

VICTORIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

VATRE

VOTER APPROVAL TAX RATE ELECTION & BOND ELECTION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS as of 09.15.2021

WHAT IS A BOND ELECTION?

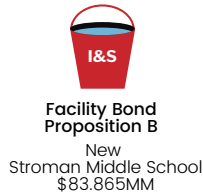
A bond election allows voters to approve the issuance of bonds to pay for construction projects such as major building repairs, building renovations and the building of new schools.

What type of projects will our community be voting on?

There are 3 separate school bond propositions: Propositions "A", "B" and "C"



Proposition A would allow for "high priority" repairs at more than 20 campuses and facilities across the district. These high-priority repairs would address aging Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning systems, roofing, electrical, plumbing, building safety & security systems, windows, and more.



Proposition B would allow for the construction of a new Stroman STEM Middle School to replace the existing campus at its current site with increased student capacity for the new Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) pathway. Stroman STEM Middle School will be a choice campus open to students district-wide.



Proposition C would allow for the construction of a new Mission Valley Elementary to replace the existing campus at its current site with increased student capacity and a modern learning environment. The core of the Mission Valley campus was built in 1937, making this portion of the campus currently 84 years old.

How can the community have confidence that money the community approves will actually be spent to do the work the district said would be done prior to the election?

Earning and maintaining the community's trust is of great importance to our school district leadership.

By law, community-approved bond funds are closely monitored and audited, both by school district staff and by external auditors.

A Community Bond Oversight Committee will be in place throughout the duration of an approved bond and receive regular updates from both school district leaders and contractors doing the work. This information will also be regularly reported at public School Board meetings.

Task Force Info:



Early Voting is Oct. 18-29
Election Day is Nov. 2

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How were the facility needs identified?

A comprehensive Facilities Assessment of VISD campuses and support facilities was completed in 2019 by Huckabee Architects. The assessment identified many deficiencies in current building infrastructure. The assessment results were studied by a **Community Bond Planning Task Force**. This group of local citizens and VISD staff identified "High Priority Repairs" across more than 20 district campuses and facilities.

Are we able to see what the new school buildings will look like if Proposition "B" (New Stroman STEM campus) and Proposition "C" (New Mission Valley campus) are approved?

Due to cost, it is common practice in public school districts for the architectural design of school buildings to occur after a community votes to approve construction of a new school.

Once approved, the design process is driven by input from the campus leadership and staff, district leadership team, Board of Trustees and community.

Is it true that this bond will not increase the amount of school district property taxes I pay on my home if I am 65 or older?

Yes, this is true. This bond will not increase taxes for residents 65 years of age or older who have filed their Homestead Exemption.

What is the cost to a property taxpayer for a penny of property tax?

Approximately \$0.83 per month (\$9.96/year) per \$100,000 of taxable value.

What would the cost to a property taxpayer be if the VATRE and all 3 bond propositions are approved?

For homeowners below the age of 65, approval of the VATRE and the 3 bond propositions is estimated to result in an increase of \$7.21 per month (\$86.50 per year) per \$100,000 of property value.

When is the deadline to register to vote?

If you are not currently a registered voter, the deadline to register to vote in the November election is October 4, 2021.

If Proposition "B" is approved, will the new campus keep the name "Stroman"?

YES, the new campus would be Stroman STEM Middle School.



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Will federal funds from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief “ESSER” grants be used to address facility needs?

Yes, the District worked with an ESSER Committee composed of community members and staff this summer to determine recommended uses of these “one-time” federal ESSER funds. Over \$12 million in ESSER funds are planned to be used to address air quality concerns at campuses through replacement of outdated HVAC systems. This will help in addressing HVAC system needs identified by the facilities assessment. The total estimated cost of all HVAC related needs identified by district-wide facility assessment exceeds \$27 million.



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