

HOMER
COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS



AUGUST 4

ZERO-TAX-RATE INCREASE BOND PROPOSAL

Frequently Asked Questions

WWW.HOMERSCHOOLS.NET



QUICK FACTS

ABOUT THE ZERO-TAX-RATE INCREASE BOND PROPOSAL

- The election will be held on August 4.
- Absentee ballots are available starting June 25 through your local clerk's office.
- The proposal is a \$11,920,000 zero-tax-rate increase bond proposal.
- If approved, the bond proposal **will not increase the current tax rate** and will maintain the existing rate.
- The bond proposal focuses on improvements across all school buildings, including
 - **building and site improvements,**
 - **safety and security upgrades, and**
 - **technology and learning environment enhancements**
- Bond funds can only be used for voter-approved capital projects and cannot be used for salaries, benefits, or day-to-day operating expenses.
- All bond expenditures are independently audited to ensure transparency and accountability.



VOTE AUGUST 4

ZERO-TAX-RATE INCREASE BOND PROPOSAL

BOND PROPOSAL INFORMATION

WHAT IS ON THE AUGUST 4 BALLOT?

An \$11.9 million zero-tax-rate increase bond proposal is on the ballot for Homer Community Schools. **The bond proposal will not increase the current tax rate;** it simply extends the rate residents are already paying by replacing existing bond debt as it is paid off.



Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on August 4.
Absentee ballots will be available beginning June 25.

PROJECT CATEGORIES AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The bond proposal is organized into key project categories that reflect the community priorities of the Homer School District. Each category is designed to support student success while also strengthening the broader community.

BUILDING AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS

These projects focus on maintaining and improving school district facilities to ensure safe, comfortable, and updated learning environments. Up-to-date buildings help minimize disruptions to learning, improve energy efficiency, and protect the community's investment in its schools.

SAFETY AND SECURITY UPGRADES

Safety enhancements are designed to protect students, staff, and visitors. Improvements such as secure entry points, improved drop-off loops, updated infrastructure, and improved site design help create a safer, more secure environment for everyone who uses school district facilities.

TECHNOLOGY AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT ENHANCEMENTS

Upgraded classroom technology and furnishings support today's teaching and learning. These improvements provide students with access to current tools and flexible learning spaces that prepare them for college, careers, and a rapidly evolving world.

WILL THE BOND PROPOSAL INCREASE THE CURRENT TAX RATE?

No. The bond proposal replaces existing debt as it is paid off, so there is no increase in the current tax rate to complete the proposed projects.



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BOND PROPOSAL INFORMATION

HOW WERE THE BOND PROPOSAL PROJECTS IDENTIFIED?

A comprehensive facilities assessment evaluated each school building to identify immediate needs and long-term priorities, including structural repairs, safety improvements, and educational upgrades.

To ensure the proposal reflects community priorities, Homer Community School District gathered input from parents, staff, students, and community members through a series of focus panels and conducted a district-wide survey. The feedback collected through these efforts helped shape the final list of projects included in the bond proposal.

CAN BOND PROPOSAL FUNDS BE USED FOR SALARIES OR OPERATING EXPENSES?

No. Bond funds cannot be used for staff salaries, benefits, or daily operating expenses such as utilities, classroom supplies, or maintenance. State law requires that bond funds be used only for the specific facility projects outlined in the ballot language. All bond expenditures are independently audited to ensure funds are used as approved by voters.

WHY IS HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT ASKING THE COMMUNITY TO VOTE ON A BOND PROPOSAL?

In Michigan, school districts must ask voters to approve bond proposals to fund major facility upgrades, safety and security improvements, technology enhancements, and new construction.

The State of Michigan does not provide funding for these types of large-scale facility projects. The proposed bond would allow Homer Community School District to make essential improvements, helping ensure school buildings remain safe, secure, and well-equipped to support student learning now and into the future.



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BOND PROPOSAL INFORMATION

WHAT CAN BOND PROPOSAL FUNDS BE USED FOR?

Michigan law strictly outlines how bond funds may be spent. These funds can only be used for specific projects approved by voters.

BONDS CAN BE USED FOR:

- Constructing new school buildings
- Constructing additions to existing school buildings
- Remodeling existing school buildings
- Energy conservation improvements
- Land purchases
- Site development and improvements
- Athletic and physical education facility development and improvements
- Playground development and improvements
- Refunding debt (if new present value savings can be demonstrated)
- Direct bond program costs, such as professional fees, election fees, issuance costs, qualification fees, insurance fees, and final audit costs
- School bus purchases
- Purchasing loose furnishings and equipment (including administrative technology)
- Technology purchases are limited to hardware and communication devices that transmit, receive, or compute information for pupil instructional purposes only. The initial purchase of operating systems and customized application software is permitted if it is made concurrently with the initial hardware purchase

BONDS CANNOT BE USED FOR:

- Salaries, service contracts, lease payments, installment contracts, and supplies
- Repairs, maintenance, or maintenance agreements
- Purchasing automobiles, trucks, or vans
- Portable classrooms purchased for temporary use
- Uniforms
- Textbooks
- Upgrades to an existing computer operating system or application software
- Computer training, computer consulting, or computer maintenance contracts



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BALLOT LANGUAGE

WHAT IS THE EXACT BALLOT LANGUAGE?

Below is the ballot language for the Homer Community Schools zero-tax-rate increase bond proposal.

HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND PROPOSAL

Shall Homer Community School District, Calhoun, Jackson, Hillsdale and Branch Counties, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Eleven Million Nine Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$11,920,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

erecting additions to, and partially remodeling, furnishing and refurbishing, and equipping and re-equipping the school building; acquiring and installing instructional technology and instructional technology equipment; constructing, installing, and improving ADA access, lighting improvements, and security fencing at the RK Curry Complex; and developing, equipping, and improving a playground and the school building site?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2026, under current law, is 1.63 mills (\$1.63 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation), for a -0- mills net increase over the prior year's levy. The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is thirty (30) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 5.04 mills (\$5.04 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district expects to borrow from the State School Bond Qualification and Loan Program to pay debt service on these bonds. The estimated total principal amount of that borrowing is \$1,806,325 and the estimated total interest to be paid thereon is \$4,013,234. The estimated duration of the millage levy associated with that borrowing is 21 years and the estimated computed millage rate for such levy is 7 mills. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is \$8,150,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is approximately \$3,515,100.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

Public school districts typically issue bonds to finance long-term capital needs.

The bond will be a ZERO mill increase over the current levy.

By law, bonds can only be used for projects identified in the ballot language.

The length of the bond will be 30 years, and will be issued in series to save on interest.

Bonds **cannot** be used to repair or maintain facilities or cover employee salaries and operating costs.



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BOND PROPOSAL INFORMATION

HOW WILL THE BOND PROPOSAL BENEFIT RESIDENTS WHO DON'T HAVE STUDENTS IN HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT?

Strong schools contribute to a strong community. School facilities often serve as gathering places for community events, activities, and local organizations, providing spaces that bring residents together. Bond-funded improvements would enhance these shared spaces, helping ensure they remain safe, accessible, and welcoming for all members of the Homer community.

HOW COULD APPROVAL OF THE BOND PROPOSAL IMPACT HOME VALUES?

Communities with well-maintained school facilities and strong educational programs are often more attractive to homebuyers. The proposed bond projects for Homer Community School District are designed to improve the safety, functionality, and appearance of school facilities. These improvements reflect a commitment to maintaining quality schools and community spaces, which can support long-term community stability and make the area more appealing to families.

WHAT HAPPENS IF VOTERS DO NOT APPROVE THE ZERO-TAX-RATE INCREASE BOND PROPOSAL?

If the bond proposal is not approved, the identified facility needs do not go away. The district will still face aging infrastructure, necessary repairs, safety upgrades, and outdated learning environments that require attention.

Without bond funding, there is no dedicated funding source to address these needs at scale. The school district would be forced to rely on its general operating budget to manage ongoing repairs and improvements over time.

This means fewer resources available for classrooms and students, including:

- Educational programs
- Staffing
- Classroom materials
- Day-to-day operations

Delays in addressing these needs can also lead to higher costs over time, as small issues become larger, more expensive problems.



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BOND PROPOSAL INFORMATION

WHY IS THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THE TOP PRIORITY IN THIS PROPOSAL?

The elementary school is the most urgent need based on both facility conditions and community input.

A comprehensive facilities assessment and community outreach process identified the elementary building as:

- Outdated and undersized for current enrollment
- Lacking space for small group instruction and modern learning
- Not fully meeting accessibility standards
- In need of safety and infrastructure upgrades

Community feedback reinforced this. Across focus panels and the districtwide survey, the elementary school was consistently identified as the highest priority.

These improvements are focused on:

- Creating safe, secure learning environments
- Ensuring all students have accessible spaces
- Updating classrooms to support how students learn today
- Addressing long-standing infrastructure needs before they become more costly

This is not about expansion for the sake of growth. It is about addressing essential needs in the building that serves the youngest students and sets the foundation for their entire educational experience.

By prioritizing the elementary school, the proposal focuses on the area with the greatest need, the strongest community support, and the most direct impact on students.



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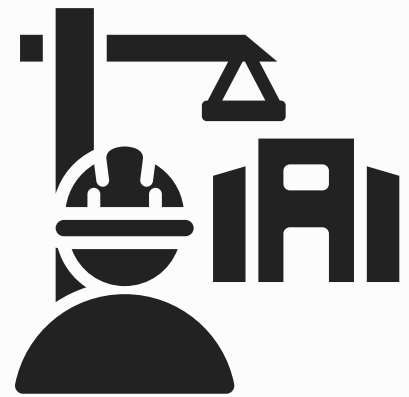
PROJECTS:

BUILDING AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Projects include:

- Constructing a new multipurpose room addition to support arts and athletics
- Constructing a new 3-classroom building addition attached to the existing elementary school
- Reconfiguring elementary classrooms to increase educational space
- Renovating the current gymnasium into a Special Education space with a bathroom at the elementary school (Interior renovation to the larger gym space into flexible Special Education spaces)
- Refreshing all elementary classroom interiors (ceilings, finishes, flooring, select cabinets, and storage)
- Replacing elementary playground equipment
- Upgrading the building exterior to be more energy efficient
- Replacing exterior windows and doors that are reaching the end of their useful life
- Replacing interior doors and hardware
 - in the elementary wing for code compliance
 - where doors are damaged or at the end of their useful life
- Replacing the drop-off loop damaged asphalt (elementary and middle school)
- Replacing brick and moisture barrier on exterior wall (high school)
- Replacing bleacher motors and associated equipment (high school)
- Adding air conditioning to the gymnasium (high school)

These improvements focus on upgrading school district facilities to ensure safe, functional, and efficient learning environments. Projects include building additions, interior renovations, site improvements, and critical infrastructure upgrades that support daily operations and extend the life of existing buildings.



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PROJECTS:

SAFETY AND SECURITY UPGRADES

Projects included:

- Improving drop-off loops and traffic flow for safer entry and exit at the elementary school
- Replacing locker room exterior entry and exit doors at the high school
- Replacing security fencing around athletic fields for increased safety
- Creating sidewalks and barrier-free access to all athletic fields
- Replacing exterior lighting, fixtures, and soffits at the high school
- Updating locker rooms for accessibility compliance
- Adding lighting to the athletic field parking lot



Safety and security upgrades are designed to enhance the well-being of students and staff across all school district facilities. These improvements focus on secure access points, safer traffic patterns, updated site features, and ensuring compliance with accessibility standards.

TECHNOLOGY AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT ENHANCEMENTS



Projects included:

- Classroom audio/visual equipment and technology (infrastructure and devices) for the new elementary building addition
- Purchasing classroom furniture for the new elementary addition

These enhancements support modern teaching and learning by providing updated classroom technology and flexible furnishings. Improvements help create engaging, adaptable learning environments that meet the needs of today's students and educators.



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VOTING INFORMATION

WHEN WILL THE ELECTION TAKE PLACE?

Election Day is August 4. Absentee ballots will be available starting June 25 through your local clerk's office.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

All registered voters who live within the Homer Community School District and will be at least 18 years old on Election Day are eligible to vote in this election.

IS ABSENTEE VOTING AN OPTION?

Yes. Voters may request an absentee ballot through their local clerk's office or by visiting www.michigan.gov/vote and selecting "Vote at home."

WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING?

Information about voter registration, polling locations, and absentee voting is available at the Michigan Voter Information Center website at www.michigan.gov/vote or by contacting your local clerk's office.

WHAT DOES A YES VOTE REPRESENT?

A YES vote indicates support for Homer Community School District's zero-tax-rate increase bond proposal. A NO vote indicates opposition to the bond proposal.



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LEARN MORE

HOW WILL RESIDENTS RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOND PROPOSAL?

Homer Community Schools is committed to keeping residents informed on the bond proposal. Information will be shared through community forums, direct mailings, the school district's website, social media, and local news outlets.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BOND PROPOSAL?

Additional information, such as project details, frequently asked questions, and updates on the zero-tax-rate increase bond proposal, can be found at www.homerschools.net by clicking on *Bond Proposal Information*.

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

Residents are encouraged to contact the Homer Community School District Administration Office with any questions on the bond proposal.
Phone: 517- 568- 4463
Email: mleskowich@homerschools.net

CAN I SHARE MY THOUGHTS ABOUT THE BOND PROPOSAL?

Homer residents are welcome to share feedback by visiting www.research.net/r/HomerAugustBond, or scanning the QR code.



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