

2019
SCHOOL BOND

INVESTING IN A
SECURE FUTURE FOR
ALL STUDENTS

VOTE FEBRUARY 12

www.normanpublicschools.org/bond



BOND BASICS

Bond issues are used by a public school district to fund capital improvement projects, instructional materials and transportation needs. These measures are placed on the ballot by school boards to be considered by the voting public.

Bond funds have allowed the Norman Public School District to improve school buildings and invest in instructional technology that enhances student learning. Since 1972, Norman voters have approved more than \$432 million in school bond funds.

NPS bond issues are steps in a long-term plan to maintain and enhance excellent educational opportunities.

2009 BOND

Focused primarily on classroom technology, athletic facilities and the addition of a new elementary school.

2014 BOND

Focused primarily on school safety, student technology, athletic and arts facility upgrades, Freshman Academies and College and Career Centers.

P R E P A R A T I O N

In preparation for the 2019 bond proposal, Norman Public Schools undertook an extensive process of research and fact finding to determine the projects that would be included in the proposal. This process consisted of a demographic study, facilities assessments and input from parents, teachers, staff and community stakeholders.

What could the future hold?

DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY

Our demographic study gathered historical data (birth rates, enrollment, building capacity, etc.), compiled vendor data projections, built maps and studied statistical models to discern trends and make projections. NPS determined that:

- Norman's student growth seems to have plateaued.
- Any projected growth is in northwest and eastern parts of city.

This lack of growth affords us the opportunity to continue investing in safety, security, facility improvements and instructional materials. It will also allow us to continue to optimize operating efficiency.

FACILITY ASSESSMENT


District administrators made visits to every school site and facility to review their physical condition and interview administrative, building and maintenance staffs. This information was used to help identify needs across the district, evaluate cost savings opportunities and prioritize projects.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Storm Shelters/ Security in Schools
We need to worry about our children's safety first and get shelters for each school along with security with all the shootings lately.
School Bond Issue Exchange

4.3 ★★★★★ (56)

translated by Google



Storm shelters in every school.
The safety of our children during severe weather is very important.
School Bond Issue Exchange

4.3 ★★★★★ (56)

translated by Google



Safe rooms for schools that need them
Safety, peace of mind during tornado season
School Bond Issue Exchange

4.3 ★★★★★ (55)

translated by Google



Storm shelters need at all schools
We don't want a loss of our children like there was in Moore.
School Bond Issue Exchange

4.3 ★★★★★ (55)

translated by Google



To ensure we continue to meet the needs and expectations of our community, the district conducted a survey, inviting all teachers, staff and current parents to participate. Responses were focused in the areas of:

- Safety and security
- Repairing / maintaining existing facilities
- Instructional materials
- Fine Arts / Athletics facilities
- Dimensions Academy facilities

FINANCE

To meet the needs prioritized by the community, teachers and staff, the ballot measure requests voters to consider a total bond of:

\$186 million

The targeted sinking millage rate for the bond is 30 mills, which is an increase compared to previous bonds (~26 mills) but commensurate with Norman's peer districts.

The bond consists of two separate propositions, as law requires that all transportation funds be voted on independent of other funds. Proposition One consists of \$182.5 million for all non-transportation projects while Proposition Two consists of \$3.5 million for transportation needs.

F O C U S A R E A S

Based on demographic and facility studies, as well as community input, NPS recommends priority projects in five main areas of focus that total \$186 million.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Storm shelters in all schools
- Interior and exterior door enhancements
- Protective window film
- Security cameras
- Alarm system enhancements
- Intercom upgrades
- Perimeter security
- Health services equipment

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- Textbooks
- Instructional technology upgrades
- Maintain student technology
- Library media materials

TRANSPORTATION

- Acquire transportation equipment, auxiliary transportation equipment and safety upgrades to certain existing transportation equipment.

FINE ARTS ATHLETICS

- Elementary music rooms
- Middle School band rooms
- New Fine Arts facilities in high schools
- Nancy O'Brian Center expansion
- Harve Collins field improvements
- Athletic facility improvements for middle and high schools

MAINTENANCE

- Classroom upgrades
- Roof replacements
- HVAC replacements
- Locker bank improvements
- Furniture upgrades
- Painting improvements
- Vehicle access and parking

F A Q S

What is a school bond issue?

A school bond election is a bond issue used by a public school district to fund capital improvement projects, instructional materials and transportation needs. These measures are placed on the ballot by school boards to be considered by the voting public. School bonds require a supermajority of 60 percent of votes to pass.

When is the school bond election?

The election is Tuesday, February 12, 2019. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Visit NormanPublicSchools.org/bond for voter registration, absentee voting information and more.

What is included in the proposal?

The 2019 bond proposal calls for significant investments in the safety and security of students and staff. In fact, if approved by voters, the bond would ensure that every school in the district has a storm shelter. Additional security measures include interior and exterior door enhancements, protective window film, security camera and alarm system upgrades, perimeter security and health services equipment.

Several schools would also receive multi-classroom additions, library renovations and parking improvements. Fine Arts is also a key component of the proposal, as many schools would receive new or upgraded facilities for music, band and visual arts programs. Additionally, funding would be maximized by building the art facilities as school storm shelters. Playgrounds across the district would also be upgraded and would also feature shade structures and safe, accessible surfaces for students with disabilities.

How was the proposal developed?

Projects identified in the school bond proposal were identified as a result of a demographic study, facility assessments and input from parents, teachers, staff and community stakeholders.

Will every school benefit?

Yes. If passed, every school site would benefit from improvement projects. Visit NormanPublicSchools.org/bond to view the projects listed by school.

Are bond issues cumulative?

Yes. Norman Public School District bond issues are steps in a long-term plan to maintain and enhance excellent educational opportunities. For example, the 2009 bond focused primarily on classroom technology, athletic facilities and the addition of a new elementary school. In 2014, the bond funded secure vestibules at every school, student technology, Freshman Academies and College and Career Centers. The 2019 bond would be an investment in a secure future for all students, as additional safety and security projects would be funded, Fine Arts facilities enhanced and a facility for students who thrive in alternative education built or renovated. In all cases, there are hundreds of additional projects that include upgrades such as new carpet, fresh paint, playground enhancements and more.

Would my property taxes increase?

Yes. The bond election calls for an increase in the targeted sinking fund millage rate from 26 to 30. This means for a home valued at \$100,000, residents would pay an additional \$44 per year in ad valorem taxes, which is an additional \$3.67 per month, about the same cost as one specialty coffee. It is important to note that the Norman Public School District's current target sinking fund millage rate falls well below many peer districts, and the last ad valorem tax increase request for the Norman school district occurred in 2001 - the year many current high school seniors were born.

How would the bond address student safety?

If approved by voters, the bond would ensure that every school in the district has a storm shelter. Additional security measures include interior and exterior door enhancements, protective window film, security camera and alarm system upgrades, perimeter security and health services equipment.

How would the bond impact the classroom?

In addition to roof repairs, furniture upgrades and improvements to heating and cooling systems, several schools would receive additional classrooms. The bond would also allow the district to purchase textbooks, library media materials and instructional technology, while also allowing the district to maintain the iTech program with additional student devices.

What if I don't have children in your schools?

If you have ever had kids in school or were a public school student yourself, people before you helped to fund the schools you and/or your child(ren) attended. Similarly, current Norman residents help pay for the schools we have now and improve in the future throughout the time they live here. As new residents move into the District's attendance area, they assume these taxes as well. Regardless of where you live in Oklahoma, your property taxes will help fund schools in that area. School facilities are a hub of Norman and are often open to all residents for academic, fine arts programs, athletic events, community meetings and other events that bring the entire community together.

Also, an educated community is a thriving community. Great schools increase property values and safe schools help ensure safe neighborhoods. Young people are our future workforce, homeowners and taxpayers. Their education prepares them for that next step into adulthood, and the stronger their foundation the better their outcomes.

Why invest in alternative education?

The Norman Public School District offers a unique, life-changing alternative education program to help ensure all students have equitable opportunities to achieve their full potential. Dimensions Academy offers a rigorous education for students at all levels who thrive in alternative learning environments. The accelerated program allows students to earn additional credits each semester. Many of the students who attend Dimensions do so by choice and must apply to be accepted.

Dimensions Academy is currently housed in two locations, one that serves students in kindergarten through 8th grade and another for high school students. The current facilities are owned by the State of Oklahoma and cannot be upgraded or remodeled.

Why expand the Performing Arts Center?

The Nancy O'Brian Center for the Performing Arts, which opened in 2004, is a hub of the community. Located adjacent to Norman North High School, the center serves the entire district and features a main stage, studio theatre, scene and costume shops, and an art gallery. The unique performance facility exists to provide students with curriculum-related arts experiences that are not possible in the normal classroom setting. An additional mission of the Center is to serve as a performance and activity venue for the Norman community. While the center was built primarily to house arts events created for and by our students, it is available for outside rentals on dates not already designated for student use.

The 2019 bond issue would allow the district to enhance the 15-year old facility and expand the building to include additional meeting space. In addition to hosting professional development programs, the expansion would provide meeting space for a variety of community groups and organizations.

The district office hosts meetings for dozens of community organizations and additional space is needed to serve our educators and the community.

How would Fine Arts programs benefit?

Fine Arts programs across the district would benefit from the bond issue. Additional music rooms in elementary schools, several band room additions and improvements in middle schools and new facilities at the high schools would ensure students have access to upgraded learning environments. In many cases, these facilities would also serve as storm shelters, which maximizes available funding.

Why will there be two propositions on the ballot?

By law, school bonds and school transportation bonds must be listed separately on the ballot. Combined, the 2019 bond proposal calls for \$186 million. Proposition 1 includes capital improvements, instructional materials and technology while Proposition 2 includes all transportation projects.

- Proposition 1: \$182.5 million (capital improvements, instructional materials and technology)
- Proposition 2: \$3.5 million (transportation only)

Where can I find ballot language?

Visit NormanPublicSchools.org/bond to view all bond details including the bond resolution.

What percentage is required for passage?

School bonds require a supermajority of 60 percent of votes to pass.

How would athletic programs benefit?

If approved, bond funds would allow the district to improve several athletic facilities that are used by thousands of students, families and local sports fans. For example, if approved, bond funds would allow the district to enhance athletic seating areas and resurface the field at Harve Collins Stadium.

At Norman High, funds would provide weight training facility enhancements, baseball/softball infield turf and seating improvements, press box enhancements, competition gym improvements, wrestling room renovations and soccer locker room upgrades. Additionally, lockers and office space upgrades would be provided for the tennis, softball and cross country programs.

At Norman North, the competition gym would receive locker room and office upgrades. Locker rooms for the soccer, tennis, track and cross country programs would be improved and the wrestling room would be expanded. New infield turf and outfield fences for baseball/softball fields would be provided, as well as baseball concession and press box enhancements.

Middle school athletic facility improvements may include refinished concession doors, restroom upgrades in gymnasiums, softball fencing improvements, shade structures as well as various athletic seating improvements.

For more information visit:
normanpublicschools.org/bond



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