



KINGSTON BOND PROPOSAL

Kingston Community Schools is seeking a bond proposal that has a **0 mill increase**. This bond proposal will allow \$3.48 million in revenue without raising the current debt millage rate. While it doesn't raise your debt millage, it will extend the life of the millage by three years. There is no way for a school district to receive money for building updates without paying the money back. When bond funds are approved for a school district, they either have to increase the bond mills or they have to extend the years to pay back the funds.

Most school districts are able to find a happy medium and that is typically after the original bond request drops by a couple of mills and allows the district to receive additional funds without increasing the cost to the taxpayer. Yes, it adds years to the repayment (which I understand that added years does cost the taxpayer more money) it just doesn't increase the amount the taxpayer is currently used to paying out of pocket. Since school districts don't receive infrastructure funding, we must always go to our taxpayers with a bond request and the best time is when it doesn't add any additional cost to the current amount being paid by the taxpayer.

We have sent this complaint to the department of education on several occasions, and thankfully this school year the department has implemented an infrastructure study on all school buildings in Michigan. This will give them a better picture of how desperately schools need additional funding to support their structures. It is our hope that the department of education is able to provide the necessary information to the state budget committee, which will in turn allow districts additional funding to fix their buildings. But until that happens, school districts are forced to ask their taxpayers to support the necessary upgrades to buildings.

The goal for this bond proposal is to renovate the Elementary school playground, replace seven rooftop units between both buildings, add on 3 classrooms to west side of the high school to be used as a "Jr High wing", add two bathrooms to the outside of the high school building (near the concession stand) for outdoor activities, and remove the metal picnic tables from the main hall in the high school and replace them with updated furniture. Here is some detailed reasoning behind the project proposals:

Elementary School Playground - the intent is to consolidate the playground property to all for updated equipment for all students (including equipment to allow our disabled students to participate at recess) along with rubber mulch. We will also improve the drainage system on the playground. This will also allow the PE class to install a proper volleyball court for outdoor volleyball games, and provide a safer environment for our students.

Rooftop units - between both buildings we have nine rooftop units that are in need of replacing. The heating & cooling companies are finding it more and more difficult to locate repair parts for the existing units. The district intends to purchase two of these units this year with general fund dollars. These units cost approximately \$150,000 each. Our fund balance will allow us to purchase two of the units and still be able to make the payroll and maintain utility expenses. We would like to replace these units to allow a consistent comfortable atmosphere for our students and staff.

3 classroom addition - there have been some changes at the state level regarding teaching certifications. Most teaching certificates for the elementary level are K-5. Therefore, we are required to purchase substitute teacher permits for our teachers who teach 6th grade students and don't have a 6-8 certification. We have also added an additional GSRP and young 5's classroom, which has taken any additional space available in the elementary school. By adding the 3

additional classrooms at the high school building, we will be able to create a Jr High wing on the west side of the building. This will allow for the separation of 6-8 and 9-12 grade students.

2-bathroom addition - installing two individual bathrooms outdoors will allow for visitors to use a bathroom that will have sinks for washing hands and lighting to avoid being in a portable toilet with no lights or running water. This has been a big complaint from visitors.

High School Furnishings - it has been discussed that the high school needs to look more inviting and updated. Therefore, it is the goal to remove the metal picnic tables and install updated (modern) furniture in the hallways.

Here is an example of the upcoming bond proposal ballot language

Proposal Section
Local School District
Kingston Community School Bond Proposal
Shall Kingston Community School, Tuscola and Lapeer Counties, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Three Million Four Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$3,480,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, for the purpose of: erecting, furnishing, and equipping additions to the high school building; partially remodeling, furnishing and refurbishing, and equipping and re-equipping school buildings; acquiring and installing instructional technology and instructional technology equipment for school buildings; and preparing, developing, equipping, and improving playgrounds and sites? The following is for informational purposes only: The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2024 is 1.20 mills (\$1.20 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 may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is seventeen (17) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 1.93 mills (\$1.93 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation). (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 <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>