

Riverview Community Schools

November 6, 2018 Bond Proposals

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

When is the bond proposal election?

Tuesday, November 6, 2018. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

What is on the ballot?

Riverview Community School District (RCSD) residents will vote on two proposals. The first is a bond proposal generating \$12,925,000 through a zero (0) mill net increase over the prior year's levy for fifteen (15) years.

The second is a Sinking Fund proposal. This proposal will levy 2 mills (\$2.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 6 years, 2019 to 2024. The estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved is approximately \$645,684 in the first year.

Why are these bond proposals necessary?

The bond proceeds will be used to enhance student safety, upgrade technology infrastructure, and renovate schools. It will positively affect the investment Riverview taxpayers have in every Riverview school.

How will the bond proposals benefit students and the community?

The Riverview Community School District has a long history of providing a quality education and serving as a center of activity for all members of the community. The school district's quality staff, challenging curriculum, and well-prepared graduates are the envy of many.

The bond proposals are the foundation of a long-term plan that will help ensure that student safety is not compromised, that the learning environment remains current, and that school facilities are adequate and in good repair for this generation and the next.

What's included in the proposals?

The bond proposals will provide funds to...

- enhance student safety and security
- provide security and functionality to office spaces and main entrances at all schools
- upgrade and renovate aging facilities
- improve energy efficiency to reduce costs
- assure that the learning environment is up-to-date
- update classroom technology
- modernize technology infrastructure
- replace worn elementary playground equipment.
- update Seitz kitchen
- renovate Seitz pool for student and community use.

What projects will be completed if the two proposals are approved?

Bond

- Parking lot repair and resurfacing at every school (Est \$2,300,000.)
- Provide secure entranceways and office vestibules at every school (Est \$1,265,000.)
- Install surveillance system at every school (Est \$160,000.)
- Replace mechanical systems, boilers, HVAC etc. (Est \$3,680,000.)
- Upgrade electrical systems at every school (Est \$1,626,000.)
- Roof repairs, window replacements, brick repairs (Est \$275,000.)
- Seitz pool renovation (Est \$1,500,000.)
- Install new playground equipment at elementary schools (Est \$345,000.)
- Replace PA systems and emergency equipment at every school (Est \$310,000.)

Sinking Fund

- Enhance security systems at all schools.
- Maintain instructional technology and infrastructure.
- Renovate secondary science classrooms.
- Replace outdated maintenance equipment.
- Install emergency generator transfer switches at all buildings.
- Purchase emergency generators for buildings.
- Any other projects the community needs within the confines of sinking funds!

What will the bond proposals cost?

If voters approve the Bond Proposal, there will be **NO** increase in the current tax rate.

If voters approve the Sinking Fund, it will cost a person living in a \$50,000 (Taxable value) home 27 cents more per day. Most senior citizens living in Riverview will qualify for Homestead Property Tax Credits that will significantly reduce costs. You can find your exact cost by using the *Tax Calculator* at <http://www.pfmtaxcalc.com/RiverviewCommunitySchoolDistrict> .

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

The work listed above cannot be done. Our buildings will continue to age and decay, the Seitz pool will be closed, and funds that are supposed to be used in the classrooms will have to be used for building repairs.

We will fall farther behind our neighbors in being able to provide sound facilities for academic programming.

Why can't the school district use general fund money to pay for the bond proposal projects?

General fund revenue for RCSD and school districts across Michigan has been shrinking. That aside, there is not enough available money in the RCSD general fund to address the extensive amount of work that needs to be done. That is why the RCSD has placed the proposals on the ballot.

Will all bond proposal revenue stay in Riverview?

Yes. All revenue from the bond proposals will stay in Riverview. By law, the revenue must be used only for the projects specified in the bond proposals and none of the bond revenue can be used for employee salaries, benefits, or other operating expenses. None of the Riverview bond proposal revenue will go to Lansing or to any other school district.

If they are approved by voters, will the bond proposals improve property values?

Real estate prices tend to be higher in communities with quality school districts. Property values tend to be lower in communities that do not offer an adequate curriculum and that do not take care of their school facilities.

How are schools funded?

The bulk of the funding to operate Michigan's schools comes from the State of Michigan. The State collects 6.0 mills from every homeowner in Michigan. For businesses and people with second homes, the State collects an additional 18.0 mills. This revenue is then divided among public schools in Michigan. The amount returned to each public school is called the *foundation allowance*.

Does the foundation allowance follow the student?

Yes. If student enrollment increases, the State's foundation allowance payment is increased by the amount of the enrollment increase. Similarly, if enrollment declines, the State's foundation allowance payment is decreased by the amount of the enrollment decrease.

This is also true for Schools of Choice students. If a Riverview student enrolls in another public school, that school receives the foundation allowance payment that would have gone to Riverview. Similarly, if a student from outside Riverview enrolls in the Riverview Community Schools, Riverview receives the foundation allowance that would have gone to the school district outside Riverview.

How have other school districts addressed their facility needs?

Most districts in Michigan have addressed facility and transportation needs with a bond proposal or a sinking fund. The following table provided by Wayne RESA highlights the bond and sinking fund levies in Wayne County.

Wayne County School Districts			
Debt Millage Levy			
District	Debt Mills Levied	Sinking Fund Millage	Total
River Rouge, School District of the City of	13.00		13.00
School District of the City of Inkster	13.00		13.00
Allen Park Public Schools	12.00		12.00
Flat Rock Community Schools	11.22		11.22
South Redford School District	8.30	2.00	10.30
Redford Union Schools, District No. 1	9.25		9.25
Romulus Community Schools	8.25	0.75	9.00
Woodhaven-Brownstown School District	7.00	0.98	7.98
Trenton Public Schools	7.43		7.43
Dearborn Heights School District #7	2.70	4.67	7.37
Huron School District	7.00		7.00
Lincoln Park, School District of the City of	5.46	1.44	6.90
Gibraltar School District	6.83		6.83
Garden City Public Schools	4.75	2.00	6.75
Grosse Ile Township Schools	5.02	1.00	6.02
Wyandotte, School District of the City of	6.00		6.00
Southgate Community School District	5.85		5.85
Livonia Public Schools School District	4.54	1.12	5.66
Dearborn City School District	4.82		4.82
Northville Public Schools	3.64	1.00	4.64
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools	4.10		4.10
Wayne-Westland Community School District	2.83	0.99	3.82
Riverview Community School District	3.36		3.36
Crestwood School District	3.00		3.00
Grosse Pointe Public Schools	1.64	1.00	2.64
Van Buren Public Schools	-	1.13	1.13
Detroit City School District	-		-
Ecorse Public Schools	-		-
Hamtramck, School District of the City of	-	-	-
Harper Woods, The School District of the City of	-		-
Highland Park City Schools	-	-	-
Melvindale-North Allen Park Schools	-		-
Taylor School District	-		-
Westwood Community School District	-		-

You may notice that we rank near the bottom of the county. As a result, we have difficulty keeping up with other districts in facilities.

What questions will voters be asked on the November 6 ballot?

Two questions will appear on the November 6 ballot:

RIVERVIEW COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BONDING PROPOSAL

Shall Riverview Community School District, Wayne County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Twelve Million Nine Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$12,925,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

erecting, furnishing, and equipping an addition to the middle school building; remodeling, furnishing and refurnishing, and equipping and re-equipping school buildings for safety, security, and other purposes; and preparing, developing, improving, and equipping playgrounds and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2019 is .76 mill (\$0.76 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a 0 mill 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 fifteen (15) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 3.06 mills (\$3.06 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 \$2,740,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is \$0. 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.)

- YES
- NO

RIVERVIEW COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SINKING FUND MILLAGE PROPOSAL

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Riverview Community School District, Wayne County, Michigan, be increased by and the board of education be authorized to levy not to exceed 2 mils (\$2.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 6 years, 2019 to 2024, inclusive, to create a sinking fund for the construction or repair of, school buildings, for school security improvements, for the acquisition or upgrading of technology and all other purposes authorized by law; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2019 is approximately \$645,684?

- YES
 NO

Who can vote in this bond proposal election?

Anyone who is a resident of the Riverview Community School District, will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, and is registered to vote by October 9, 2018.

Where can I register to vote?

You can register to vote at any Secretary of State office or at the Clerk's Office where you reside. You can download a voter registration application at https://www.michigan.gov/documents/MIVoterRegistration_97046_7.pdf .

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.

Where do I vote?

You will vote at your regular school district precinct. If you are unsure of your precinct, call the Riverview Community Schools at 734/285-9662.

Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Registered voters can vote by absentee ballot if they meet one of the following requirements: 1. They expect to be out of town on Election Day; 2. They are 60 years of age or older; 3. They are unable to vote without assistance at the polls; or, 4. They cannot attend the polls due to religious reasons.

Where can I get more information about the bond proposals?

Go to www.riverviewschools.com and click on *Bond Proposal Information*.

Or, you can call any Riverview Principal or Superintendent of Schools Dr. Russell Pickell at 734/285-9662. You also can send an email to Superintendent Pickell at rpickell@riverviewschools.com.