



November 2, 2021 Bond Proposal FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **What school issue is on the November 2, 2021 ballot?**

On **November 2, 2021**, voters in Taylor School District will be asked to consider a bond proposal to implement improvements to address infrastructure upgrades and provide modern learning environments for all students, with the goal of increasing opportunities and enhancing performance.

The total amount of this bond proposal is \$130 million. The Taylor School District will ask residents to consider the renewal of the current 0.96 mills with an additional 2.68 mill increase to equal 3.64 mills.

2. **How was this plan developed?**

- TMP Architecture conducted assessments of all District buildings to identify building infrastructure and program deficiencies.
- The District formed a Bond Steering Committee (BSC), composed of 20 participants, including students, teachers, principals, administrators, community members, and business owners. The BSC's objective was to formulate a recommendation that would allow the District to implement changes to its facilities in order to improve utilization, correct infrastructure deficiencies, provide modern learning environments for all students, and ultimately increase opportunities and enhance performance for every student.
- Five BSC meetings were held to determine what the future state of our facilities should be and, as good stewards of community resources, determine the most cost-effective, highest return-on-investment option for upgrading district facilities to meet this vision. The BSC dedicated more than 300 hours in developing this plan from April-June 2021.
- In addition, TSD Administration engaged a focus group which was composed of an additional diverse group of residents that ranged from elected officials, organization leaders, parents, community members, and more. The purpose of this group was to allow the district to evaluate the proposed ideas of the BSC and to offer more community engagement in the process. The District continued this effort with a community presentation and survey to again test the ideas developed by the BSC.

- On June 16, 2021, the BSC presented its findings and recommendation to the Board of Education, who unanimously supported moving forward with a November 2, 2021 bond election in the amount of \$130,000,000 which represents a 2.68 increase to the current bond millage rate of 0.96 mills, making the total consideration 3.64 mills

3. What are the features of the November 2, 2021 bond proposal?

- A new high school building combined with a new career center will be constructed at the Kennedy High School site on Northline and Kennedy Drive.
- Athletic field improvements at both the current high school and the new high school.
- Middle schools will be consolidated into the existing Taylor High School building, which will receive upgrades.

How will all PreK-12 classrooms be transformed?

- New flexible furniture and instructional technology to meet current teaching/learning practices, affording highly collaborative spaces.
- Security technology upgrades to enhance safety.

4. Is there a project timeline?

The following project timeline is only a **projection**. Dates and project order may be revised based on several factors including things such as: market conditions, student impact, weather, product availability and school calendar.

Phase 1 – 2022 – Career center, demolition of KHS & BOE, and new furniture for school buildings

Phase 2 – 2023 – Design of new high school to begin

2024 – Construction of new high school to begin

5. Why is the Kennedy building being demolished?

The Kennedy building was originally designed in the 1960's for 1,300 students. Our current enrollment at the high school level is approximately 1,500. If the building were to be remodeled in the upcoming bond program, it would require an addition to accommodate the number of enrolled students. Additionally, due to the aging conditions of the facility, a number of spaces would have not complied to current building or fire safety codes, energy code, ADA compliance, and construction standards. In order to complete the necessary remodeling work to bring the building up to code, the renovation would be extremely costly. The District decided that a new high school on the Kennedy site is a better option from a constructability, financial, and operational standpoint.

6. If the middle school students move to the existing Taylor HS, what will happen with West and Hoover middle school buildings?

The future use of our current two middle school buildings will be evaluated in the future as the District and Board continue to monitor the student enrollment numbers. Each year the District evaluates enrollment numbers and makes appropriate decisions based on factual data that puts the best interest of our staff, students, and community as the top priority.

7. What is the plan to keep facility improvement disruptions to a minimum?

Work at our school buildings would be scheduled in a way that would limit interference with day-to-day operations or community safety. The majority of construction work would be completed during the summer months. When ongoing work occurs during school days, there would be a clear separation between construction and school operations. Safety is a paramount concern and would be the key factor in determining the construction sequencing. The construction of the new Career Center and High School buildings will not interfere with existing school buildings.

8. How is the District allocating ESSER funds?

In 2020 and 2021, Congress passed three stimulus bills that provided nearly \$279 billion as relief aid for education through the Education Stabilization Fund. The stimulus bills include three funding streams: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER I, II & III). The major use of ESSER II funding is to be allocated towards educational recovery with the implementation of the Griffin hour, freshman academy, continued technology upgrades, and personnel that relate to the continued effects of COVID-19. The funds assist a new virtual learning school that is slated to begin in the fall for PreK-12 families.

9. How would Bond 2021 impact our learning environments for teachers and students?

All District buildings will receive upgrades to furniture, technology to improve safety & security at our buildings, as well as instructional technology to meet current teaching/learning practices, affording highly collaborative and flexible spaces. The modernized spaces will support our goals of improving achievement for our students by enabling our staff and students to engage in higher levels of instructional delivery, research and collaboration, information access and project based instruction. It is the district's goal to provide facilities that support 21st century teaching and to advance learning conditions and methods of instruction to better prepare students for meeting the expectations and demands of skilled trade careers and colleges/universities.

10. What is an “active learning space” and why is it important in schools today?

Collaborative or active learning space within a school allows students to learn effectively in groups, encouraging each other to ask questions, explain and justify their opinions, articulate their reasoning, and elaborate and reflect upon their knowledge. The teacher acts as a facilitator, helping students with their research and guiding them through the learning process.

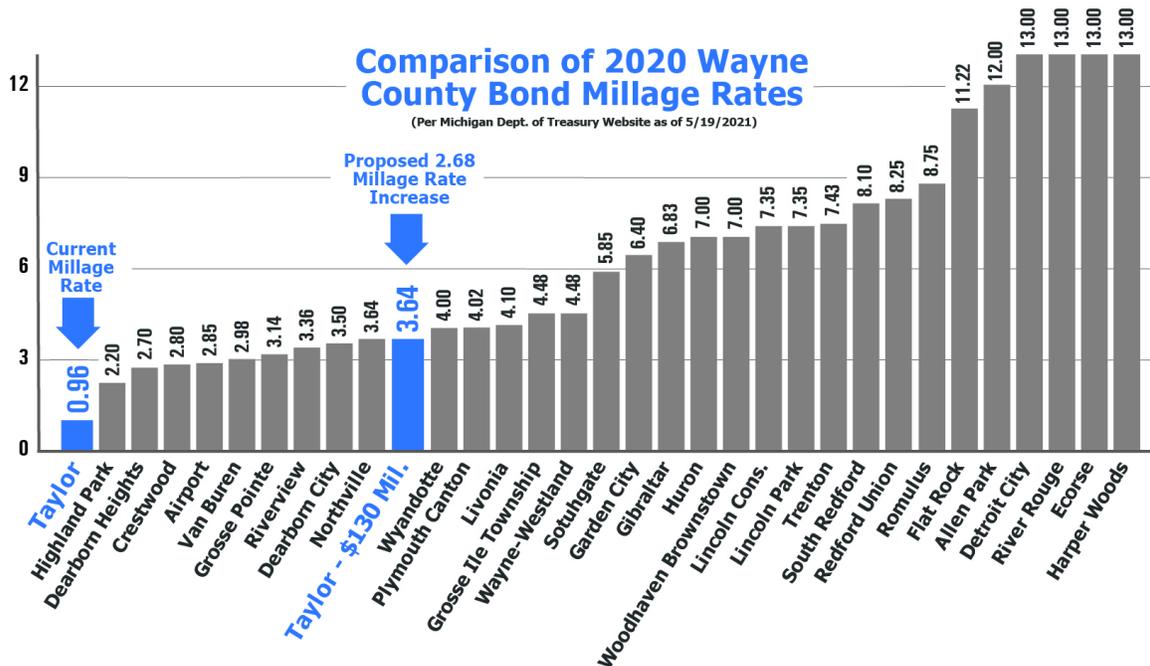
Many have found this to be beneficial in helping students learn effectively and efficiently versus more traditional independent learning alone. Some positive results from collaborative learning activities have been documented in research and include:

- students are able to learn more material by engaging with one another and making sure everyone understands
- students retain more information from thoughtful discussion
- students have a more positive attitude about learning and about each other by working together

In order to create an active learning space, we need to provide the resources for information processing, collaboration, assistance, and management of the learning activities. These include technology, flexible furniture that allows for different configurations, appropriate lighting, and finishes.

11. How are neighboring districts addressing the aging condition of their school buildings?

Neighboring districts have experienced the same issue of continually aging buildings. **Bond programs have been approved and implemented all around us, including Livonia, Dearborn Heights, Van Buren, Romulus, Allen Park, Redford Union, South Redford, and Woodhaven-Brownstown.** In today’s competitive environment, districts seek every advantage to recruit and retain students. **TSD currently has the lowest millage rate in Wayne County and even with the 2.68 increase this bond represents, TSD would still be in the lower third of all Wayne County Bond Millages.**



12. Why is it important to attract and retain students in the District?

Public schools in Michigan receive operating funds on a per-pupil basis. Attracting and retaining students plays a major role in keeping TSD’s operating budget stable. The quality of our programs and facilities plays a role in both of these areas. If approved by the

voters, the bond program would upgrade facilities to support updated teaching methods, improve operational efficiencies in our facilities, provide progressive learning environments, and protect and maintain the community’s past investment in our school buildings. Parents have choices regarding where their children will receive an education. It is the intent of the Board of Education and the District to advance its reputation for providing quality programs and facilities in order to attract and retain students.

13. What is the estimated cost breakdown for the bond projects?

Approximate costs associated with the projects identified in 2021 Bond program are allocated in the following manner:

Building	Estimate of Construction Value
New High School built on Kennedy’s site (220,000sf)	\$66,000,000
New Career Center built on Kennedy’s site (50,000sf)	\$15,000,000
Athletic Field Improvements	\$20,000,000
Demo and move BOE to Annex	\$2,000,000
Demo existing Kennedy	\$2,000,000
Relocate Middle Schools to current Taylor HS with renovations	\$9,000,000
Provide new flexible furniture and equipment to all buildings in district	\$10,000,000
Demolition of existing buildings	\$3,000,000
Technology & Safety	\$3,000,000
Total Bond	\$130,000,000

14. How much would the bond proposal cost the average taxpayer?

*Please note that the tax increases are estimated numbers and may change.

	\$130 Million Bond Program
Millage Increase	2.68 mills
*Per Year Increase	\$135.50/year
*Per Month Increase	\$11.29

**Based on a home value of \$100,000*

The bond proposal is \$130,000,000. To repay this bond amount, an estimated millage increase of 2.68 mills in the first year would be necessary if the bond issue is approved.

15. Can I deduct these property taxes on my income tax return?

Property taxes may be deductible as itemized deductions on your federal income tax return if you itemize. You may also be eligible for the Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit on your Michigan Income Tax Return. Please consult with your tax preparer.

16. What exactly is the Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit?

The Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit is a method through which some taxpayers can receive a tax credit for an amount of their property tax that exceeds a certain

percentage of their household income. This program establishes categories under which homeowners or renters are eligible for a homestead property tax credit. Please consult with your tax preparer to determine if you are eligible for this important and valuable tax credit.

17. Could money from the bond program be used to pay for salaries and benefits?

No, that is against State law. Bond dollars cannot be used for operational expenses such as employee salaries, upgrades, facility maintenance, or energy costs. Bond program funds must be accounted for separately from general operating funds. Bond funds are also subject to audit.

18. Please explain what bond program money can cover and what it cannot.

Bond proceeds **cannot** be used for the following items:

- Salaries and wages
- General operating expenses and maintenance
- Classroom supplies and textbooks

Bond proceeds **can** be used for the following items:

- Construction and remodeling of facilities
- Purchase of instructional technology equipment
- Equipment and furniture
- Site improvements

19. What are the key dates leading up to the November 2nd vote?

Voter registration procedures have changed since 2018.

September 17, 2021 – Absent voter ballots must be available for issuance to voters.

October 18, 2021 – Last day to register in any manner other than in person with the local clerk for the November election.

October 29, 2021 up to 5pm – Deadline for electors to obtain an absent voter ballot via First Class mail.

November 1, 2021 up to 4pm – Deadline for voters to obtain an absent voter ballot in person in clerk’s office.

November 2, 2021 up to 8pm – Election Day registrants may obtain and vote an absent voter ballot in person in the township clerk’s office or vote in person in the proper precinct.

20. If I cannot make it to the polls on November 2, 2021 what are my options for absentee voting?

The deadline to request an absentee ballot via First Class Mail is Friday, October 29, at 5 p.m., and voters may also obtain an absent voter ballot in person up to 8pm on Tuesday,

November 2nd. The deadline to return a completed absentee ballot is Tuesday, November 2, at 8 p.m.

If you did not receive your absentee ballot application they are available:

- On-line at: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/AVApp_535884_7.pdf
- At the City Clerk’s office

Note: Once election ballots are available in the clerk’s office, you can walk into your clerk’s office, receive an absentee application, fill it out, and immediately be given your ballot to cast your vote. Please check with your clerk’s office hours and if drop boxes are available.

21. Who may I contact if I have additional questions?

Griff Mills, Superintendent
 734-374-1200 Ext: 10131 | griff.mills@taylorschools.net

22. Where do I vote?

TAYLOR POLLING LOCATIONS		
Precincts	Building	Address
1	Hoover Middle School	27101 Beverly st
2-4	Ford Senior Center	6750 Troy
5,6	Taylor High School	11211 Beech Daly
7,8	Taylor Parks Elementary	20614 Pinecrest
9,10	Blair Moody Elementary	8280 Hipp
11,12	Clarence Randall Elementary	8699 Robert
13-15	West Middle School	10575 William
16,17	McDowell Elementary	22929 Brest
18,19	Maplewood Senior Apartments	15270 Plaza South Dr
20,21	Eureka Heights Elementary	25125 Eureka
22,23	Myers Elementary	16201 Lauren

BROWNSTOWN POLLING LOCATIONS		
Precincts	Building	Address
9	Community Center	21311 Telegraph Rd

INKSTER POLLING LOCATIONS (District 3)		
Precincts	Building	Address
1	Smith Chapel	3505 Walnut
2	F.L. Peterson Academy	4000 Sylvia

DEARBORN HEIGHTS POLLING LOCATIONS		
Precincts	Building	Address
20	St. John the Baptist Church	26123 McDonald

WESTLAND POLLING LOCATIONS		
Precincts	Building	Address

28	CHRIST THE TEMPLE APOSTOLIC CHURCH	29124 ETON ST.
----	------------------------------------	----------------

23. How will the bond proposal appear on the ballot?

TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT
 COUNTY OF WAYNE
 STATE OF MICHIGAN_

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT BOND PROPOSITION

Shall the Taylor School District, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed One Hundred Thirty Million Dollars (\$130,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds, in one or more series, for the purpose of paying for the cost of the following projects:

- Erecting a new High School building and Career Center building which will include athletic fields and parking lots;
- Erecting additions to and remodeling of the current High School for conversion to a Middle School;
- Remodeling, equipping, re-equipping, furnishing, re-furnishing school buildings, athletic and play fields and other facilities to create a modern learning environment for students, for safety and security and other purposes;
- Acquiring and installing instructional technology infrastructure and equipment in school buildings and other facilities; and
- Preparing, developing and improving sites at school buildings, athletic and play fields and other facilities?

YES

NO

The maximum number of years any series of bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of refunding, is not more than thirty (30) years; the estimated millage that will be levied to pay the proposed bonds in the first year is 3.64 mills (which is equal to \$3.64 per \$1,000 of taxable value); and the estimated simple average annual millage that will be required to retire each series of bonds is 3.64 mills annually (\$3.64 per \$1,000 of taxable value).

If approved by the voters, the bonds will be guaranteed by the State under the School Bond Qualification and Loan Program (the “Program”). The School District currently has \$0 of qualified bonds outstanding and \$0 of qualified loans outstanding under the Program. The School District does not expect to borrow from the Program to pay debt service on these bonds. The estimated computed millage rate required to be levied to pay the proposed bonds may change in the future based on changes in certain circumstances.

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