

Zero-Tax-Rate Increase Bond Proposal & Sinking Fund Replacement August 5



August 5 Proposal Information FITZGERALD



When is the election?

The election will be held on August 5. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Absentee ballots will be available on June 26 and can be cast through Election Day. Contact your local clerk for more information.

What is on the ballot?

Two proposals are on the ballot.



The first proposal is a \$42 million ZERO-tax-rate increase bond proposal. Bond projects will enhance safety and security, enhance educational spaces and technology, and upgrade school infrastructure and sites.



The second proposal is a request to replace and combine the two sinking funds that the Fitzgerald Public Schools currently levies into one sinking fund. Combining the two sinking funds into one will result in a slight tax reduction for residents. The sinking fund revenue will continue to be used to complete ongoing small-scale repairs and updates of school facilities.



Zero-Tax-Rate Increase Bond Proposal & Sinking Fund Replacement



What is a bond?

A bond is a state-approved funding process for a set scope of large-scale projects. When voters approve a bond proposal, the school district sells bonds in the authorized amount and uses the bond sale proceeds to pay for the identified projects. Bonds are typically set up to be paid back in 20-30 years.

The Fitzgerald Public Schools **ZERO-tax-rate increase bond proposal** length is 25 years.

How will the bond proposal not increase the current tax rate?

Fitzgerald Public Schools would extend the current tax rate for the entirety of the bond. This is possible because as the school district's previous bonds are paid off, the tax rate would remain unchanged, with the new bond replacing the old debt. Essentially, the school district is using the existing millage rate to secure funding for new projects, ensuring that there is no additional burden on taxpayers. This approach allows the school district to complete necessary improvements while maintaining financial stability for the community.



Zero-Tax-Rate Increase Bond Proposal & Sinking Fund Replacement



How were the bond proposal projects identified?

Fitzgerald Public Schools administrative staff conducted a comprehensive internal review of all school facilities as part of the school district's strategic plan.

School officials collaborated with architectural and construction management experts to assess short- and long-term facility needs. Using this input, they identified potential bond proposal projects that focus on:

- Enhancing Safety & Security
- Enhancing Educational Spaces & Technology
- Upgrading School Infrastructure & Sites

The school district hosted a series of focus panels to gather input on facility needs from community members, parents, guardians, staff, and students. Additionally, an online survey was open to all staff, parents, and community members.

After analyzing all feedback, the facility project list and costs were finalized. The school district then submitted an application to the Michigan Department of Treasury for review and approval. Once the application was approved, the Board of Education scheduled the election.





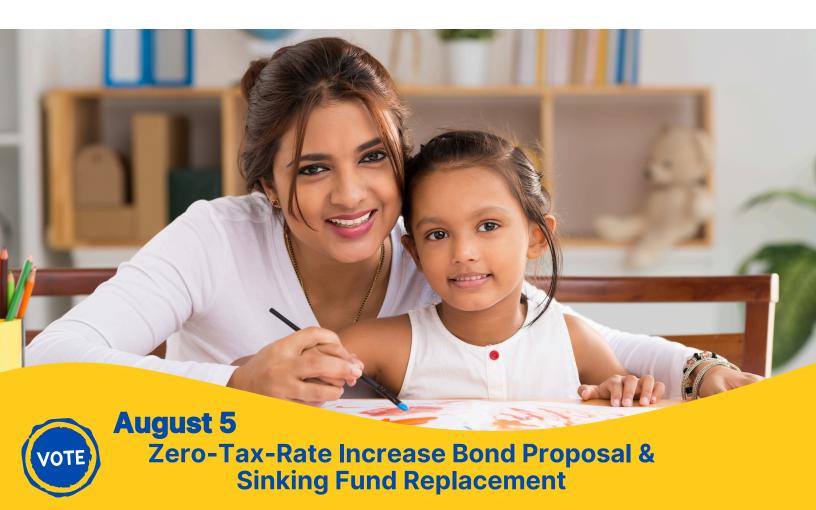
Michigan School Bond Proposals: How they work & why they matter

- Voter Approval Required School bond proposals must be approved by a majority vote in the community.
- Dedicated to Infrastructure & Improvements Common uses for school bond proposals include upgrading school facilities, improving security measures, updating athletic and art spaces, and enhancing technology.

Bond proposals are critical for enhancing and improving educational environments, ensuring schools remain safe, modern, and equipped to serve students effectively. Since Michigan schools rely on local funding for infrastructure, bonds are often the primary method school districts use to invest in long-term improvements.

Can 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, maintenance, 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 can bond proposal funds be used for?

Below is a list of things bond proposal funds can be used for.



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 are limited to hardware and communication devices that transmit, receive, or compute information for pupil instructional purposes only. The initial purchase of operating systems 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





What requirements have been put in place to make sure bond proposal revenue will be properly spent?

The Michigan Department of Treasury has reviewed and approved every project in the bond proposal. All renovations and upgrades must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and state building codes. 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.

How will the proposals benefit residents who don't have students attending Fitzgerald Public Schools?

Fitzgerald Public Schools is proud to open its doors to the community with engaging events hosted within our facilities.

Our community's value and vitality depend on our schools' quality and marketability. Research shows that communities with good schools that are up to date help to maintain local property values. Keeping school facilities up-to-date helps protect the investment our community has made in its schools and keeps our school district a place where facilities want to live.





What is the exact language of the bond proposal?

Here is the exact ballot wording for the bond proposal:

FITZGERALD PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL BUILDING AND SITE BOND PROPOSAL

Shall Fitzgerald Public Schools, Macomb County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed FORTY TWO MILLION FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY FIVE THOUSAND (\$42,455,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds, in one or more series, therefor for the purpose of:

 Remodeling, furnishing and re-furnishing, equipping and re-equipping school buildings and other facilities;

- Acquiring and installing technology equipment and technology infrastructure in school buildings and other facilities;
- Erecting, equipping and furnishing an addition to a school building; and
- Improving, developing and equipping and re-equipping sites and structures in the School District, including playgrounds, playfields and athletic fields and constructing thereon an outdoor learning area?

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2026, under current law, is 1.16 (\$1.16 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 twenty five (25) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 4.90 mills (\$4.90 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district currently has \$36,085,000 of qualified bonds outstanding and \$0 of qualified loans outstanding under the State School Bond Qualification and Loan Program. The school district does not expect to borrow from the program to pay debt service on these bonds. 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).

Public school districts typically issue bonds to finance long-term capital needs.

The new bond will be a ZERO increase over the current levy.

Bonds can not be used to repair or maintain facilities, or cover employee salaries or operating costs.

The length of the bond will be 25 years and sold in two series to reduce interest costs.

By law, bonds can

only be

used for

projects

identified in

the ballot

language.

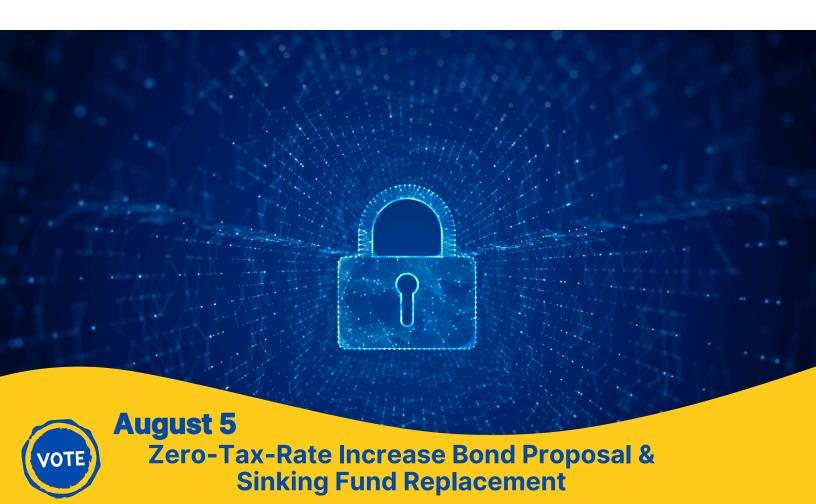
August 5

Zero-Tax-Rate Increase Bond Proposal & Sinking Fund Renewal & Replacement

Building Projects



Safety & Security Enhancements	Location
Improve access controls on exterior doors	Mound Park
Install emergency alert system & controls	All Buildings
Replace damaged concrete sidewalks	Mound Park, Schofield, Westview, Chatterton, Fitzgerald High School, Neigebauer Building
Replace entry ramp & railing	Mound Park
Install fire suppression system	Schofield
Install water service for fire suppression system	Schofield
Replace parking lot & bus loop	Westview
Install lighting controls for exterior lighting	Bus Garage



Building Projects



Enhancing Educational Spaces & Technology	Location
Replace playground equipment	Mound Park, Schofield, Westview
Upgrade technology (computers, mobile devices, interactive boards & document cameras)	Mound Park, Schofield, Westview, Chatterton, Fitzgerald High School, Career Tech/Auto Center
Remodel the media center	Mound Park, Schofield, Westview, Fitzgerald High School
Construct an Early Childhood addition, main office, exterior office area, gymnasium, & outdoor classroom	Schofield
Purchase furniture for office and Early Childhood addition	Schofield
Upgrade classroom heating & cooling systems	Westview, Chatterton (art room)
Replace science lab flooring	Chatterton
Replace gym backboards	Chatterton
Improve baseball & softball field fencing	Chatterton
Replace soccer & football goals	Chatterton
Renovate cafeteria & kitchen serving line	Fitzgerald High School
Purchase food service equipment	Fitzgerald High School
Replace ceilings	Fitzgerald High School
Remodel auditorium interior/replace seating	Fitzgerald High School
Replace rubberized flooring in the field house	Fitzgerald High School
Replace synthetic turf on football/soccer field	Fitzgerald High School
Resurface running track	Fitzgerald High School
Remodel athletic field press box	Fitzgerald High School
Replace heating & cooling units- main gym, auxiliary gym & field house	Fitzgerald High School
Remodel select classrooms	Career Tech/Auto Center
Replace lighting with LED	Westview, Fitzgerald High School, Career Tech/Auto Center, Bus Garage
Remodel office area	Career Tech/Auto Center, Neigebaur Building



Building Projects



Upgrading School Infrastructure & Sites	Location
Install interior signage for consistency & ADA accessibility	Mound Park, Schofield, Westview, Fitzgerald High School, Career Tech/Auto Center,
Replace interior/exterior lighting with LED	Mound Park, Fitzgerald High School, Bus Garage
Replace damaged & deteriorated masonry	Mound Park, Schofield, Westview, Chatterton, Fitzgerald High School, Neigebaur Building
Replace aging windows	Mound Park, Neigebaur Building
Replace entry vestibule flooring	Mound Park
Improve drainage & landscaping	Mound Park, Schofield, Chatterton
Replace canopy	Mound Park
Construct new entrance canopy	Schofield
Reconfigure asphalt driveway for Early Childhood addition	Schofield
Replace aging doors & door frames	Schofield
Replace select roofing	Westview, Chatterton, Neigebauer Building
Replace select ceilings	Westview
Replace rooftop energy recovery ventilators	Westview
Replace circulation pump for geothermal system	Westview
Install a storage building by concessions	Chatterton
Install roof ladders	Chatterton
Replace rooftop mechanical hoses	Chatterton
Replace select metal wall panels around windows	Fitzgerald High School
Remodel restrooms	Fitzgerald High School, Career Tech/Auto Center
Replace storm sewer structures	Fitzgerald High School
Replace boilers	Fitzgerald High School, Neigebaur Building
Remodel office area	Bus Garage



Sinking Fund Replacement Information



What is a sinking fund?

A school sinking fund is a pay-as-you-go method for school districts to pay for small-scale repairs and improvements without incurring interest on loans or bonds.

What can sinking fund revenue be used for?

Sinking funds can be used for:

- · purchasing school property sites;
- · constructing or repairing school buildings;
- · improving school security;
- · purchase and support student transportation vehicles; and
- acquiring or upgrading technology

Can sinking funds be used for school district operating expenses?

No. Sinking funds cannot be used for operating expenses, salaries, employee benefits, or routine building maintenance. By state law, projects paid for through a sinking fund must be audited.



Sinking Fund Replacement Information



Why is the school district asking for voter approval to replace the sinking funds that are currently in place?

There are two reasons why this proposal is on the ballot.

First, replacing the current sinking funds will allow the school district to take advantage of revisions in State of Michigan regulations that expand the use of sinking fund revenue. The expanded uses include the purchase of school security improvements, technology, student transportation vehicles (such as buses), and vehicles used for school building maintenance, as well as parts, supplies, and equipment to maintain these vehicles.

Second, replacing the two sinking funds (currently in place) with a single 3-mill sinking fund will allow the school district to **slightly reduce the overall sinking fund levy for taxpayers.** The two sinking funds currently levy a total of 3.15 mills. Combining the sinking funds for a total levy of 3-mills will reduce the overall sinking fund levy by 0.15 mills.

By replacing the sinking fund with updated language, Fitzgerald Public Schools can maximize the potential of these funds to address a wider range of needs, ultimately benefiting students, staff, and the community while reducing the current tax rate.



Sinking Fund Replacement Information



What projects have been completed with the revenue generated by the sinking funds?

The sinking funds have supported numerous improvement projects across Fitzgerald Public Schools. These include:

- Mound Park Elementary School Elevator upgrades project
- Mound Park Elementary School Main office improvements
- Chatterton Middle School Repair and replace select steel columns
- Chatterton Middle School Partial water main replacement
- Fitzgerald High School Auto Tech Building Auto shop floor replacement



Sinking Fund Replacement Ballot Language



What is the exact language of the sinking fund replacement?

Here is the exact ballot wording:

Public school districts typically issue sinking funds to pay for small scale facility upgrades and repairs, the purchase and replacement of technology, and buses.

FITZGERALD PUBLIC SCHOOLS COUNTY OF MACOMB, MICHIGAN

REPLACEMENT BUILDING AND SITE SINKING FUND TAX PROPOSAL

This proposal will replace and extend the authority last approved by the electors in 2010 and 2019 and which expires with the 2026 levy for the School District to levy a building and site sinking fund millage. This proposal allows the use of proceeds of the millage for all purposes previously permitted by law as well as newly authorized security improvements, acquisition or upgrading of technology; acquisition of student transportation vehicles, trucks and vans and acquisition of parts, supplies and equipment used to maintain student transportation vehicles, trucks and vans.

The proposed sinking fund replacement would replace the two existing sinking funds.

Sinking funds can not be used for employee salaries, maintenance or operating costs. As a replacement of existing authority, shall the Fitzgerald Public Schools, County of Macomb, State of Michigan be authorized to levy three (3.00) mills (\$3.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value), for a period of ten (10) years, from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2035 to create a building and site sinking fund for the purpose of the construction or repair of school buildings; school security improvements; the acquisition or upgrading of technology; the acquisition of student transportation vehicles; trucks and vans as well as for the acquisition of parts, supplies, and equipment used for the maintenance of student transportation vehicles; and for any other authorized by law? This millage would provide estimated revenues to the Fitzgerald Public Schools of approximately ONE MILLION SIX HUNDRED SIXTY FIVE THOUSAND and 00/100 (\$1,665,000) Dollars during the 2026 calendar year, if approved and levied.

The sinking fund will levy 3 mills, which would result in a 0.15 mill reduction in taxes for FPS residents.

Pursuant to state law, the expenditure of building and site sinking fund millage proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for teacher, administrator or employee salaries, maintenance or other operating expenses.



Proposal Information



What will happen if voters don't approve the bond proposal or the sinking fund replacement?

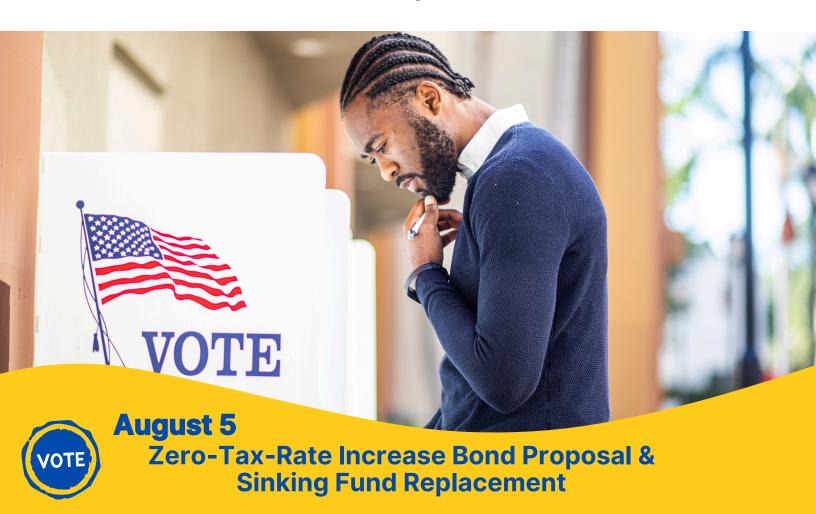
If voters don't approve the ZERO-tax-rate increase bond proposal and the sinking fund replacement, the need for the identified facility improvements will not go away. In addition, the school district will lose revenue generated by the sinking fund to complete ongoing, small-scale updates at school facilities.

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

Yes. Voters who support the Fitzgerald Public Schools ZERO-tax-rate increase bond proposal, and the sinking fund replacement should vote YES; voters who oppose the bond proposal or the sinking fund renewal and replacement should vote NO.

How will residents be informed about the proposals?

Fitzgerald Public Schools officials are sharing information about the zero-tax-rate increase bond proposal and sinking fund replacement through community meetings, direct mailings, social media, the school district website, and the news media. To view a complete list of bond projects and learn more about the bond proposal, visit www.fitz.k12.mi.us and click on *Bond/Sinking Fund Info*.



Proposal Information



If the proposals are approved by voters, how will home values be affected?

Research indicates that real estate values tend to be higher in communities with school districts that are perceived to offer quality educational programs and have upto-date school facilities.

All Fitzgerald Public Schools bond proposal and sinking fund projects are designed to reflect positively on homeowner property values and the school district's commitment to effectiveness and efficiency.



Election Information



Who can vote in the election?

Residents of Fitzgerald Public Schools who will be 18 or older on Election Day and are registered to vote can vote in this election.

Where can I get information about voting (such as how to register, where to vote, absentee voting, and early voting)?

Go to the Michigan Voter Information website (<u>www.michigan.gov/vote</u>) or call your local clerk's office.

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 your local clerk's office.

Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Yes. You can request an absentee ballot application from your clerk's office or by going online to www.michigan.gov/vote and clicking on *Vote at home*. Applicants will receive an absentee ballot in the mail. In Michigan, all registered voters have the right to vote absentee without providing a specific reason.

Absentee ballots will be available after June 26 and can be cast through Election Day. Remember to return your completed absentee ballot to your local clerk's office by 8 p.m. on Election Day for it to be counted.

Where can I get more information about ballot proposals?

- Visit www.fitz.k12.mi.us and click on Bond/Sinking Fund Info.
- Contact Interim Superintendent of Schools, Laurie Fournier
 - Phone: 586-757-1750Email: laufou@myfitz.net

Where can I share my thoughts about the ballot proposals?

Scan the QR code to complete a brief survey or visit www.research.net/r/FitzgeraldAugust5Proposals



A complete list of projects by building begins on the next page.



August 5

Zero-Tax-Rate Increase Bond Proposal & Sinking Fund Replacement

Building Specific Projects



SCHOFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This building was built in 1955 and serves students in grades PreK-K. The total area of this facility is 63,020 sq. ft.

PROPOSED PROJECTS

Enhancing Safety & Security

- Installing emergency alert system & controls
- Replacing damaged concrete sidewalks
- Installing fire suppression system in north section of building

Enhancing Educational Spaces & Technology

- Replacing playground equipment
- Upgrading technology equipment (computers, mobile devices, interactive boards, & document cameras)
- Constructing an Early Childhood addition (three classrooms)
- Constructing main office addition & remodeling exterior office area
- Constructing a gymnasium addition
- Constructing a new outdoor classroom
- · Remodeling the media center
- Purchasing furniture for office & Early Childhood addition

Upgrading School Infrastructure & Sites

- Improving drainage & landscaping
- Constructing a new entrance canopy
- Reconfiguring asphalt driveway for new Early Childhood addition
- Installing water service for fire suppression system
- Replacing select doors & frames due to age
- Replacing damaged & deteriorated masonry
- Installing interior signage for consistency & ADA accessibility
- Restoring site for new additions (office & early childhood)



Building Specific Projects



WESTVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This building was built in 2007 and serves students in grades 1-3. The total area of this facility is 95,882 sq. ft.

PROPOSED PROJECTS

Enhancing Safety & Security

- Installing emergency alert system & controls
- Replacing damaged concrete sidewalks
- Replacing back parking lot & bus loop

Enhancing Educational Spaces & Technology

- Upgrading technology equipment (computers, mobile devices, interactive boards, & document cameras)
- Remodeling the media center
- Replacing playground equipment
- Replacing classroom heating & cooling systems
- Upgrading classroom lighting to LED

Upgrading School Infrastructure & Sites

- Replacing damaged & deteriorated masonry
- Replacing roofing in select areas
- Replacing select ceilings for new mechanical equipment
- Replacing rooftop energy recovery ventilators
- Replacing circulation pumps for geothermal system
- Installing interior signage for consistency & ADA accessibility







MOUND PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This building was built in 1941 and serves students in grades 4-5. The total area of this facility is 67,735 sq. ft.

PROPOSED PROJECTS

Enhancing Safety & Security

- Improving access control at exterior doors
- Installing emergency alert system & controls
- Replacing damaged concrete sidewalks
- Replacing west entry ramp & railing

Enhancing Educational Spaces & Technology

- Replacing playground equipment
- Upgrading technology equipment (computers, mobile devices, interactive boards, & document cameras)
- Remodeling the media center

Upgrading School Infrastructure & Sites

- Installing interior signage for consistency & ADA accessibility
- · Replacing lighting in vestibules to LED
- · Renovating select restrooms
- Replacing damaged & deteriorated masonry
- Replacing windows with broken seals
- Replacing entry vestibules flooring walk-off mats
- Improving drainage & landscaping
- Reconfiguring & replacing the west canopy







CHATTERTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

This building was built in 1969 and serves students in grades 6-8. The total area of this facility is 117,950 sq. ft.

PROPOSED PROJECTS

Enhancing Safety & Security

- Installing emergency alert system & controls
- Replacing damaged concrete sidewalks

Enhancing Educational Spaces & Technology

- Upgrading technology equipment (computers, mobile devices, interactive boards, & document cameras)
- Replacing science lab flooring
- Replacing gym backboards
- Improving baseball & softball field fencing
- Replacing soccer & football goals
- Replacing art room heating & cooling system

Upgrading School Infrastructure & Sites

- Replacing roofing in select areas
- Installing a storage building by concessions area
- Renovating select staff & student restrooms
- Installing roof ladders
- Replacing damaged & deteriorated masonry
- Replacing rooftop mechanical hoses
- Improving drainage & landscaping







FITZGERALD HIGH SCHOOL

This building was built in 1948 and serves students in grades 9-12. The total area of this facility is 332,939 sq. ft.

PROPOSED PROJECTS

Enhancing Safety & Security

- Installing emergency alert system & controls
- Replacing damaged concrete sidewalks

Enhancing Educational Spaces & Technology

- Upgrading technology equipment (computers, mobile devices, interactive boards, & document cameras)
- Renovating cafeteria area
- · Renovating kitchen serving line
- Purchasing serving line food service equipment
- Installing new ceilings & LED lighting in hallways
- Remodeling auditorium (flooring, seating, forestage, & ceiling)
- Remodeling the media center
- Replacing rubberized flooring in the field house
- Replacing synthetic turf on football/soccer field
- Resurfacing running track
- Remodeling athletic field press box
- Replacing heating & cooling units in the main gym, auxiliary gym, & field house

Upgrading School Infrastructure & Sites

- Replacing select metal wall panels around windows
- Replacing hallway & stairwell lighting with LED
- Replacing gym & pool lighting to LED
- Remodeling athletic field concessions restrooms
- Replacing damaged & deteriorated masonry
- Installing interior signage for consistency & ADA accessibility
- Replacing storm sewer structures
- Replacing select hot water boilers & piping







FITZGERALD CAREER TECH/AUTO CENTER

This facility was built in 2002 and serves students in grades 9-12. The total area of this facility is 32,193 sq. ft.

PROPOSED PROJECTS

Enhancing Safety & Security

Installing emergency alert system & controls

Enhancing Educational Spaces & Technology

- Upgrading technology equipment (computers, mobile devices, interactive boards, & document cameras)
- Remodeling select classrooms (flooring & cabinets/storage)
- Replacing classroom & hallway lighting with LED

Upgrading School Infrastructure & Sites

- Installing interior signage for consistency & ADA accessibility
- Remodeling restrooms





BUS GARAGE

This facility was built in 1965. The total area of this facility is 8,496 sq. ft. and it is used to maintain and service the school district's bus fleet.

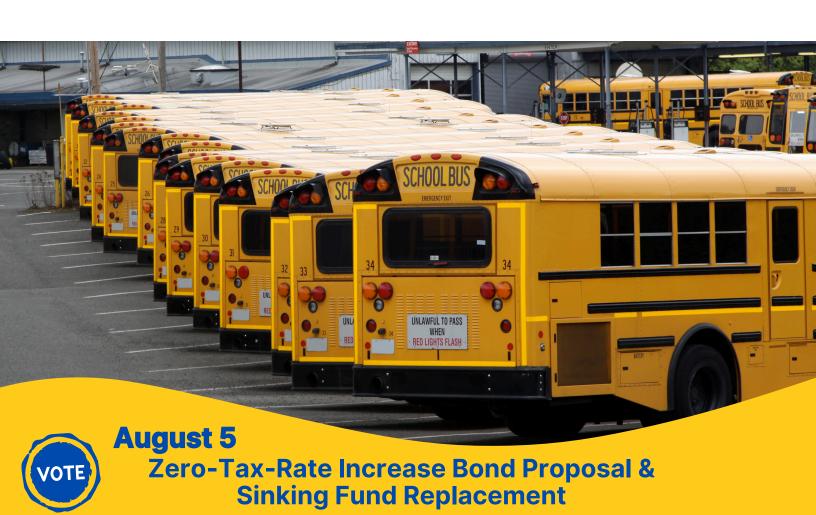
PROPOSED PROJECTS

Enhancing Safety & Security

- Installing emergency alert system & controls
- Installing lighting controls for exterior lighting

Enhancing Interior Spaces

- Remodeling office area
- Replacing garage bay lighting with LED
- Replacing interior lighting with LED





NEIGEBAUR BUILDING

This facility was built in 1940 and serves the administration center. The total area of this facility is 46,169 sq. ft.

PROPOSED PROJECTS

Enhancing Safety & Security

- Installing emergency alert system & controls
- · Replacing damaged concrete sidewalks

Enhancing Interior Spaces

· Remodeling office area

Upgrading School Infrastructure & Sites

- Replacing select roofing
- Replacing damaged & deteriorated masonry
- Replacing select boilers
- Replacing first floor windows due to age

