



Ballot Article for Proposed Capital Reserve Fund Questions and Answers

What is a capital reserve fund?

It would be a dedicated fund for Rutland City Public Schools building improvements, governed by the School Board and Vermont state rules (24 V.S.A. Section 2804). (<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/24/077/02804>)

What would this fund pay for?

Using money from this fund would be limited to School Board approved building renovations and repairs, and major equipment or infrastructure upgrades like wiring, cabling, fire alarms, elevators, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning.

Would my taxes go up?

No. Creating this fund would not raise taxes.

Future project funding would be approved in annual budgets by both the School Board and City voters, after which the related funds would be set aside or escrowed in the capital fund until spent.

Where would the money come from?

The School Board would determine annual allocations to the capital fund for approved projects. Currently available District funds could support projects already approved, such as installing high-speed data cabling into classrooms.

Who would decide how to spend the money?

The School Board would decide on and approve all uses and amounts drawn from the capital fund. To comply with Vermont regulations, the District would submit an annual report to the Agency of Education detailing all fund deposits and all expenditures.

What specific projects could this money be used for?

The capital fund could support several key initiatives:

- Cafeteria and accessibility renovations at Rutland Intermediate/Middle School.
- Building wiring and cabling and wiring upgrades.
- Phone system equipment and software replacements.
- Elevator and fire alarm control upgrades.
- Energy efficiency projects.



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[Why start the fund now?](#)

It would strengthen School Board governance and oversight, further align fiscal operations with Board expectations, and ensure that dedicated funds are set aside and readily available when major building or infrastructure upgrades or repairs are required.

[Do other school districts have a fund like this?](#)

Yes, other Vermont schools have used state law and voter approvals to create official capital reserve funds.

[What's on the November ballot?](#)

State regulations require voter approval before creating a capital reserve fund. The November 3rd ballot will include the following article for voter approval:

“Shall the voters of the school district authorize the Board of School Commissioners to establish a capital reserve fund that would be under the control and direction of the School Board for the purpose of making capital improvements at Rutland City Public School sites?”

[Why should I vote for this?](#)

District administration supports creating the capital fund because it would improve:

- School Board oversight – by strengthening governance of major projects.
- Financial alignment – by ensuring fiscal operations match Board expectations.
- Project execution – by guaranteeing that reserved funds are available when needed.

[Where can I learn more?](#)

Visit <https://www.rutlandcitypublicschools.org/central-office/november-ballot>