

2016 School Bond

April 26, 2016 Ballot Quick Facts

What is a School Bond?

- The State of Washington does not fund the regular building or maintenance of public schools. Instead, local voters must approve school bonds for this purpose. Similar to a mortgage, bonds may be paid for over 20 years, helping to keep annual costs lower for taxpayers. Issaquah School District's current bonds are, on average, paid off in nine years. This shorter duration saves taxpayers' money.
- State law mandates that bond dollars be used only for building and maintenance, not classroom operations or salaries. Careful bond planning, however, is one critical way districts preserve classroom funds. For instance, if a roof fails at an elementary school, the cost of replacement can be upwards of \$2 million, equivalent to 23 teaching positions. If no bond funds are available, classroom operations dollars must be used instead.

What is in the 2016 Bond?

- The construction of four new schools: the District has grown by more than 2,000 students in the past four years and is conservatively projected to add an additional 1,500 to 2,000 students in the next five years. This continued enrollment growth requires the addition of two new elementary schools, a 6th middle school and a 4th comprehensive high school.
- Property for school sites: the District must acquire the property needed for the new schools in the 2016 Bond.
- Rebuild Pine Lake Middle School: originally built in 1974, PLMS will be completely reconstructed on site, providing a new learning environment with updated technology and energy efficient operations.
- Critical Expansion/Modernization of six existing elementary schools: in order to accommodate growing student populations and provide for State funded Full Day Kindergarten; Discovery, Endeavour, Sunset, Cougar Ridge, Maple Hills and Clark Elementary schools will all be expanded/modernized by four to eight classrooms each.

How will the 2016 Bond Impact Taxes?

- In relation to current property taxes, residents can expect to see NO increase in the tax rate if the bond is approved. The tax rate will remain at or below the current \$4.14 per \$1000 of assessed property value.
- How do we keep your tax rate stable? The District has experienced rapid growth in the total assessed value of property due to continued new construction of housing and commercial properties as well as higher valuations for existing homes. Additionally, in order to support our goal of predictable taxes, the District has structured a decrease in its current long term tax collections allowing for the "new" taxes generated by the 2016 Bond to not increase your tax rate.

Bond Feasibility and Development Committee

A Community Bond Feasibility and Development Committee met April 1 through May 6, 2015 to determine essential facility needs and shape a potential bond measure to go before voters in spring, 2016. The committee has sent its proposed bond project recommendation to the superintendent, who will in turn use the proposal to inform his recommendation to the school board for final approval.

The committee considered proposed content, total cost, and tax impact of a potential bond, recognizing the current economic climate, the committee evaluated the bond proposal in terms of:

- Ensuring the Issaquah School District has all the resources possible to meet its mission and student learning goals.
- Safely and efficiently maintaining facilities and property according to state and District use standards and schedules.

Community Involvement

Send in your comments via e-mail to Bond2016@issaquah.wednet.edu or contact Jacob Kuper's office at 425-837-7024.