



Frequently Asked Questions

What is a bond?

A bond is similar to a home mortgage. It is a contract to repay borrowed money with a stated interest rate over time. In Texas, most school districts utilize bonds to finance construction, renovations, and equipment.

Why is the District holding a bond election?

The Board of Trustees unanimously called for a May bond election to address the age and condition of the 50 year old High School and Elementary Campuses and increase the safety and security on all campuses as well as providing facilities that meet required standards for instructional programming.

How was this proposal developed?

The Board and Administration established a Strategic Planning Committee involving 82 parents, staff members, business, city, and faith leaders in January 2016 to set the mission and plans for the future of Mineola ISD. The recommendation included conducting a Facilities audit and forming a Facilities Committee. The Facilities Committee of 32 parents, staff, and community members, met during the Fall of 2016 and made recommendations at the December 2016 meeting. During that time they toured all campuses, learned about the District's enrollment and financial position as well as MISD's educational mission and goals. They worked to prioritize and create a long range plan for Board consideration.

What were the recommendations to the School Board?

The priority of the committee was to upgrade the safety and security on all MISD campuses and provide a learning environment that met standards while making the best use of all current facilities. The first phase of the long range plan includes the construction of a new High School with a Performing Arts Center and Career and Technology (CTE) wing along with the construction of a new road to remove traffic flow from the loop. Subsequent phases involve remodeling the High School and the Middle / Primary Schools to meet required standards and ultimately put the Primary and Elementary students on the same campus.

How much will this bond cost?

Approximately \$35.19 a month for the average \$109,459 homestead in Mineola ISD

When was the last successful bond election in MISD?

The last successful bond was in 1986 for the construction of the Middle School / Primary School.

Why now?

Our facilities have served our District for many years, but the cost to maintain and operate facilities increases as the buildings get older. The past four years, MISD has spent 19% of the Maintenance and Operating Budget on repairs leaving only 81% of the budget for classroom support. New facilities are more efficient and cheaper to operate. New facilities are also embedded with safety features and technology to help MISD meet Texas Education Agency standards.

How old are our current campuses?

- The original Mineola High School and Elementary School campuses were built in 1967.
- The Middle School and Primary School were constructed in 1986.

For how long will the bonds be financed?

The bonds will be amortized over a period not-to-exceed 30 years. The bonds will be sold with an option to pre-pay early on the bonds in 10 years with no penalty.

Will my taxes go up if I am over 65 years of age?

No. By law, if you have applied for and have received an Age 65 or Older Exemption, your taxes CANNOT be raised above the frozen level unless you make significant improvements or additions to your home. A significant improvement project would be anything beyond normal maintenance and repair, such as building a swimming pool or adding on a garage or game room to your home.

How will the money be spent?

The bond funds would construct a new high school with five classrooms designed for CTE programs and an 800 seat capacity performing arts center. Bond funds would also be used for the road construction. In the event that the completed projects are under budget, the decision to use remaining funds to complete additional phases of the long range plan designated by using fund balance would be available.

BOND PROPOSAL \$41,000,000

NEW HIGH SCHOOL CORE FACILITIES	\$27,000,000
CTE AREA CONNECTED TO HIGH SCHOOL	\$5,000,000
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (800 CAPICITY)	\$8,300,000
ROAD CONSTRUCTION	\$700,000

Is the school design available for viewing?

Not yet, as the District will not spend the thousands of dollars for design fees for buildings that have not yet been approved by the voters. Input from parents, staff, and the community will happen once the bond is passed during the design phase.

Can bond money pay for teacher salaries and classroom instruction?

No. By law, bond money may not be used for recurring expenses (known as maintenance and operating expenses, M&O), such as salaries, utilities, and daily supplies. Bond money when used to construct new facilities and renovate existing facilities can eliminate some maintenance expenses, thereby freeing up M&O money for operations.

How does our current tax rate compare with surrounding school districts who can conducted recent bond elections?

Bullard ISD	\$ 1.6700	Lindale ISD	\$ 1.4950
Spring Hill ISD	\$ 1.6700	Arp ISD	\$ 1.4600
Gladewater ISD	\$ 1.5650	Athens ISD	\$ 1.4365
Van ISD	\$ 1.5614	Quitman ISD	\$ 1.4350
Union Grove ISD	\$ 1.5198	Sulphur Springs ISD	\$ 1.4054
Longview ISD	\$ 1.5130	Mineola ISD	\$ 1.1700
Winona ISD	\$ 1.4986		

Who can vote?

Anyone at least 18 years of age and living within the boundaries of Mineola ISD is eligible to vote. You must be registered by Thursday, April 6 in order to participate in this election. You do not need to be a property owner to vote.

How do I register to vote?

You can check your voter registration status at www.votetexas.gov. Voter registration cards are available at each campus office and in the Administration Building. To register to vote, simply pick up a voter registration application, fill it out, and mail it to the address listed on the application by Thursday, April 6.

Where and when can I vote?

Early voting will be held weekdays beginning Monday, April 24 – Tuesday, May 2 from 8 am – 8 pm at the MISD Administration Building, 1000 West Loop 564, Mineola.

Election Day is Saturday, May 6 from 7 am – 7 pm. at the Mineola City Hall, 300 Greenville Highway, Mineola.

How will the ballot be worded?

“THE ISSUANCE OF \$41,000,000 OF MINEOLA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BUILDING BONDS FOR THE PURPOSES OF DESIGNING, CONSTRUCTING, RENOVATING, IMPROVING, ACQUIRING, AND EQUIPPING SCHOOL FACILITIES, AND THE LEVYING OF A TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF.”

There will be one proposition. Voters will be asked to vote for or against the proposition.