed through Proposition #2 is approximately \$3.65 million.

Financial Facts

The total cost of Proposition #1 is approximately \$34.5 million. If approved, the annual tax impact to the average community resident (with an assessed value of \$3,800) would be approximately \$221 a year or \$18.42 a month. The total cost of Proposition #2 is \$3.65 million. If Proposition #1 and Proposition #2 are both approved, the annual tax impact to the average community resident (with an assessed value of \$3,800) would be approximately \$333 a year or \$27.75 a month. Please visit the bond page of the district's website, www.elwood.k12.ny.us, for a tax calculator. There, you can calculate your estimated increase should the proposals be approved.

Elwood Union Free School District

100 Kenneth Avenue
Greenlawn, NY 11740-2900

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11740

FAQ's

Don't we budget for these improvements?

Capital improvements of this scale cannot be included in the operating budget without impacting the tax levy in a significant way. Using a bond spreads out the cost over a longer period of time and mitigates the annual tax impact.

What has the district done to lessen the tax impact on residents?

The district's facilities committee worked hard to narrow the scope of work for Proposition #1 to the work most necessary for completion. The district's Building Conditions Survey identified a scope of work that totaled approximately \$60 million; the committee and Board of Education felt this was an amount too excessive to present to the community. Therefore, the scope of work for Proposition #1 was reduced to \$34.5 million. In addition, the Board of Education has timed the proposed bond so that a portion of the new debt created by the project replaces current debt that is expiring.

If approved, how long will the projects take to be completed?

The district is hopeful that improvement work would begin during the summer of 2018. Ultimate phasing of the improvement projects is dependent on a variety of factors, including but not limited to the State Education Department's approval of plans, receiving final bids, general market conditions, interest rates and the availability of contractors. It is likely that the improvements would take several years, with an estimated completion date of 2022.

Voting Information

To vote, you must be:

- At least 18.
- A U.S. citizen.
- A primary resident of the Elwood Union Free School District for at least 30 days prior to Nov. 28.
- A registered voter with the school district and/or Suffolk County.

If you are not registered with the district or the county, stop in the office of the district clerk of the Elwood Union Free School District to register on any day school is in session but no later than Nov. 20, 2017.

Absentee Ballots

If you are a qualified school district voter and you will be unable to vote in person on Nov. 28 due to illness or physical disability, hospitalization, incarceration (unless incarcerated for conviction of a felony), travel outside the voter's county or city of residence for employment or business reasons, studies or vacation

you can apply for an absentee ballot. Absentee ballot applications are available at the district office in the middle school or by clicking on the link below. Nov. 27 is the last day individual voters may pick up absentee ballot applications in person at the district office. To be counted, ballots must be received by the district clerk by 5 p.m. on Nov. 28, 2017.

Save The Dates

Monday, November 20

Superintendent's Community Forum
7 p.m. @ Elwood Middle School

Tuesday, November 28

Bond Vote!

Polls Open 6 a.m.-9 p.m. @ District
Office (Located at the side of Elwood
Middle School)