



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) **New Haven Community Schools** **May 7, 2018 Bond Election**

When is the election?

Tuesday, May 7, 2019. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Absentee ballots will be available after March 23.

What is on the ballot?

Registered voters residing within the boundaries of the New Haven Community School District will vote on a \$25 million bond proposal.

Why has the school district scheduled this bond election?

The primary purpose of the bond election is to remodel and upgrade New Haven schools and school facilities. The bond proposal projects fall into one of four basic categories:

1. update instructional technology and technology infrastructure
2. enhance school security and student safety measures
3. remodel and upgrade schools and school facilities with emphasis on accommodating 21st Century instruction and improving energy efficiency
4. replace school buses as they reach the end of their useful life

If approved by voters, projects funded through the bond proposal will affect every New Haven student and every New Haven school and school facility.

The May 7th bond proposal was designed to:

- ✓ help assure that New Haven's schools are safe, secure, up-to-date, and in good repair
- ✓ provide current technology for student instruction and the infrastructure to

- support it
- ✓ remodel, renovate, and upgrade the learning environment (including replacing boilers, remodeling classrooms, upgrading mechanical and electrical systems, replacing roofing, and improving parking lots)
- ✓ make New Haven’s educational program and facilities competitive with other school districts
- ✓ replace school buses as they wear out
- ✓ reflect positively on homeowner property values and protect the community’s investment in its schools

Every project in the bond proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Michigan Department of Treasury. And, all renovations and upgrades will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

What will the bond proposal cost?

If voters approve the \$25 million bond proposal, the current tax rate is projected to increase by 0.9 mills.

If approved by voters, the bond proposal is projected to cost the average New Haven homeowner \$32.40 per year (or about 9¢ per day).

While some residents will pay more, most residents of the school district will pay less than 9¢ per day.

The bonds will be sold “in two series.” What does that mean?

If voters approve the bond proposal, the school district plans to sell the bonds in two series, as follows:

Series #1: \$17,320,000 in 2019

Series #2: \$7,680,000 in 2024

This reduces interest costs because bond revenue will be requested when it is needed. For example, the school district does not need to replace all of its buses immediately. Some of the buses will be replaced in 2019 while others will be replaced in 2024.

What’s included in the bond proposal?

If the bond proposal is approved by voters, the school district plans to complete the following projects with Phase 1 beginning May 2019 and Phase 2 beginning May 2024.

New Haven Elementary Phase 1

Enhance security infrastructure

Parking lot & paving improvements

Exterior lighting upgrades

HVAC upgrades
Re-key locks/door replacements
Furnishings for instruction
Secure entry/office remodeling
Playground improvements
Install back-up generator

New Haven Elementary Phase 2

Flooring replacement

Endeavour Middle School / Endeavour Elementary School Phase 1

Parking lot & paving improvements
HVAC upgrades
New science instruments
Re-key locks/door replacements
Enhance security infrastructure
Furnishings for instruction
Upgrade track and bleachers
Upgrade outdoor teaching environments
New band instruments

Endeavour Middle School / Endeavour Elementary School Phase 2

Lighting upgrades
Flooring replacement

New Haven High School Phase 1

Enhance security infrastructure
Parking lot & paving improvements
Exterior lighting upgrades
Remodel band room
Upgrade HVAC and piping
Re-key locks/door replacements
Furnishings for instruction
Resurface track
Electrical upgrades
Remodel scissor roofing and main entrance
New science instruments
New band instruments

New Haven High School Phase 2

Flooring replacements

Administration Building Phase 1

Upgrade parking lot lighting
Split A/C for computer server room
Re-key locks/door replacements
Gym (auditorium) upgrades

Install back-up generator for technology and pumps

Transportation Phase 1

Purchase buses

Enhance security infrastructure

Facility upgrades

Transportation Phase 2

Purchase buses

Upgrade site lighting

Replace roof

Technology Phase 1

Upgrade technology equipment and infrastructure

Technology Phase 2

Upgrade technology equipment and infrastructure

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 for students and teachers, and to equip instructional areas with teaching technology.

Will taxpayers be still paying for computers when they are obsolete?

No. The Michigan Department of Treasury and federal tax regulations require that specific items in a bond proposal (such as computers) be paid for before they become obsolete. Computers must be paid off within five years of their first use. (Note that “technology equipment and technology infrastructure upgrades are included in Phase 1 and 2.) If the bond proposal is approved, taxpayers will not be paying for computers that are out-of-date and obsolete.

Why is this bond proposal so comprehensive?

The May 7th bond proposal is a result of the New Haven Community Schools’ strategic plan. New Haven’s schools and facilities are at the point where renovations and upgrades are necessary to enhance security and student safety, to support the school district’s instructional program, to help protect the community’s investment in schools and school facilities, and to help assure that New Haven graduates can compete with graduates from other Michigan school districts.

What is the schedule for bond proposal projects?

Work on the projects will begin immediately after voter approval of the May 7th bond proposal. It is the school district’s intent to have all projects completed in about seven years.

Will all bond proposal revenue benefit the New Haven Community Schools?

Yes. All revenue from the bond proposal will benefit the New Haven Community Schools. None of the revenue will go to Lansing or to any other school district or political entity.

If the bond proposal is approved by voters, 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 New Haven bond proposal projects are designed to reflect positively on homeowner property values and the school district's reputation for effectiveness and efficiency.

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, 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 only. The initial purchase of operating system 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

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, they must be independently audited.

What will appear on the May 7th ballot?

Here is the exact ballot wording:

NEW HAVEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BONDING PROPOSAL

Shall New Haven Community Schools, Macomb County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Twenty-Five Million Dollars (\$25,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

remodeling, equipping and re-equipping and furnishing and refurnishing school buildings; acquiring, installing, equipping or re-equipping school buildings for instructional technology; purchasing school buses; and developing, improving and equipping playgrounds, athletic fields and facilities and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2019, under current law, is .90 mill (\$0.90 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation). The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is twenty-five (25) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 1.02 mills (\$1.02 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district expects to borrow from the State School Bond Qualification and Loan Program to pay debt service on these bonds. The estimated total principal amount of that borrowing is \$3,430,545 and the estimated total interest to be paid thereon is \$7,067,156. The estimated duration of the millage levy associated with that borrowing is 17 years and the estimated computed millage rate for such levy is 8.26 mills. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is \$52,680,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is approximately \$14,543,904.

(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.)

YES

NO

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

Yes. Voters who support the New Haven Community Schools' bond proposal should vote YES; voters who oppose the bond proposal should vote NO.

What will happen if voters do not approve the bond proposal?

The proposed bond projects cannot be addressed as proposed.

Who can vote in this bond proposal election?

Residents of the New Haven Community School District who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day and are registered to vote.

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.

Do I need to update my voter registration?

You need to update your voter registration if you have changed your name or address since the last time you voted. You can do this at any Secretary of State Office or at the Clerk's Office where you reside.

Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Yes. Since voter approval of Proposition 3 in November 2018, registered voters do not need a reason to vote by absentee ballot. You can request an absentee ballot application from your Clerk's Office or by going online to www.michigan.gov/vote and clicking on *Absentee Voting* in the left column.

Absentee ballots will be available to voters after March 23.

To get more information about the bond election and answers to your questions...

- Go to www.newhaven.misd.net click on *School Election Information*
- Call any New Haven school principal
- Call Superintendent of Schools Barbara VanSweden at 586/749-5123 or email her at bvansweden@newhaven.misd.net.