



Nederland ISD Bond Issue Frequently Asked Questions

What is a school district bond election?

School districts hold bond elections to seek approval from voters to sell bonds for the purpose of generating revenue. Bond revenue for Nederland ISD will only be used for new construction, potential land acquisition, renovations to existing facilities, equipment, and other approved items associated with providing school district facilities.

Can the revenue from selling bonds be spent on personnel or other district operational costs?

No. State law does not allow revenue from bond sales to be spent on personnel or operating costs such as utility bills, supplies, fuel, instructional materials, or other costs associated with daily operations of the district.

If a bond issue is passed, does it impact the money that would be available for maintenance and operation funding such as potential salary increases, resource for instruction or other operating expenditures?

No. Because revenue for maintenance and operation and debt service cannot be mixed, one does not affect the other. Regular school operations are funded from revenue for that purpose and revenue from bond sales funds bond issue related costs.

I know that we have previous bond debt. Is it unusual for a school district to have existing debt and add to it with an additional bond issue?

No. It is not unusual to have existing debt and to seek an additional bond issue. Nearly all school districts do this because the need for facilities that support good teaching and learning requires an investment to keep pace with student growth and program changes. Investing in school facilities is an on-going expense like teacher salaries, utilities, etc.

I understand that there will be a tax rate increase if we vote to improve facilities in Nederland ISD. Is the tax increase applied to the total value of the home?

No. The potential tax increase is based on the value of your home after the \$25,000 state homestead exemption has been deducted from the appraised value of the home. For example: A home with an appraised value of \$125,000 has the \$25,000 state homestead exemption deducted from the amount and the remaining value is taxed. $\$125,000 - \$25,000 = \$100,000$ which is the actual taxable value.

I understand that if the bond issue is passed that school taxes will go up approximately 33 Cents per \$100 of value. Will the tax rate be the same until all bonds have been paid?

No. The only year projected to reach the maximum increase is tax year 2020. That is when the tax rate is at its' highest point. It is projected that the tax rate will then decrease slightly each year thereafter.

What is the total projected tax impact to the owner of a \$125,000 home? Will this amount of tax increase be consistent throughout the 25-year bonded indebtedness?

The maximum projected tax increase for a home valued at \$125,000 will be \$27.50 per month in 2020 assuming that both bond propositions pass. The cost will probably be less in the years following 2020, as the value of the district increases, the tax rate amount needed to pay the bond debt will go down.

What is the total amount of the bond issue and how will it be spent to improve district facilities?

The total amount of the bond issue is \$155.6 million and is focused on classroom instruction and providing new space for teaching and learning. Contents of the bond issue include:

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| 1. A new Nederland High School at current site | \$82.7 M |
| 2. Upgrades and new construction for all four elementary schools | \$49.1 M |
| 3. Upgrades and improvements to both middle schools | \$11.1 M |
| 4. District-wide technology improvements/one-to-one initiative | \$4.8 M |
| 5. Safety & Security improvements at all campuses | \$3.4 M |
| 6. Bulldog Stadium upgrades and improvements | \$4.5 M |

Couldn't we just renovate the existing high school instead of building a new one?

The Citizens Advisory Committee looked at that option. However, it was going to cost more than \$38 million to renovate the existing high school and \$5 million of that amount would have been needed to build a "portable building campus" to house students due to the extensiveness of the renovations. Relocating the students during the renovation process would have been a significant disruption to students for more than a year. The committee felt it was a better investment to build a new high school that would last 5-6 decades and could be built without disrupting the educational process for students.

When will the Nederland ISD bond election be held? Who can vote in a school bond election?

The general election date will be May 4, 2019. Early voting will begin April 22nd and will end on April 30th. The school district recognizes the importance of the bond election to all stakeholders in the district and encourages all registered voters who reside in the school district to vote.

If I am not registered to vote, how soon do I have to register in order to vote in the May 4th election? Where do I go to register to vote?

The last day to register to vote in the May 4th election is April 4th. If you would like to register to vote, you may pick up a voter registration card at the post office or you can register online by going to www.votetexas.gov

Where do I go to vote and what form of identification will be accepted?

You may vote in the Nederland ISD Bond Election at Nederland City Hall, 207 N. 12th Street, Nederland, Texas 77627. Voting dates and times are as follows:

Early Voting Schedule

Monday, April 22	8AM – 5PM
Tuesday, April 23	7AM – 7PM
Wednesday, April 24	8AM – 5PM
Thursday, April 25	8AM – 5PM
Friday, April 26	8AM – 5PM
Monday, April 29	8AM – 5PM
Tuesday, April 30	7AM – 7PM

Registered voters in Nederland ISD are reminded that they must bring a photo I.D. in order to vote in any election held in Jefferson County. According to the Jefferson County website the following forms of identification will be acceptable for voter identification:

- Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
- Texas personal identification card issued by DPS
- Texas concealed handgun license issued by DPS
- United States military identification card containing the person's photograph
- United States citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph
- United States passport

There is some confusion whether or not individuals with addresses in Beaumont, Port Arthur and Port Neches can vote in this election.

Individuals that live within the boundaries of Nederland ISD can vote in the local election.

Did the school district seek community input before identifying the bond projects being requested?

Yes. A Citizens Advisory Committee, comprised of citizens from throughout the school district, worked for six months before making project recommendations to the Nederland ISD Board of Trustees. The committee also facilitated a community survey that was conducted by an independent firm for the purpose of seeking community input on projects that were being reviewed by the committee.

When did the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) make their recommendations to Nederland ISD?

The Citizens Advisory Committee finalized its recommendations at the February 6 CAC meeting and presented the recommendations to the Nederland ISD Board of Trustees on February 12, 2019. All of the CAC recommended projects were included in the bond referendum that was called by the Board of Trustees on February 13, 2019.

How many individuals responded to the community survey and were the objectives of the survey met?

More than a thousand registered voters responded to the community survey, enough responses to make the results statistically valid. There were five primary objectives that were accomplished with the survey. They were:

1. To assess community awareness of Nederland ISD facility needs related to district programs
2. To identify community opinion specific to individual projects being discussed by the Citizens Advisory Committee on District Facilities
3. To increase participation in the discussion about district facilities
4. To heighten awareness that the district was considering a bond issue for May 4, 2019, and
5. To provide feedback to the CAC and Nederland ISD Board of Trustees in preparation for decisions to be made relevant to school district facilities

What are the major projects in the bond, the approximate costs, and what were the results of the community survey for each project?

The CAC discussed major projects that would later become a recommendation to the district. Six items on the community survey were developed to represent the projects and the following information represents survey respondent approval as a percentage:

Name of Project	Estimated Cost	Survey Approval
New High School at current site	\$82.7 M	63.6%
Upgrades and new construction for all four elementary schools	\$49.1 M	81.5%
Upgrades and improvements to both middle schools	\$11.1 M	88.7%
District-wide technology improvements/one-to-one initiative	\$4.8 M	89.1%
Safety & Security improvements at all campuses	\$3.4 M	94.6%
Bulldog Stadium upgrades and improvements	\$4.5 M	70.4%

If the voters pass the bond issue when will the bonds be sold?

The six projects will vary in terms of how long each will take to complete, and a schedule will be developed to identify a sequence of construction to include each project. Bonds will be sold in the most cost-effective approach as needed to pay for the projects. An initial sale of bonds will most likely occur in late summer 2019.

Will voters have an opportunity to receive information and to ask questions about the projects being included in the bond issue before the election?

Yes. The school district is seeking opportunities to respond to questions from the community by participating in media interviews, responding to questions submitted to the district via telephone and email, and hosting informational meetings that are open to the public. If you are a member of any civic, church, or social club in Nederland ISD, and would like to have someone make a presentation at your next function, we are happy to do that. The school district's role is to provide information and we want everyone in the community to know what is being proposed and to respond to questions.

I read that the tax rate that supports bond debt in school districts is lowered as the overall value of a school district increases. How does that work?

Like most things, the value of property increases over time and the overall value of property in a school district is no exception. As property values increase, the revenue generated to pay for bond debt increases, thus the I&S tax rate may be lowered. School districts cannot promise that future values will increase each year, so Nederland ISD cannot promise a future reduction in the tax rate, however, over time school district values usually trend higher which allows school districts to lower the tax rate associated with bond issue debt repayment.

If the bond issue passes, will the tax rate for our senior citizens be increased?

No. Taxpayers who are age 65 and older and have filed the appropriate tax exemption will not see an increase in the school taxes they pay on their home. The exemption “freezes” the amount of school taxes they pay at the time the exemption is filed.

If I have questions concerning the bond issue, who should I contact?

Please email questions to Rene’ Latiolais – rlatiolais@nederlandisd.org

We will respond to the question as quickly as possible.