



Macomb Intermediate School District

Frequently Asked Questions

The Macomb ISD Special Education Facilities Improvement Bond Election

When is the election?

The election will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. The polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Absentee ballots are available after September 29, 2022. To obtain an absentee ballot please contact your local Clerk's office or go to www.michigan.gov/vote and click on *Absentee Voting* in the left column. Absentee ballots can be returned to the Clerk's office through Election Day at 8:00 p.m.

What is on the ballot?

A \$97.465 million Facilities Improvement Bond Proposal is on the November 8th ballot.

Why is this special education facilities improvement bond proposal on the ballot?

Macomb ISD's schools and facilities that provide special education services to Macomb County's 19,000 special education students are, on average, 60 years old. These schools and facilities have reached the end of their useful life or need expansion or enhancement to provide students with the specialized facilities they need.

What Macomb County school districts will benefit if the special education facilities improvement bond proposal is approved by voters?

Special education students from all 21 school districts in Macomb County will benefit if voters approve the bond proposal. These students are from Anchor Bay School District, Armada Area Schools, Center Line Public Schools, Chippewa Valley Schools, Clintondale Community Schools, Eastpointe Community Schools, Fitzgerald Public Schools, Fraser Public Schools, Lake Shore Public Schools, Lakeview Public Schools, L'Anse Creuse Public Schools, Mount Clemens Community Schools, New Haven Community Schools, Richmond Community Schools, Romeo Community Schools, Roseville Community Schools, South Lake Schools, Utica Community Schools, Van Dyke Public Schools, Warren Consolidated Schools, and Warren Woods Public Schools.

What special education students will benefit if this bond proposal is approved by voters?

Macomb County's 19,000 special education students will benefit if the bond proposal is approved. They range in age from birth to age 26 and are eligible for services under disability areas such as Autism, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Emotional Impairment, Cognitive Impairment, Severe Multiple Impairment, Physical Impairment, Specific Learning Disability, Speech and Language Impairment, Visual Impairment, and Traumatic Brain Injury.

What will this bond proposal cost?

The bond proposal calls for a 0.17 mill tax increase. The cost for the average Macomb County homeowner will be less than **\$20 per year...** or about **5¢ per day.**

If the bond proposal is approved by voters, how will home values be affected?

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

The bond proposal projects are designed to reflect positively on homeowner property values and Macomb ISD's commitment to effectiveness and efficiency.

What is a bond proposal?

A bond is a State-approved funding process for a set scope of 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 those projects in the bond proposal. Bonds are typically set up to be paid back in 20-30 years.

In many ways, the bonding process is like a homeowner obtaining a mortgage and making payments over a period of years. The Macomb ISD's bond proposal length is not more than 24.25 years.

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
- School security
- Playground development, improvements and physical education facilities
- School bus purchases
- Technology purchases are limited to hardware and communication devices

Can any of the 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 or maintenance costs 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 will appear on the November 8th ballot?

Here is the exact ballot wording:

OFFICIAL BALLOT
MACOMB INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
COUNTIES OF MACOMB, ST. CLAIR AND OAKLAND
STATE OF MICHIGAN
SPECIAL EDUCATION FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT BOND PROPOSAL

Shall the Macomb Intermediate School District, Counties of Macomb, St. Clair and Oakland, State of Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Ninety-Seven Million, Four Hundred and Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$97,465,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds, in one or more series, for the purpose of paying for the cost of the following capital projects:

Serving special education students, including infants and toddlers, throughout Macomb County, with disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy, cognitive impairments and emotional disabilities by:

- Acquiring sites and erecting special education buildings, acquiring buildings for special education, erecting additions to existing school buildings and other facilities and preparing developing and improving sites at school buildings and other facilities for special education; and
- Remodeling, equipping, re-equipping, furnishing, re-furnishing school buildings and other facilities for special education; and purchasing school buses for special education students?

YES _____

NO _____

The maximum number of years any series of bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of refunding, is not more than Twenty-four and one quarter (24.25) years; the estimated millage that will be levied to pay the proposed bonds in the first year is 0.17 mills (which is equal to \$0.17 per \$1,000 of taxable value); and the estimated simple average annual millage that will be required to retire each series of bonds is 0.15 mills annually (\$0.15 per \$1,000 of taxable value). The tax levy to pay the proposed bonds in the first year for a homeowner with a home value equal to the Macomb County average value of \$230,767 is estimated not to exceed \$19.62 for the year.

The proposed projects to be financed under this bond proposal will benefit special education students from public school academies and the following school districts located within the School District:

Anchor Bay School District	Macomb Intermediate School District
Armada Area Schools	Mount Clemens Community Schools
Center Line Public Schools	New Haven Community Schools
Chippewa Valley Schools	Richmond Community Schools
Clintondale Community Schools	Romeo Community Schools
Eastpointe Community Schools	Roseville Community Schools
Fitzgerald Public Schools	South Lake Schools
Fraser Public Schools	Utica Community Schools
Lake Shore Public Schools	Van Dyke Public Schools
Lakeview Public Schools	Warren Consolidated School
L'Anse Creuse Public Schools	Warren Woods Public Schools

(Pursuant to State law, the proceeds may not be used for teacher, administrator or employee salaries, repair or maintenance costs or other operating expenses).

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

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 annually.

What projects will be completed if the special education facilities improvement bond proposal is approved by voters?

Below is a summary of some of the projects to be improved:

Enhance security in buildings, add classrooms to current buildings, construct Special Education facilities, renovate bathrooms, purchase additional specialized equipment, and provide new innovative technology to meet the needs of special needs students.

Who can vote in this bond proposal election?

Registered voters residing within the boundaries of the Macomb Intermediate School District can vote in this election.

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

Go to the Michigan Voter Information website (www.michigan.gov/vote) 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. Registered voters do not need a reason to vote by absentee ballot. You can request an absentee ballot application from your Clerk's Office or by going online to www.michigan.gov/vote click on *Absentee Voting* in the left column.

Absentee ballots will be available to voters after September 29 and can be cast through Election Day.

Where can I get more information about the bond proposal?

- Go to www.macombisdbond.net
- Contact Justin Michalak, Macomb ISD's Assistant Superintendent for Special Education, at 586/228-3512 or by email at specialeducation@misd.net.

