



2019 BOND PROGRAM PROPOSAL

Strong Beginnings, Bright Futures!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the November 5 Van Buren Public Schools Bond Proposal?

On November 5, 2019, Van Buren Public Schools will be asking the community to vote on a bond proposal that would provide funding for critical needs and infrastructure improvements throughout the district. If approved by the voters, the bond would strive to:



Equip students with 21st-century learning spaces



Address aging infrastructure



Provide new opportunities for students of all ages

Q: What is on the November 5, 2019, ballot?

The proposed bond program focuses on upgrades to address safety, security, and infrastructure needs, as well as improvements to learning environments to support the district's educational goals. The bond would also allow the district to construct a new Early Childhood Center to address the district's need for preschool education programming. The bond proposal authorizes the issuance of \$35 million in bonds in three separate series over five years.

Q: What are the major features of this bond proposal?

The highlights of this program target four major areas that the district has determined have essential needs:

- Address aging infrastructure of K-8 buildings which are all approaching, or beyond, 50 years old
- Construct an Early Childhood Center which would be used by students and the community
- Upgrade instructional technology and technology infrastructure throughout district
- Renovate classrooms to support engaging and effective in-classroom learning

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Q: Why is Van Buren Public Schools proposing a bond?

Van Buren Public Schools strives to provide strong beginnings for our students and guide them to bright futures. Through this bond, we would work to:

- Enhance the safety and security of our schools
- Address district need for early childhood education
- Keep stride with the pace of modern technology
- Improve learning environments
- Maintain community assets that are approaching, or are more than, 50 years old
- Allow focus of general fund dollars to be on in-classroom learning while bond dollars address critical infrastructure needs

Q: Is there an increase in the estimated debt millage rate in this bond proposal?

NO. This bond proposal is a **ZERO-TAX-RATE INCREASE** proposal. This means that the 2.98 mills the district is currently levying per household will not change.

Market Value of Home	Additional Mills Levied Per Household
\$200,000	0.00 mills
\$300,000	0.00 mills
\$400,000	0.00 mills

Q: What kind of projects can bond money cover and what can it not cover?

Bond proceeds cannot be used for the following items:

- a) Staff salaries and wages;
- b) General operating expenses, repairs and maintenance;
- c) Classroom supplies and textbooks; and
- d) Administrative costs.

Bond proceeds can be used for the following items:

- a) Construction and remodeling of facilities;
- b) Purchase of technology equipment and infrastructure;
- c) Purchase of equipment and furniture;
- d) Site improvements

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Q: Why are these improvements needed?

Van Buren Public Schools has worked hard to preserve and maintain the facilities and infrastructure in our places of learning. However, just like many of us experience with our own homes, as important components of building infrastructure approach or outlive their useful lives, major renovations or replacements are needed.

Before bringing this bond program proposal to the community, Van Buren Public Schools engaged an outside firm to conduct an in-depth facility analysis. Based on the findings of that study, the district worked with school board members and the community to prioritize which projects were of “critical need” status and should be included in the November 5 bond proposal.

Q: What are some of the projects featured in the proposed bond program?

Edgemont & Rawsonville Elementary School

- Install new playground equipment
- Replace roof
- Construct classroom maker space
- Install HVAC upgrades
- Replace classroom hardware with security hardware
- Install security camera system
- Upgrade instructional technology

Tyler & Savage Elementary School

- Install new playground equipment
- Replace exterior doors and windows
- Construct classroom maker space
- Bathroom renovations
- Install HVAC upgrades
- Upgrade fire alarm system throughout building
- Replace classroom hardware with security hardware
- Install security camera system
- Upgrade instructional technology
- Install PA system

Q: What are some of the projects featured in the proposed bond program?

Owen Middle School

- Install new playground equipment
- Parking lot expansion
- Install and/or replace sidewalks
- Replace interior doors and install security hardware
- Construct classroom maker space
- Install HVAC upgrades
- Replace lighting system in gymnasium
- Upgrade fire alarm system throughout building
- Electrical infrastructure upgrades
- Install security camera system
- Install PA system
- Upgrade instructional technology
- Classroom renovations

McBride Middle School

- Replace interior doors and install security hardware
- Renovate cafetorium
- Replace cooridor lockers
- Construct classroom maker space
- Renovate computer classroom in shop area
- Renovate locker rooms
- Install secure entry at main building entrance
- Gymnasium and fitness equipment upgrades
- Install HVAC upgrades
- Replace stage lighting in cafetorium
- Upgrade fire alarm system throughout building
- Install security camera system
- Replace gymnasium and cafeteria lighting
- Install PA system
- Upgrade instructional technology
- Classroom renovations

Belleville High School

- Install bleachers for band at football field
- Upgrade technology infrastructure

Q: What are some of the projects featured in the proposed bond program?

Early Childhood Center

The communities of Van Buren Public Schools have a critical need when it comes to early childhood education resources. The bond would allow the district to construct a new Early Childhood Center which would be used by students and the community.

- Construct new building
- Install new playground equipment
- Additional parking lot and band practice area
- Replace Davis Street pavement
- 18 classrooms for student instruction
- Tuition-based preschool classes for three- and four-year olds
- New location for the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)
- Infant and toddler programs
- Co-op programs for high school students pursuing careers in education and/or childcare services

Q: Why doesn't the district use general fund dollars to pay for these projects?

The general fund budget cannot afford to pay for these large capital investments AND maintain day-to-day operations. With aging facilities now requiring more heavy maintenance and renovations, allocating general fund dollars to these projects would mean additional strain and less resources for in-classroom learning.

Q: Why does it make financial sense to present this bond to the voters at this time?

- It allows the District to preserve general fund dollars for instruction and classroom needs by providing a dedicated funding source to address identified and prioritized site, facility, and equipment upgrades;
- Current interest rates are historically low, translating to a relatively low cost of borrowing money for both the District and taxpayers.
- Construction costs are significantly rising. Putting off this bond program may raise overall costs of the planned projects.

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Q: What if the bond proposal does not pass?

Over the past decade, several cuts in school funding throughout the State of Michigan, coupled with the rising cost of operating the school system, have put tremendous pressure on the district's general operating fund budget. Failure to approve the bond proposal would mean the district would have to delay much-needed improvements and any emergency projects would have to be paid for with general operating funds that would otherwise go to support educational programs for students.

Q: When and where do I register to vote?

To vote in the November 5, 2019 school election, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years of age by election day
- A resident of Michigan and Van Buren Public School District
- Registered to vote

You may register to vote online or in person up until Tuesday, October 21, 2019. From October 22 –November 5, registration will be open in-person ONLY at the local clerk's office. Voter registration forms and absentee ballots are available online at www.michigan.gov/sos.

Q: Where can I go to vote?

To find where your voting precinct is located, visit:
vanburen-mi.org/Clerk/Election_Location.html.

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Q: How will the bond proposal appear on the ballot?

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS BONDING PROPOSAL

Shall Van Buren Public Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Thirty-Five Million Four Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$35,490,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

erecting, furnishing, and equipping a new early childhood center; remodeling, furnishing and refurbishing, and equipping and re-equipping existing school buildings; acquiring and installing instructional technology in school buildings; and preparing, developing, improving, and equipping playgrounds, athletic fields, and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2020 is .78 mill (\$0.78 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 .87 mill (\$0.87 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district does not expect to borrow from the State to pay debt service on the bonds. The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is \$54,495,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is \$0.00. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

(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.)

Q: Where can I find more information if I have questions?

- Visit www.vanburenschools.net
- Contact Superintendent of schools:
Peter Kudlak
Email: superintendent@vanburenschools.net
Phone: (734) 697-9123 x1010

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