



FH

**FOREST HILLS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Cultivating Possibility

**ELECTION
UPDATE**

September 18, 2023



ELECTION BASICS

November 7, 2023

Two Proposals

- Bond
- Operating Millage

Ballot Language

- Prescribed by law



OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL

Levied on non-homestead properties

- Industrial, commercial, and some agricultural property, and second homes
- Does not include a family's primary residence

Component of Foundation Allowance

- Largest source of revenue
- Day-to-day operations



OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL

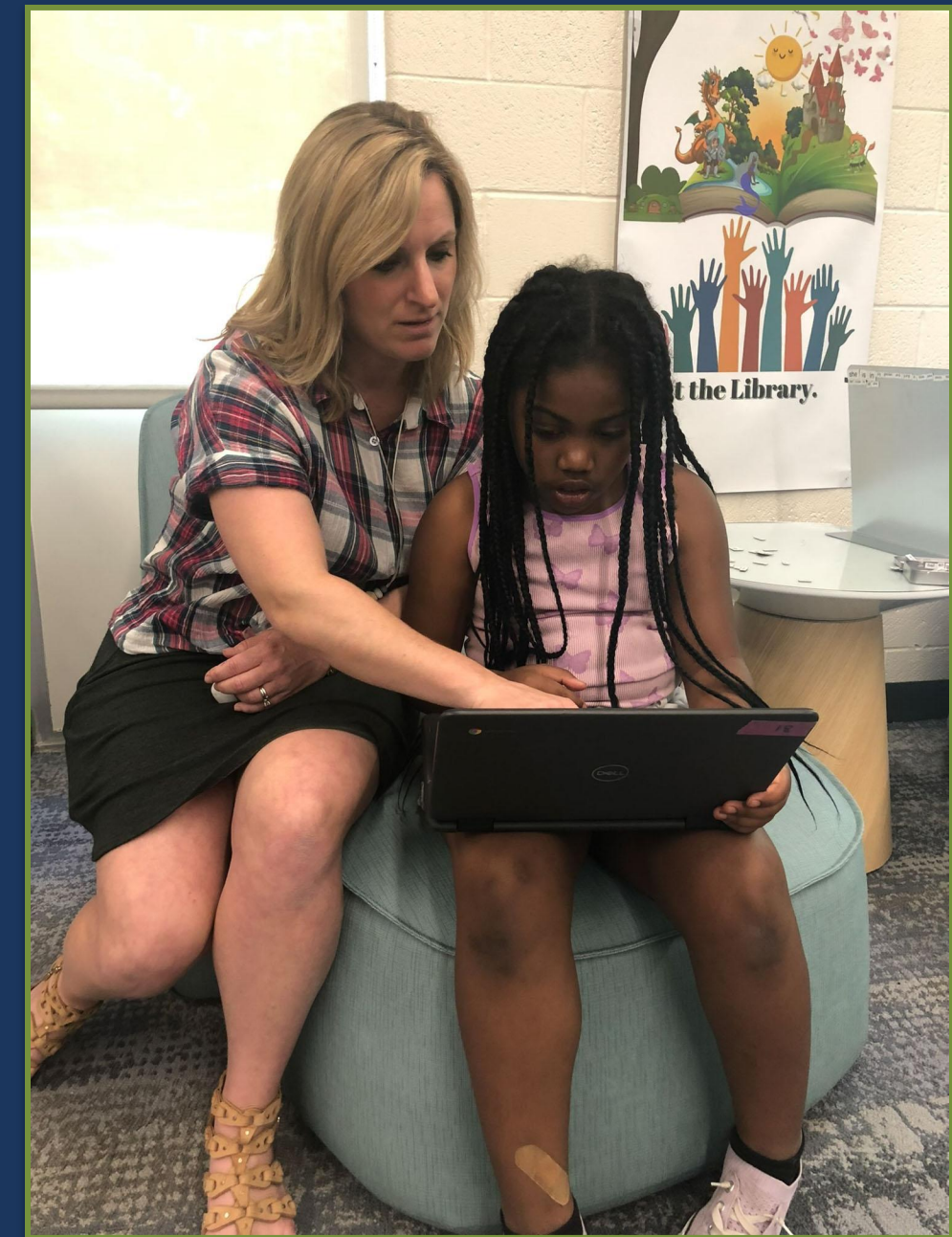
State of Michigan

- Assumes schools levy 18 mills
- Schools required to “rollback” levy rate if property tax values increase greater than the rate of inflation or 5%, whichever is less
- FHPS current levy rate is 17.6614

Current authorization expires in 2025

Requesting a .50 mill increase to restore rollbacks for 2024 and 2025

- If approved, expected to generate approx. \$395,000
- District would levy the statutory maximum rate of 18 mills



BOND PROPOSAL

REQUEST AMOUNT

\$340 million

IF APPROVED:

- Bonds issued in multiple series
- Projects through 2031
- No tax rate increase over the current rate is expected

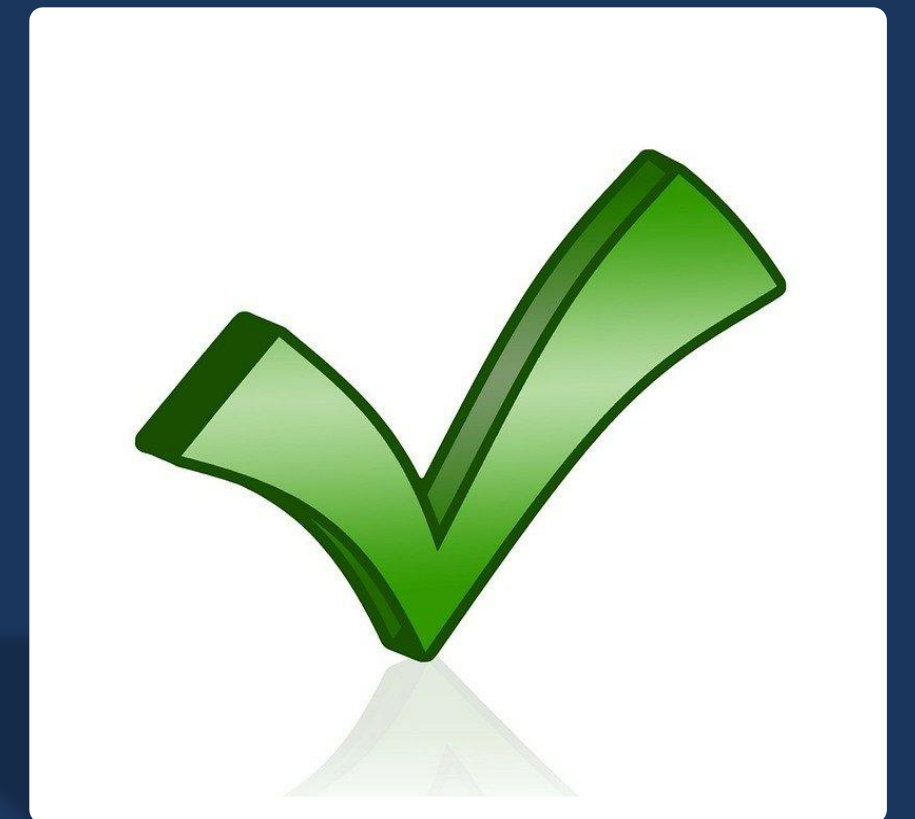


**NO TAX RATE
INCREASE**
expected over the current rate

BOND PROPOSAL

Bond funds **CAN** be used for

- Purchase of or development of real estate for school buildings
- Construction of school buildings or additions
- Renovations of school buildings
- Upgrades of sites and athletic facilities
- Technology equipment and school security improvements
- School buses, loose furnishings, and equipment
- Playground equipment and improvements
- Energy conservation improvements



BOND PROPOSAL

Bond funds **CANNOT** be used for

- Repair or maintenance of school buildings
- Employees salaries, wages, or benefits
- Staff training, consulting, or service contracts
- Classroom supplies, books, and office supplies
- Upgrades to operating systems and software
- Non-school bus vehicles





FHPS DEBT TAX RATE HISTORY

Tax Year	Tax Rate (in mills)
2023	6.05
2022	6.05
2021	6.10
2020	6.65
2019	6.65
2018	6.90
2017	7.60
2016	7.60
2015	7.70
2014	7.80
2013	7.90



PROPOSED PROJECTS PROCESS

- 1. STAKEHOLDER INPUT**
 - Small group meetings, i.e., Parent Advisory Committee and Athletic Booster Groups
 - Facility walkthroughs with principals, athletic directors, other district staff, architects, construction managers, and technology design consultants
- 2. DEVELOPMENT OF BROAD SPECIFICATIONS**
 - Assessments of mechanical systems, paving, and roofing
 - Continue updating learning environments across the district
 - Create equity in athletic facilities across high schools
- 3. DEVELOPMENT OF BUDGET ESTIMATES**
- 4. DEVELOPMENT OF DEBT CAPACITY AND TIMING OF BOND SERIES ISSUANCE**



BOND PROPOSAL



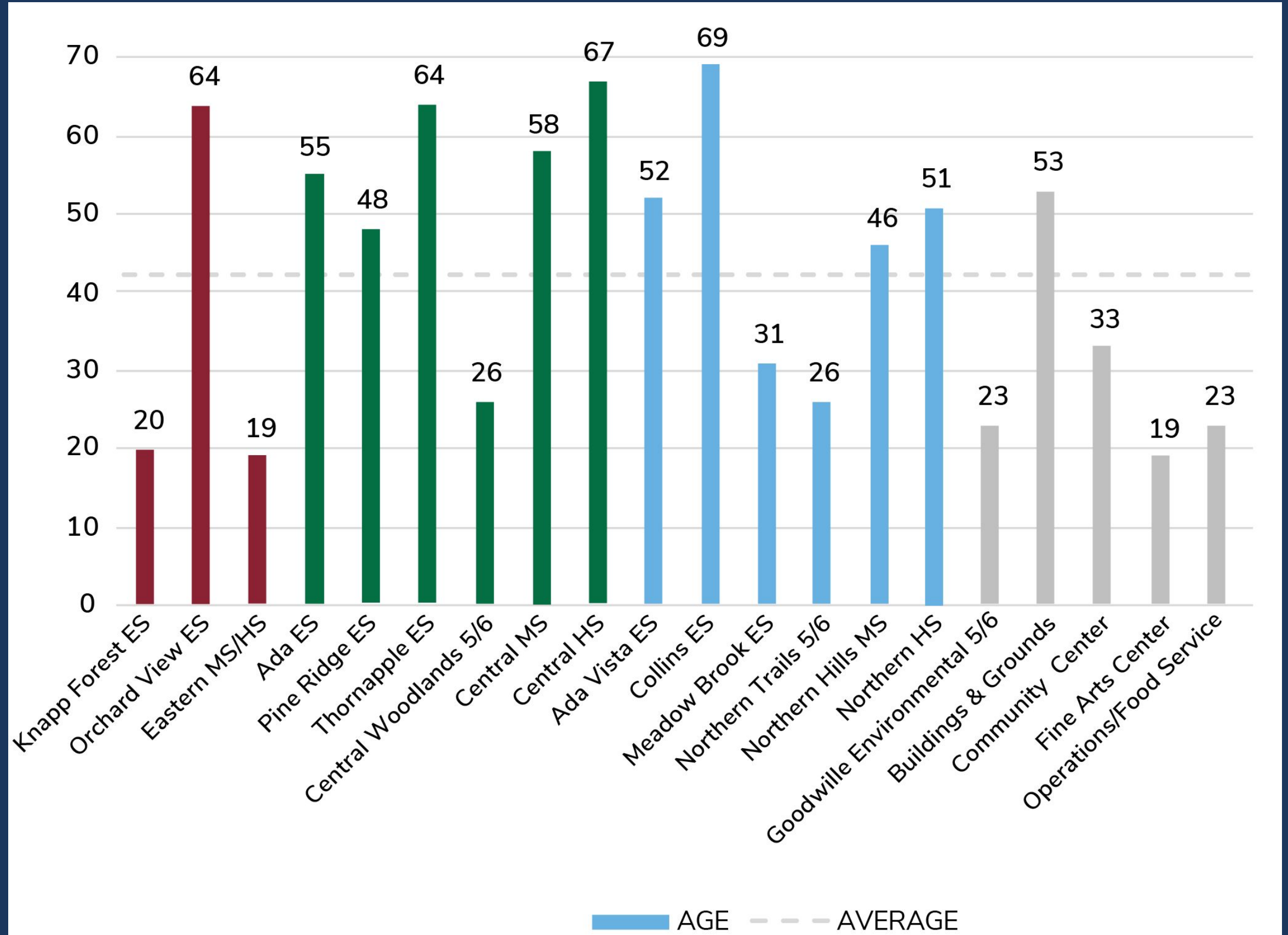
MODERNIZE LEARNING SPACES
 to prepare students for the future



UPDATE INFRASTRUCTURE
 to address aging systems and inefficiencies



IMPROVE ATHLETICS, FINE ARTS & COMMUNITY FACILITIES
 to enhance experiences



PROPOSED PROJECTS

ADA
\$11.5MM



ADA VISTA
\$4.0MM



COLLINS
\$1.0MM



KNAPP FOREST
\$8.3MM



Learning environments,
mechanical, paving,
playground

Roofing, mechanical, paving,
playground

Paving, playground

Learning environments,
mechanical, playground

PROPOSED PROJECTS

MEADOW BROOK
\$13.1MM



ORCHARD VIEW
\$1.9MM



PINE RIDGE
\$4.8MM



THORNAPPLE
\$1.8MM



Learning environments,
mechanical, paving,
playground

Mechanical, paving,
playground

Mechanical, paving,
playground

Mechanical, paving,
playground

PROPOSED PROJECTS

**CENTRAL
WOODLANDS 5/6
\$12.7MM**



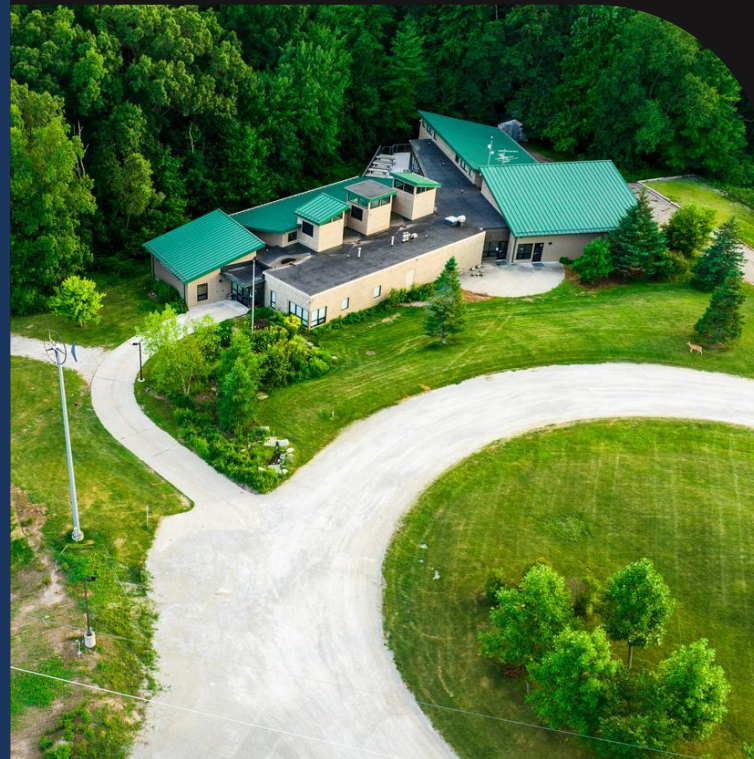
Learning environments,
mechanical, playground

**NORTHERN TRAILS
5/6
\$13.1MM**



Learning environments,
mechanical, paving,
playground

**GOODWILLIE 5/6
\$3.5MM**



Learning environments,
roofing, mechanical,
playground

**CENTRAL MIDDLE
\$0.4MM**



Mechanical, paving

PROPOSED PROJECTS

**NORTHERN HILLS
MIDDLE
\$19.0MM**



Learning environments,
roofing, mechanical

**EASTERN MIDDLE
\$16.5MM**



Learning environments,
roofing, paving, additional
access drive

**CENTRAL HIGH
\$41.2MM**



Learning environments,
roofing, mechanical, paving

**FHC OUTDOOR
ATHLETICS
\$10.0MM**



Turf base/softball fields,
expand tennis courts, light
auxiliary turf field

PROPOSED PROJECTS

EASTERN HIGH
\$16.5MM



Learning environments,
roofing, paving, additional
access drive

**FHE OUTDOOR
ATHLETICS**
\$18.5MM



Relocate and turf base/softball
fields, expand tennis courts,
add auxiliary turf field

NORTHERN HIGH
\$23.7MM



Learning environments,
roofing, mechanical, paving

**FHN OUTDOOR
ATHLETICS**
\$28.3MM



Turf base/softball fields,
expand tennis courts, add
auxiliary turf field, stadium
improvements

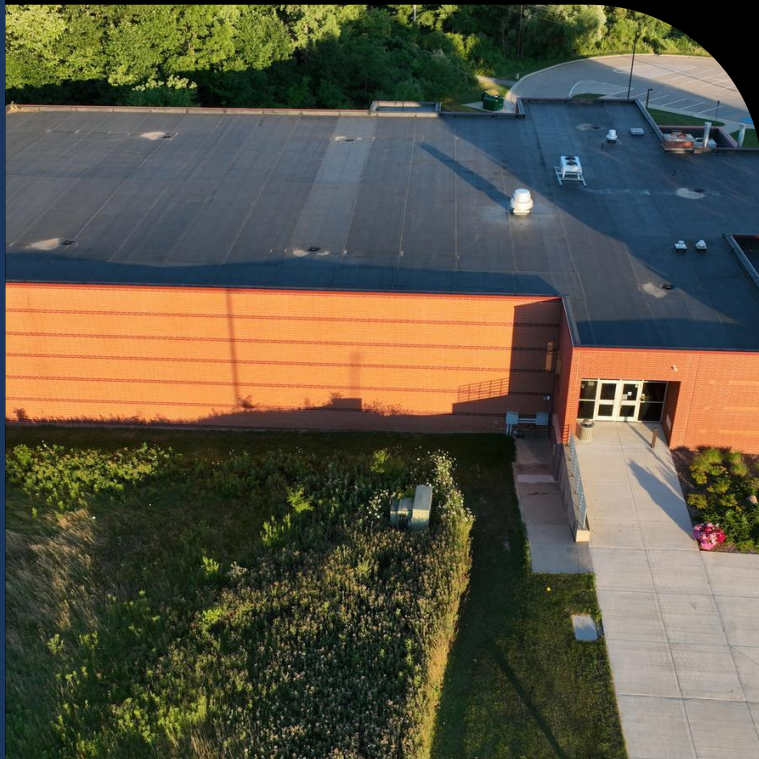
PROPOSED PROJECTS

**NEW AQUATIC
CENTER
\$51.6MM**



For regulation swim/dive/water polo meets/tournaments and community use

**COMMUNITY &
AQUATIC CENTER
\$8.1MM**



Fill in current pool and repurpose, update remainder of the facility

**FINE ARTS
CENTER
\$11.4MM**



Update portions of the facility, roofing, mechanical

**FOOD SERVICE
FACILITY
\$0.5MM**



Generator, roofing

PROPOSED PROJECTS

TRANSPORTATION CENTER \$4.0MM



Update facility, roofing,
mechanical

TECHNOLOGY, BUSES, FFE \$31.1MM



Life-cycle replacement of infrastructure, equipment,
devices, buses, etc.

COMMUNICATION



District communications and district staff must only deliver **FACTUAL** information while performing job duties.

District communication is reviewed by legal counsel. Board of Education members may deliver factual information AND encourage voters to vote "yes."

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS



Community Presentations

Bond and Operating Millage Proposals

JOIN US!

Learn more about these two proposals on the November ballot, and, if approved, how they would impact our district.
All presentations begin at 7 p.m.

9/26
Orchard View
Elementary

9/28
Thornapple
Elementary

10/3
Northern
High School



MORE ONLINE: WWW.FHPS.NET

Bond Proposal Overview



Voters in the Forest Hills Public Schools District will consider two items on the November 7, 2023, election ballot: (1) a bond proposal and (2) an [operating millage proposal](#).

This page is dedicated to understanding the bond proposal. If the bond proposal is approved, there is expected to be **NO TAX RATE INCREASE** from the current rate for FHPS property owners, and it would provide \$340 million to fund capital improvements throughout the district.

What Every Taxpayer Should Know about the Bond Proposal



- If approved, there is expected to be **NO tax rate increase** from the current rate.
- The amount of the bond proposal is for \$340 million.
- If approved, the bond proposal would fund capital improvements through 2031.
- Vote by November 7, 2023.

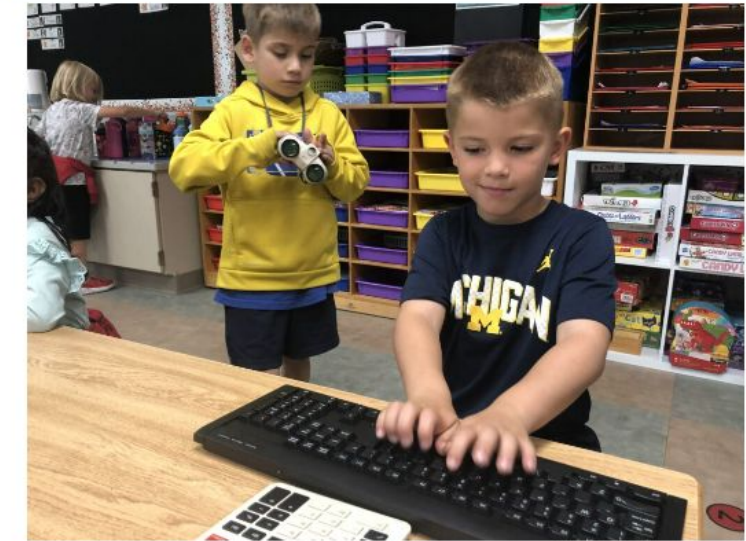
Commonly-Asked Questions about the Bond Proposal

- ▶ What is a bond proposal and how can funds from a bond be spent?
- ▶ How would the bond proposal impact my property tax rate?
- ▶ What do you mean there is no tax rate increase?
- ▶ Would the approval of the bond proposal have any impact on our current operational budget?
- ▶ What was the process to determine what is in the bond proposal?
- ▶ What are the focus areas of the bond proposal? What are the key projects in this bond proposal?
- ▶ Didn't we just pass a bond? What happened to those funds?
- ▶ What are the conditions of the school buildings?
- ▶ How can voters be sure the bond funds would be spent the way they are supposed to be spent?
- ▶ Is the school district going to immediately issue the entire \$340 million in bonds?
- ▶ Why are you asking for more money even though the State of Michigan just issued a large public school budget?
- ▶ Are technology purchases going to be amortized over a 15-year period? Is there a technology replacement plan?
- ▶ Are businesses and second homes (non-homestead property) and primary homes (homestead property) treated the same regarding bond millage?
- ▶ Would money from the bond proposal be used to pay teachers' salaries and benefits?
- ▶ With a successful bond election, what are the typical phases essential to the completion of a project?
- ▶ What oversights would hold the district accountable?
- ▶ At what point would the State of Michigan, as well as the local fire and police departments, provide input into the bond projects?
- ▶ What is included in the tennis court expansion projects?
- ▶ What is included in the athletic field projects?
- ▶ Why is a new aquatic center included in the proposed projects?
- ▶ What would happen to the current Community and Aquatic Center?
- ▶ What's the difference between a bond proposal and an operating millage proposal?
- ▶ Isn't there something else on the November ballot for Forest Hills Public Schools? What about the operating millage proposal?

Ballot and Voting Information

- ▶ Ballot language for the bond proposal
- ▶ To view a sample ballot, track the status of an absentee ballot, and verify voter registration
- ▶ How do I register to vote?
- ▶ Are owners of property in the school district eligible to vote if they do not reside in the school district?
- ▶ If I rent a house, can I vote?
- ▶ What are the requirements to be eligible to register to vote?
- ▶ My child just moved away to attend a college or university. Can they still vote?
- ▶ I am not available on election day. Can I vote sooner? How is an absentee voter ballot obtained?

Operating Millage Overview



Voters in the Forest Hills Public Schools District will consider two items on the November 7, 2023, election ballot: (1) a [bond proposal](#) and (2) an operating millage proposal.

This page is dedicated to understanding the operating millage proposal.

Forest Hills Public Schools voters will consider an operating millage proposal on the November 7, 2023, election ballot. If approved, this is a .5 mill increase (\$0.50 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) and is a tax levied on non-homestead properties. Non-homestead properties represent industrial, commercial, and some agricultural properties as well as "second homes." It is not a tax on a primary residence.

What Every Taxpayer Should Know about the Operating Millage Proposal



- If the operating millage is not approved, FHPS will continue to lose approximately \$395,000 of annual operating revenues.
- This is not a tax on one's primary residence.
- The operating millage is a component of the Foundation Allowance, which is the district's largest source of revenue.
- The State of Michigan assumes all school districts are levying 18 mills. When in fact, Forest Hills is not. This is because when property tax values rise faster than the rate of inflation, districts are required to reduce the number of mills being levied. A reduction in mills being levied results in lost revenue.
- If approved, it is expected that Forest Hills Public Schools will collect approximately \$395,000 to support operating costs in 2024.

Operating Millage Proposal Ballot Language

FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL

This proposal will allow the school district to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance.

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in Forest Hills Public Schools, Kent County, Michigan, be increased by .5 mill (\$0.50 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 2 years, 2024 and 2025, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2024 is approximately \$395,000 (this millage is to restore millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and will be levied only to the extent necessary to restore that reduction)?



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