

What is a bond proposal?

A bond proposal is a request by the school district for voters to approve the sale of bonds, which will raise funds to make necessary building improvements, purchase equipment, technology, building security, and buses for the district. These items are essential to the operation of Elk Rapids Schools.

When is the vote?

Tuesday, May 3, 2016.

What is the benefit to the district if this bond is approved?

Classroom technology, roof replacements, classroom/facility improvements, buses, security enhancements and energy efficiency.

Why are some roofs being replaced?

The roofs were assessed in terms of quality and expected remaining life. The worst roofs, most of which are 25 to 30 years old and experience leaks throughout the year, will be replaced with this bond. Roofs with at least 5 years of expected additional life remaining are not being replaced with this bond.

What is the maximum bond amount being requested?

The maximum amount requested is \$4.3 million over 4 years.



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Elk Rapids Schools will present a Technology/Facility Improvement Bond proposal to voters on May 3rd, 2016. Our district is committed to the best learning opportunities in the region for our students. In 2012, our district and community committed to provide One to One computing to all Elk Rapids students through the 2012 Technology and Facilities bond. If approved, this 2016 bond will enable us to continue to support this technology commitment to our students as well as provide for essential classroom and facility improvements.

After determining the highest needs for technology and facilities, it was determined that the millage rate could be dropped by 11% while raising the funds needed for the most important items. The proposed bond will raise funds to make necessary classroom technology updates, roof replacements, classroom/facility improvements, bus replacements, and safety and security improvements for the district.

Additional information regarding this bond proposal can be found on the Elk Rapids Schools website at www.erschools.com or please feel free to contact me.

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"WE ARE E.R.!"

Elk Rapids Schools

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



2016 Bond Proposal For Technology/Facility Improvements

by

Elk Rapids Schools

Remember to Vote May 3, 2016

Is this bond similar to the Technology and Facilities Bond that was approved in 2012? How will approval of this bond impact my taxes?

This bond is similar to the 2012 Technology and Facilities bond which has provided needed funding over the last 4 years. This 2016 bond would provide critical funds for Technology and Facility updates over the next 4 years. Approval of this bond would actually reduce the district debt tax rate by 11%, from 1.42 mills to 1.26 mills.

Why is the millage rate dropping?

After determining the highest needs for technology and facility improvement items, it was determined that the millage rate could be dropped by 11% while raising the needed funds for the most important items.

How does Elk Rapids Schools taxes attributable to debt compare to other districts in our area?

Elk Rapids Schools has the 4th lowest rate in the local ISD and less than 1/3 of the state average tax rate. Approval of this bond proposal will lower it another 11%, making ER Schools the 2nd lowest in the local ISD assessing a debt millage.

How old are the buses?

The school district has an ongoing replacement plan whereby buses are replaced at an age of 12-15 years and normally with over 250,000 miles.

The 2012 Technology and Facilities bond provided One to One computing for all students. Will those devices be replaced with this bond?

Yes. One to One computing has become a critical tool for our students in the classroom. The current devices will be 4-6 years old when they are replaced. These original devices are beginning to experience performance issues with some of the latest classroom applications and becoming a concern for administering state mandated testing as well.

How were the technology and facility needs determined and prioritized?

The list of the districts' critical needs was developed over a 6-8 month process that involved feedback from staff, students, community members, experts and numerous school board meetings. Factors such as student benefit, classroom needs and facility age and condition were taken into consideration during this process. Many requests were removed from the list following a decision that they were not the highest need projects for the district.

How will safety and security be enhanced by this bond?

The entrances at Mill Creek Elementary and Cherryland Middle School will be modified to provide one secured entrance during the school day. The entrances will be locked during the school day. Visitors will be allowed in through a "buzzer" system operated by the office staff. This type of entrance was built at Lakeland Elementary School with the 2012 Technology and Facilities bond.

What are the major classroom/facility improvements?

Classroom furniture and flooring replacements, library books and media furnishing, installation of K-1 lockers at Lakeland, Peterman auditorium improvements, music instruments, science lab equipment, maintenance and custodial equipment and Lakeland parking lot resurfacing.

Can money from this bond be used to pay for staff salaries and benefits?

No. By law, school districts are not allowed to use funds from a bond issue for operating expenses such as teacher, administrator or employee salaries/benefits. Bond funds must be kept separate from operating funds.