Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
Waterford School District
August 4, 2020, Bond Election
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1. When is the election?
The election will be held on Tuesday, August 4, 2020. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Absentee ballots can be cast through Election Day.

2. What is on the ballot?
Registered voters residing within the boundaries of the Waterford School District will vote on a $150 million bond proposal to fund renovations, upgrades, and construction. If approved by voters, the school district's tax rate will not increase. In fact, the tax rate is projected to remain at or below the current levy.

3. What is the primary purpose of the bond election?
The August 4 bond proposal is primarily about protecting the community's investment in its school district and enhancing the learning environment.

  It calls for:
  - expanding student safety and school security measures;
  - upgrades to classrooms, heating and cooling systems, fire alarm   systems, music equipment, and athletic facilities;
  - technology and technology infrastructure updates;
  - replacement of items that have reached the end of their life expectancy, like roofs, lighting, flooring, furniture, and school buses;
  - the construction of a new early childhood center; and,
  - renovation of classrooms and media centers to safely address teacher-student interaction and collaboration.

4. Will this bond proposal raise taxes?
No. If voters approve the bond proposal, the school district's tax rate will not increase. In fact, the tax rate is projected to remain at or below the current levy. Also, note that the millage rate declined by 0.25 mills in 2019 and will remain at or below that lowered amount.

5. How were building/facility upgrades determined?

To protect the community's investment in its schools, the Waterford School District's facilities plan includes a process for ongoing evaluation and monitoring of all school facilities. Working with construction and architectural specialists, an in-depth facility study was completed in early 2019. The overall focus was to identify projects designed:

1. update facilities, including roofing replacements, upgrades to electrical and heating and cooling systems, improving energy efficiency, and upgrading kitchens;
2. enhance student safety, including upgrades to PA and fire alarm systems, replacing sidewalks and parking lots, and adding additional security cameras;
3. improve the learning environment by updating classrooms, upgrading furniture to support active learning and student-teacher collaboration;
4. improve athletic facilities, including athletic field renovations, track, tennis court, and basketball court replacements, fitness equipment upgrades, and redesign of the pool entry and exit; and,
5. replace items such as school buses when they reach the end of their useful life.

6. What determines if the bond proposal projects are allowed by law?
Every project in the bond proposal must be reviewed and approved by the Michigan Department of Treasury. In addition, all renovations and upgrades must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

7. Why is the election being held in August?
The bond election was originally scheduled for May 5, 2020. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Michigan Secretary of State encouraged school districts with May elections to postpone them until August 4, 2020.

8. What is the schedule for completion of bond proposal projects?
If voters approve the August 4 bond proposal, preliminary work will begin in the Fall. The school district will begin addressing the least disruptive projects early in 2021, and more disruptive updates and upgrades will be scheduled during the summer months. It is anticipated that all bond projects will be completed by 2027.

9. Will all bond proposal revenue benefit the Waterford School District?
Yes. All revenue from the bond proposal will benefit the Waterford School District. None of the revenue will go to Lansing or any other school district or political entity.

10. If voters approve the bond proposal, will property values be affected?
Research indicates that real estate values tend to be higher in communities with school districts that are perceived to offer a quality educational program and have up-to-date school facilities. All Waterford bond proposal projects are designed to reflect positively on homeowner property values and the school district's reputation for effectiveness and efficiency.

11. What is included in the bond proposal?
If voters approve the bond proposal, the following projects will be completed at each school/facility:

BEAUMONT ELEMENTARY

Upgrade play areas
Upgrade fencing
Replace roof
Renovate media center
Add AC to cafeteria
Update media center HVAC
Upgrade temperature controls
Upgrade electrical for mechanical
Upgrade PA system
Upgrade fire alarm
Upgrade network infrastructure and cabling
Upgrade access control
Upgrade security infrastructure
Update technology
Purchase furniture

GRAYSON ELEMENTARY

Upgrade play areas
Upgrade fencing
Replace roof
Renovate media center
Add AC to cafeteria
Update media center HVAC
Upgrade temperature controls
Upgrade electrical for mechanical
Upgrade PA system
Upgrade fire alarm
Upgrade network infrastructure and cabling
Upgrade access control
Upgrade security infrastructure
Update technology
Purchase furniture

COOLEY ELEMENTARY

Upgrade play areas
Upgrade fencing
Replace roof
Renovate media center
Add AC to cafeteria
Update media center HVAC
Upgrade temperature controls
Upgrade electrical for mechanical
Upgrade PA system
Upgrade fire alarm
Upgrade network infrastructure and cabling
Upgrade access control
Upgrade security infrastructure
Update technology
Purchase furniture

HAVILAND ELEMENTARY

Upgrade play areas
Upgrade fencing
Replace roof
Renovate media center
Add AC to cafeteria
Update media center HVAC
Upgrade temperature controls
Upgrade electrical for mechanical
Upgrade PA system
Upgrade fire alarm
Upgrade network infrastructure and cabling
Upgrade access control
Upgrade security infrastructure
Update technology
Purchase furniture

DONELSON HILLS ELEMENTARY

Upgrade play area
Upgrade fencing
Replace roof
Renovate media center
Replace boiler system
Add AC to cafeteria
Update media center HVAC
Upgrade temperature controls
Upgrade electrical for mechanical
Upgrade PA system
Upgrade fire alarm
Upgrade network infrastructure and cabling
Upgrade access control
Upgrade security infrastructure
Update technology
Purchase furniture

HOUGHTON ELEMENTARY

Upgrade play areas
Upgrade fencing
Replace roof
Renovate media center
Add AC to cafeteria
Update media center HVAC
Upgrade temperature controls
Upgrade electrical for mechanical
Upgrade PA system
Upgrade fire alarm
Upgrade network infrastructure and cabling
Upgrade access control
Upgrade security infrastructure
Update technology
Purchase furniture

KNUDSEN ELEMENTARY

Replace asphalt – parking lots
Replace concrete
Upgrade play areas
Upgrade fencing
Replace roof
Update finishes
Renovate media center
Replace HVAC system
Add AC to cafeteria
Update media center HVAC
Upgrade temperature controls
Upgrade electrical for mechanical
Replace lighting in select classrooms
Upgrade PA system
Upgrade fire alarm
Upgrade network infrastructure and cabling
Upgrade access control
Upgrade security infrastructure
Update technology
Purchase furniture

RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY

Upgrade play areas
Upgrade fencing
Replace roof
Renovate media center
Add AC to cafeteria
Update media center HVAC
Upgrade temperature controls
Upgrade electrical for mechanical
Upgrade PA system
Upgrade fire alarm
Upgrade network infrastructure and cabling
Upgrade access control
Upgrade security infrastructure
Update technology
Purchase furniture

SCHOOLCRAFT ELEMENTARY

Upgrade play areas
Upgrade fencing
Replace roof
Renovate media center
Renovate media center
Add AC to cafeteria
Update media center HVAC
Upgrade temperature controls
Upgrade electrical for mechanical
Upgrade PA system
Upgrade fire alarm
Upgrade network infrastructure and cabling
Upgrade access control
Upgrade security infrastructure

Update technology
Purchase furniture

MASON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Reconstruct track
Replace roof
Renovate media center
Renovate gym
Update boiler system
Upgrade PA system
Upgrade fire alarm
Upgrade network infrastructure and cabling
Add security cameras
Upgrade security infrastructure
Update technology
Purchase furniture
Purchase band instruments
Purchase athletic equipment

PIERCE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Update athletic field
Reconstruct track
Replace roof
Remodel office/entry corridor
Renovate media center
Renovate gym
Upgrade PA system
Upgrade fire alarm
Upgrade network infrastructure and cabling
Add security camera
Upgrade security infrastructure
Update technology
Purchase furniture
Purchase band instruments
Purchase athletic equipment

KETTERING HIGH SCHOOL

Replace asphalt – parking lots
Replace asphalt – driveways
Replace concrete
Upgrade fencing
General landscaping
Update Performing Arts Center (P.A.C.)
Update P.A.C. curtains/rigging
Update P.A.C. lighting
Upgrade sound system P.A.C.
Build ticket booth/entry feature
Replace roof
Remodel office
Renovate media center
Replace domestic piping
Add AC to north gym
Update HVAC
Update pool equipment
Update pool lighting

KETTERING HIGH SCHOOL CONTINUED

Upgrade temperature controls
Upgrade PA system
Upgrade fire alarm
Upgrade network infrastructure and cabling
Add and upgrade security camera
Upgrade security infrastructure
Add access control at pool
Add access control to elevator
Update technology
Purchase furniture
Purchase STEM/CTE equipment
Purchase band/orchestra instruments
Purchase athletic equipment

MOTT HIGH SCHOOL

Replace asphalt – parking lots
Replace asphalt – driveways
Replace concrete
Upgrade fencing
Replace landscaping
Updates to Performing Arts Center (P.A.C.)
Update P.A.C. curtains/rigging
Replace P.A.C. lighting
Upgrade sound system – P.A.C
Build ticket booth/entry feature
Replace roof
Update finishes – floors, ceilings, paint, casework
Renovate media center
Create secure entry at Pontiac Lake side
Replace domestic piping
Replace boiler system
Adding AC for old gym
Update pool equipment
Replace pool lighting
Replace classroom lighting
Upgrade PA system
Upgrade fire alarm
Upgrade network infrastructure and cabling
Add security cameras
Upgrade security infrastructure
Add access control at pool
Add access control to elevator
Update technology
Purchase furniture
Purchase STEM/CTE equipment
Purchase band/orchestra instruments
Purchase athletic equipment

KINGSLEY MONTGOMERY (SPECIAL EDUCATION)

Upgrade fencing
Replace roofing
Address bus canopy structure
Upgrade fire alarm

Upgrade network infrastructure
Add security cameras
Upgrade security infrastructure
Update technology
Purchase furniture

STEPANSKI EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Build new building,
Demo old building
Asphalt parking
Asphalt drives
Add concrete walks
Install playground
Install roadwork – turn/bypass lanes
Site work for building – utilities, restoration
Network infrastructure
Security infrastructure
Technology
Purchase furniture
Purchase equipment

CRARY CAMPUS (DURANT, LIFE TRACKS, ADMINISTRATION)

Replace asphalt – parking lots
Replace roof
Repair/replace windows
Replace steam traps
Upgrade temperature controls
Upgrade network infrastructure
Upgrade security infrastructure
Update technology
Purchase furniture

COVERT CENTER (DISTRICT MAIN SERVER)

Reconstruct exterior brick
Modify lintels above windows
Replace boiler system
Upgrade cooling system district main server room
Upgrade temperature controls
Upgrade districtwide main server
Upgrade network
Install access control
Update technology
Purchase furniture

TRANSPORTATION

Replace gates at both entrances
Site work for new storage shed
Build storage shed
Replace roof
Add signage
Replace garage hoist
Replace above ground oil tank

TRANSPORTATION CONTINUED	WAREHOUSE
Upgrade bus wash system	Replace asphalt – parking lots
Upgrade temperature controls	Site work for new storage shed and truck canopy
Upgrade network infrastructure	Build salt/aggregate storage shed
Upgrade security infrastructure	Build truck canopy
Update technology	Replace roof – pole barn
Purchase furniture	Upgrade temperature controls
Purchase buses	Update technology
	Purchase furniture
	Purchase grounds equipment

12. What technology is included in the bond proposal?

All technology upgrades included in the bond proposal are designed to support classroom instruction and enhance the learning environment. A primary focus of the bond proposal is to provide current technology, so students have opportunities for expanded educational programs.

13. Why are buses in the bond proposal?

Identifying the replacement of buses in the bond proposal relieves pressure on the general fund operating budget and assures that Waterford's bus fleet will be systematically upgraded as buses reach the end of their useful life.

14. What is a bond proposal?

A bond is a State-approved funding process for a set scope of projects. When voters approve a bond proposal, the school district sells bonds in the authorized amount and uses the proceeds of the sale to pay for those projects in the bond proposal. Bonds are usually paid back in 20-30 years. In many ways, the bonding process is like a homeowner obtaining a mortgage and making payments over a period of years.

Bonds can be used for:
- Constructing new school buildings
- Constructing additions to existing school buildings
- Remodeling existing school buildings
- Energy conservation improvements
- Land purchases
- Site development and improvements
- Athletic and physical education facility development and improvements
- Playground development and improvements
- Refunding debt (if new present value savings can be demonstrated)
- Direct bond program costs such as professional fees, election fees, issuance costs, qualification fees, insurance fees, and final audit costs
- School bus purchases
- Purchasing loose furnishings and equipment (including administrative technology)
- Technology purchases limited to hardware and communication devices that transmit, receive or compute information for pupil instructional purposes
- The initial purchase of operating systems and customized application software is allowed if purchased with the initial hardware.

Bonds cannot be used for:
- Salaries, service contracts, lease payments, installment contracts, and supplies
- Repairs, maintenance, or maintenance agreements
- Purchasing automobiles, trucks, or vans
- Portable classrooms purchased for temporary use
- Uniforms
- Textbooks
- Upgrades to an existing computer operating system or application software
- Computer training, computer consulting, or computer maintenance contracts

15. Can any of the bond proposal funds be used for employee salaries or operating expenses?
No. Bond proposal funds cannot be used for employee salaries. They also cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs or other operating expenses. Bond proposal funds must be used only for purposes specified in the ballot language, and, as required by State Law, must be audited annually.

16. A YES vote typically means that a voter supports a proposal. Is that the case in this election?
Yes.

17. What will happen if voters do not approve the bond proposal?
The bond projects cannot be addressed as proposed.

18. Who can vote in this bond proposal election?
Residents of the Waterford School District, who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, and are registered to vote.

19. Where can I get information about voting (such as how to register, where to vote, and absentee voting)?
Go to the Michigan Voter Information website (www.michigan.gov/vote) or call the Clerk's Office where you reside.

20. Do I need to update my voter registration?
Registered voters need to update their voter registration if they have changed their name or address since the last time they voted. Do this at any Secretary of State Office or at the Clerk's Office where you reside.

21. Can registered voters vote by absentee ballot?
Yes. Absent Voter Ballot Applications have been mailed to every registered voter by the Secretary of State. Absentee ballots will be mailed to those who submit an absent Voter Ballot Application. Absentee ballots can be cast through Election Day, August 4.

22. What will appear on the August 4th ballot?

    The exact ballot wording appears below:

WATERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOND PROPOSITION

Shall the Waterford School District, County of Oakland, Michigan, borrow the principal sum of not to exceed One Hundred Fifty Million Dollars ($150,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds for the purpose of defraying the cost of:

- constructing and furnishing a new Early Childhood Center;
- constructing, erecting, furnishing and equipping additions to and remodeling, furnishing, refurnishing, equipping and reequipping existing school buildings;
- acquiring school buses;
- constructing, equipping, developing and improving sites, including athletic fields and facilities and playgrounds;
- acquiring, installing and equipping instructional technology infrastructure and equipment; and,
- upgrading and acquiring safety and security equipment?

        ☐   Yes
        ☐   No

The following is for informational purposes only:

The debt millage required to retire all bonds of the School District currently outstanding and proposed pursuant to this ballot is estimated to be at or below 6.75 mills. The estimated millage to be levied in 2021 to service this issue of bonds is 0.5227 mills ($0.5227 per $1,000 of taxable value) and the estimated simple average annual millage rate required to retire the bonds of this issue is 2.7092 mills ($2.7092 per $1,000 of taxable value). The bonds will be issued in multiple series, payable in the case of each series in not to exceed 20 years from the date of issue of such series.

The School District currently has $131,260,000 of qualified bonds outstanding and $0 of qualified loans outstanding under the School Bond Qualification and Loan Program (the "Program"). The School District does not expect to borrow from the Program to pay debt service on these bonds. If the School District borrows from the Program, the estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

(Under 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.)

To get more information about the bond election and answers to your questions…
● Go to www.wsdmi.org and click on *2020 School Bond Election*
● Call any Waterford School District Principal or Administrator
● Call (248) 682-7800 or email Bond2020@wsdmi.org.