



NEWS FROM SOUTH LYON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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South Lyon Community Schools bond proposal on August ballot

The South Lyon Community Schools Board of Education has voted to place a \$97.185 million bond proposal on the August 4th ballot. If approved by voters, there will be no increase in the current tax rate. In fact, projections show that the tax rate will be slightly reduced from the 2019 level.

To keep voters safe and to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the South Lyon Board of Education rescheduled the May proposal to August 4th. The August ballot proposal contains the same projects as the May 5th proposal.

The comprehensive bond proposal will address needs in six general categories:

1. building additions to accommodate growth in student enrollment and maximize instructional space
2. student safety and school security
3. technology infrastructure and equipment upgrades
4. building updates and furniture replacement
5. site improvements
6. improving athletics, arts, and academics

"We are pleased that we will still be able to address the 400-plus projects that were originally proposed," said Interim Superintendent Dr. George Heitsch. "In addition to projects like roof and parking lot replacements that are related to aging school facilities, the

bond proposal will provide revenue to enhance student safety, accommodate student growth, and upgrade technology equipment and technology infrastructure.”

The bond proposal was developed following a comprehensive facility assessment conducted by the school district’s administrative staff and architectural, technology, and construction specialists. Their recommendations were then reviewed by students, staff, community members, and the Board of Education before the ballot proposal was developed.

“The facility assessment process led to a bond proposal that will affect every student and facility in the South Lyon Community Schools,” said Heitsch.

“If this proposal is approved by voters, it will address the school district’s facility priorities and position the school district for the future,” Heitsch added. “We expect that a successful bond election will positively affect our students and other members of the community well into the 21st Century.”

According to School Board President Carrie Hanshaw, “I believe it was in the best interest of our community to postpone the May election and move the bond proposal to the August 4th ballot. All of the projects will be able to be completed without increasing the tax rate. However, since the work originally projected to be completed this summer was delayed, project completion dates will need to be modified. That’s a small price to pay to protect the safety of our residents.”

Hanshaw said that she believes voter approval of the ballot proposal will build on what voters have provided the school district in the past and be a significant step toward a positive future for students and the community. “Some of the proposed projects will address items that have exceeded their life expectancy,” she added. “Other projects will help the school district continue enhancing student safety, updating technology, and renovating the learning environment. We believe a successful bond proposal will make South Lyon Community Schools an even better school district.”

Interim Superintendent Heitsch said that updated information about the August 4th bond proposal will be shared with the community. In addition, the school district will post bond information on the school district’s website, mail information to residents, make community presentations, and use the school district’s social media accounts to explain the

various components of the election proposal. “We want to make sure members of our community understand the ballot proposal, and that all of their questions are answered before the August 4th election.”

Registered voters can cast their ballot at the polls on Election Day or from June 20th through Election Day by absentee ballot.

To obtain bond-related information, residents of the school district are invited to visit www.slcs.us and click on *2020 School Election*. Residents are also invited to call or contact Interim Superintendent Heitsch at 248.573.8100 or by email at heitschg@slcs.us.

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