

NEWS FROM ANCHOR BAY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Anchor Bay School District places a no tax rate increase bond proposal on the November 8 ballot

The Anchor Bay School District Board of Education has approved placing a \$169 million no tax rate increase bond proposal on the November 8 ballot.

According to Anchor Bay School District Superintendent of Schools Phil Jankowski, voter approval of the bond proposal will allow the school district to support the educational program by completing facility upgrades and improvements across the school district. The multi-phase bond proposal will take approximately 10 years to complete and focuses on five key principles:

1. **Enhancing educational programming** Throughout the K-12 educational program, the school district will place a stronger focus on Career Preparation and STEM programming by developing meaningful connections between classroom experiences for students and their future academic and career goals;
2. **Improving safety and security measures** by enhancing building security and video surveillance at all facilities, installing emergency alert systems, adding classroom security door hardware, and strengthening building entrance security;
3. **Addressing aging infrastructures in buildings** by updating mechanical systems, temperature controls, roofing, and paving;
4. **Correcting geographical concerns** by reducing student transportation costs and reducing the time students spend on buses every day; and,
5. **Increasing building efficiency** by reducing operational costs by combining and reducing the number of operational buildings.

The development of bond proposal projects began with an in-depth facility assessment conducted by the school district's administrative staff and architectural, technology, and construction specialists. Following the facility assessment, community, parents, students, and staff members participated in a series of focus panels to discuss building needs and review the proposed bond proposal projects. Staff and community members also participated in an online survey to share their thoughts and ideas about bond projects. Based on community, parent, student, and staff input, the bond project list was finalized. It was then reviewed and approved by the Michigan Department of Treasury.

"This process led to a bond proposal that will allow Anchor Bay School District to address both short- and long-term facility needs," said Jankowski. "It will also help us enhance the student learning environment and expand educational offerings for all students, which is part of the school district's strategic plan."

"Our commitment to providing students with a high-quality educational program and protecting the community's investment in their schools is drawing the attention of others. For example, this week Anchor Bay School District was recognized by the Macomb Daily as the *Best of the Best for Best Educational Institution*," Jankowski added.

School Board President Lisa Birkmeier, said the no tax rate increase on the November 8 ballot is "an investment in our students, our schools, and community." In addition, Birkmeier said "I believe this is a sound, fiscally responsible proposal that will allow completion of all projects with no increase in the current tax rate. Further, to reduce bond interest costs, the bonds will be sold in five series—2023, 2025, 2027, 2029, and 2031."

"Voter approval of the bond proposal will affect every Anchor Bay student by increasing safety and security at all schools; expanding educational opportunities; decreasing student time on buses; and completing upgrades and improvements at all schools. In addition, this proposal will protect the investment residents have made in our schools and continue to make Anchor Bay School District a place residents want to live," Birkmeier said.

Jankowski said that informing the community about the bond proposal is a priority. "We want to make sure members of our community understand the bond proposal and that all of their questions are answered before the November 8 election. We want voters to understand how the ballot proposal will benefit everyone in the community," he said.

Registered voters can vote at the polls on Election Day or after September 29 through Election Day by absentee ballot.

School district residents soon will be invited to visit www.anchorbay.misd.net and click on *Bond Election Info* for bond-related details. Or, they can contact Superintendent Philip Jankowski, by phone at (586) 725-2861 or by email at pjankowski@abs.misd.net

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