East Jackson School - Bond Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the tax increase?**

   None- the tax rate would stay the same. It is currently at 7.0 mills and if approved, the tax rate would stay the same for five years, and then steadily drop from the 7.0 mill rate.

2. **You have the bond proposal for $12.34 million. Will this take care of all of our needs?**

   This will take care of many needs that were identified during our district needs assessment and will allow us to keep more dollars focused on the classroom and programming that benefit students. This is an opportunity to make necessary improvements to our district that will last for years to come. We can strategically and rationally protect our community's greatest resource…our schools and our future!

3. **Why is the bond proposal important to our school district?**

   In the State of Michigan (unlike surrounding states), school funding is to be used for educational needs of the students and not intended for large capital improvements. Since Proposal A was passed in 1993, school funding was greatly changed. Property taxes were significantly lowered and major facility projects going forward are done with local voter approval.

4. **What is the long term vision for the school district and its buildings?**

   Our vision is to focus on creating a student-centered, equitable, and modern learning environment that fosters academic excellence, promotes student well-being, and actively engages the community. We want to ensure all facilities are accessible, sustainable, and adaptable to the ever evolving educational needs. This involves incorporating innovative teaching methods, technology integration, flexible spaces, and with a focus on building maintenance and updates to support a positive learning experience for all students.

5. **Does the Board of Education support the proposal?**

   Our entire Board of Education has been involved in the process and are unified in their support of this project.

6. **What security enhancements will be made?**

   There will be updates to classroom and building security. The project aims to replace classroom doors, locksets and windows, making classrooms and the building overall more secure.

7. **Why not use the district's operating budget to fund the needs listed in the proposal?**

   While it might seem straightforward to simply use a district's operating budget to fund new needs, there are several reasons why this isn't always practical. There are limitations on available funds, we have existing budget allocations. We cannot continue to fund large capital improvement projects out of our general fund budget without negatively affecting our current programs and our students.

8. **How would the bond impact learning environments for teachers and students?**

   Yes, this proposal will definitely improve the learning improvements for our students and staff at all schools.

9. Will bond dollars be used for staff salaries or other district expenses?

No, by law, we cannot use bond dollars for staff salaries or benefits.

10. Will special emphasis be placed on hiring local contractors and suppliers?

Yes. Our Board of Education decides who is awarded the contracts. Bid packages can be designed to help assist local contractors engage the bidding process. The Board of Education chooses which bids to accept.

11. What are the key dates leading up to the vote?

March 27 is the first date absentee ballots are available. May 6, 2025 in person voting.

12. Who can I contact if I have additional questions?

Superintendent Punches will be to answer your questions. Feel free to call or email him with any questions.

13. Where is the best place to find information about the bond issue?

The District's website is the best place to find out all the details. We have received donations to produce informational flyers and poster boards to show highlights of the project. Feel free to contact Superintendent Punches as well.

14. What happens if the bond doesn't pass?

Our district's needs do not go away. The longer we wait to replace or fix items in need, the more expensive it will become to fix or replace going forward.