



2025 Priority Needs Bond Proposal: Frequently Asked Questions

What proposal is the November 4, 2025, ballot?

Mason Public Schools is placing a zero-tax-rate increase bond proposal on the November 4 ballot. If approved, the bond would generate approximately \$66 million without raising the current tax rate of 5.68 mills for Mason homeowners.

Why is Mason Public Schools proposing a bond?

As outlined in the district's 2023-28 Strategic Plan, the district is actively continuing its commitment to modernize our current facilities and plan for future improvements. Our district has a unique opportunity to continue the improvements needed while remaining fiscally responsible to our community and not raising the current tax rate paid by homeowners.

How is it possible that this is a zero-tax-rate increase (from the existing millage rate)?

MPS is due to pay off the bond that was issued in 1995 for school renovations. If the new bond is approved by voters, taxes collected at the current rate of 5.68 mills would generate approximately \$66 million. The payments on the new bond would not require any increase to the current amount assessed to district taxpayers, resulting in a *zero-tax-rate increase*.

How and why was this plan developed?

The scope of this proposal was developed through various community engagement activities, including a community survey, a town hall session, and small-group informational discussions, to determine priority projects needed in the district. More than 1,000 community members took part in a survey. The results of the survey include:

Survey Question	Community Response
How likely would you support keeping current taxes at 5.68 mills?	Support = 65% Oppose = 18%
Would you support improvements to the auditorium?	Yes: 74% No: 26%
What's the best use of future bond dollars?	MMS = 6% MHS = 10% Both = 71%
Do you consider the following buildings to be excellent or good?	Elementary = 77% Athletics = 57% STEM = 34% (48% n/a) MMS = 34% Performing arts = 30% - lowest value
Was the 2017 bond a success?	Yes = 62% No = 13%

Where can I find the full survey results?

Reports of the community survey can be found on the district website.



What are the details of the proposed bond and what buildings would be updated if the bond is approved by voters?

The MPS Board of Education (BOE) voted to place a zero-tax-increase bond proposal on November 4, 2025, ballot. If approved, the bond would generate an estimated \$66 million, depending on future taxable values and projects evaluated by Baker Tilly, the MPS bond financing consultant, without increasing the current tax rate paid by homeowners.

The approximate bond dollar allocations and projects presented by the bond steering committee include:



Extensive Middle School Renovations

51% of Bond*

- Make major renovations to student spaces
- Upgrade HVAC & plumbing needs
- Improve public access & traffic flow



High School Renovations

33% of Bond*

- Overhaul the existing auditorium
- Update HVAC systems
- Update student spaces



New Transportation Facility

16% of Bond*

- Increase safety & security
- Expand capacity
- Enhance efficiency & operations

*Approximate bond dollar allocations per the School Bond Committee recommendation to the Board of Education

The new transportation facility is a unique need for our district. As a district that relies heavily on buses, we struggle to provide adequate space for our transportation and maintenance staff, as well as for our vehicles. If the bond passes, we would have the opportunity to provide staff with safer working environments, expand their capacity, and enhance daily operations and efficiency.

What is the anticipated timing for projects in this proposed bond program?

If the bond passes, projects would take place from 2026 to 2033. Construction phases and information would be provided on the district website in future communications.



How would the bond proposal impact students and the community?

The district's goal is to continue providing students, teachers, and staff with modern, safe and secure learning environments. As outlined in the [2023-2028 strategic plan](#), the district identified four focus areas:

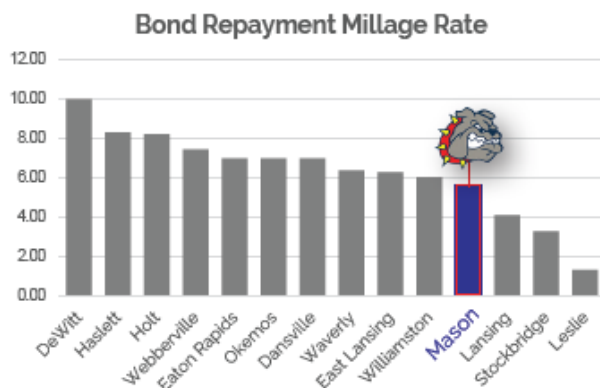
1. Instructional improvement and innovation
2. Student supports
3. Staff recruitment, retention, and development
4. Facilities and infrastructure

To achieve our vision and mission, we must continue to uphold high building standards, ensuring that our schools and community remain safe and our students are learning in an environment that prepares them for their future.

How does our community's millage rate compare to that of other school districts?

If passed, Mason Public Schools would continue to be one of the lowest millage rates in the area. Please refer to the chart below:

If the bond passes, Mason Public Schools will continue to be one of the lowest millage rates in the area.



How can bond proceeds be used?

Bond proceeds **can** be used for the following items:

- Construction and remodeling of facilities
- Purchase of instructional technology equipment
- Equipment and furniture
- Site improvements
- Bus purchases

Bond proceeds **cannot** be used for the following items:

- Salaries and wages
- General operating expenses and maintenance
- Classroom supplies and textbooks

How is this bond different from the 2017 bond?

The 2017 School Improvement Bond provided significant improvements to all MPS elementary schools, as well as limited improvements to Mason Middle School and Mason



High School. This next phase would shift the focus to the priority needs of those two buildings, as well as our transportation facility.

How does the lottery/marijuana tax/etc. generate funds for schools? Do local districts see those dollars directly?

Lottery and marijuana taxes *do provide some funding* for education, and these revenues are helpful. However, these revenues can't possibly cover what schools need.

Take the lottery: In many states, it was introduced with promises of boosting school budgets, but often, it ends up replacing existing funds rather than adding to them. In Michigan, the funds get placed into the school aid fund, which provides local school districts with annual funding per student (also known as per pupil funding). It also provides funding to colleges and universities, which has increased significantly over the last 10 years.

The revenue from both lottery and marijuana sales are helpful, but they are a small percentage of the overall school aid fund. In addition, the school aid fund is used for more than supporting K-12 schools in traditional ways, and it's rare for a local district to receive a state allocation for facility needs.

What is the difference between a bond and a sinking fund?

A bond is a form of borrowing, which means taxpayers must pay back the borrowed funds over a period of years with interest. A sinking fund millage is levied, not borrowed, which means the revenues are generated from taxes and do not include the district taking on additional debt or interest expenses. A sinking fund is used on a "pay as you go" basis, and all monies collected are utilized directly to benefit the district annually.

How much does the sinking fund bring in, and what is it used for?

Mason Public Schools currently has a sinking fund that was established in 2006 and is set to expire in 2026. This fund generates approximately \$850,000 annually. It operates as a "pay as you go" system, allowing the district to make cash purchases for repairs and improvements as needed without incurring debt. The sinking fund is used for various purposes, including repairs to parking lots, roofs, buildings, and athletic facilities.

Where do I register to vote?

To [vote](#) in the November 4, 2025, election, you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age by Election Day, a resident of Michigan, and a resident of the Mason Public School District. Please visit your local township or city clerk to register to vote or visit any [Secretary of State](#) office.

If I am unable to make it to the polls on November 4, what are my options for absentee voting?

All eligible and registered voters in Michigan may now request an absentee ballot. Absentee voter applications are available beginning 40 days before every election, or Thursday, September 25, 2025.

To become an absentee voter, visit:



- www.michigan.gov/vote
- Your township or city clerk's office

Note: Once election ballots are available in the clerk's office, you can walk into your clerk's office, receive an absentee application, fill it out, and immediately be given your ballot to cast your vote.

What will the ballot language read on Election Day, November 4, 2025, and what does it mean?

2025 Bond Proposal

UNDERSTANDING THE BOND BALLOT PROPOSAL



Shall Mason Public Schools, Ingham County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Sixty-Six Million One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$66,150,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

\$66 MILLION BOND
The district will sell bonds totaling \$66,150,000 million

erecting, furnishing and equipping additions to the middle school building; remodeling, furnishing and refurbishing and equipping and re-equipping school buildings; erecting, furnishing and equipping a new maintenance and transportation building; acquiring, installing, equipping and re-equipping school buildings for instructional technology; purchasing school buses; and preparing, developing, improving and equipping playgrounds, athletic fields and facilities and sites?

EXTENSIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL RENOVATIONS

- Make major renovations to student spaces
- Upgrade HVAC & plumbing needs
- Improve public access & traffic flow

HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATIONS

- Overhaul the existing auditorium
- Update HVAC systems
- Update student spaces

NEW TRANSPORTATION FACILITY

- Increase safety & security
- Expand capacity
- Enhance efficiency & operations

YES _____
NO _____

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2026 is 1.89 mills (\$1.89 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 of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is thirty (30) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 2.40 mills (\$2.40 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.)

ZERO-TAX-RATE INCREASE
The bond proposal would result in a Zero-Tax-Rate Increase from the existing millage rate

Who can I contact if I have additional questions?

Please contact Dr. Gary Kinzer by email at kinzerg@masonk12.net or by phone at 517-676-648 if you have any additional questions regarding the bond proposal.

Where can I find more information about the bond proposal?

To find more information on the November 4, 2025, bond proposal, please visit our district website at www.masonk12.net/district/bond/.

