WESTVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2026 CAPITAL BOND INITIATIVE

Preserving the Past. Ensuring the Future.

A Comprehensive, Plain-English Community Guide & Transparency FAQ Manual addressing the upcoming election on Tuesday, August 25, 2026. This official guide is designed to provide clear, fact-checked, and honest answers for all Adair County residents, families, and property owners.

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1. A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Westville Public Schools Community, Families, and Neighbors,

We find ourselves at a critical crossroads for our school district. As we stand together as Yellowjackets and celebrate our school's proud heritage, our Board of Education has proposed a strategic capital plan designed to ensure our students have safe, modern, and permanent spaces in which to learn, grow, and succeed. Guided by the theme ***'Preserving the Past. Ensuring the Future,'*** *we submit this restructured bond initiative to you for your consideration on August 25, 2026*

We are deeply aware of the economic pressures facing Adair County. Ours is one of the poorest counties in Oklahoma, and Oklahoma remains among the poorest states nationally. Everyday expenses and inflation are very real, and any discussion of tax investments is understandably met with caution. We approach this election with humble hearts and immense gratitude for the decades of support this community has given our schools. This bond proposal is not a request for a luxury or a fancy design. It is a carefully calculated, minimal-cost solution to severe overcrowding and safety conditions on our campus.

Earlier this year, a clear majority of voters—54.75%—supported our unified bond package. However, because Oklahoma requires a supermajority of 60.00% to pass school bonds, we fell just 5.25% short. We took that outcome to heart. We listened to property owners who supported classroom upgrades but had reservations about athletic facilities. In response, the Board of Education took the unprecedented step of splitting the package into two independent propositions, putting the choice in your hands. You can support Proposition 1 for core science labs and permanent classrooms, while evaluating Proposition 2 for the vocational and gymnasium expansions on its own merits. This is your school, your money, and your choice.

Delaying this decision will only result in our facility issues worsening and construction inflation making these same improvements significantly more expensive in the future. We encourage everyone to look at the facts presented in this guide, join us for a personal guided tour of our facilities, and cast an informed vote on August 25th.

Respectfully submitted,
Ryan Swank
Superintendent, Westville Public Schools

2. Seeing is Believing: Guided Facility Tours

There is a massive difference between reading about facility needs and seeing them with your own eyes. We understand that in the past, school tours have seen low attendance. However, as community engagement is our top priority, we are issuing a direct, heartfelt 'All Call' to all Westville, Watts, Baron, Christie, and Proctor residents to come walk our campuses. We want you to see the precise condition of our current classroom spaces so that you can make a fully informed decision on August 25th.

When:	Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday leading up to Election Day, at 4:00 PM, 5:00 PM, and 6:00 PM. Additional Saturday tours are available on August 22 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.
Where:	Tours begin at the Superintendent's Office (High School Main Entrance).
What You Will See:	• Step Inside the Portable Trailers: Walk inside the current, detached portable classrooms where students are exposed to weather during class changes and high HVAC humidity. • Visit the Vo-Ag Woodshop: Stand in our overcrowded Agricultural Mechanics shop where students train with limited space and lack of visual observation safety windows. • Experience the Gymnasium Congestion: See the structural and spatial limitations of our 70+ year old gymnasium firsthand.
How to Attend:	No RSVP is required. If these times do not work for your schedule, simply call the District Office at (918) 723-3181 and we will happily arrange a private, individual tour at a time that works for you.

3. Understanding the Restructured Ballot

Q: Why is the bond split into two independent propositions?

A: In our previous school bond election, a clear majority of our neighbors—54.75%—voted in favor of the unified proposal. However, Oklahoma law requires a 60.00% supermajority approval for school bonds to pass. Following that vote, the school board listened directly to property owners who supported classroom upgrades but had reservations about athletic facilities. To honor that feedback, the Board restructured the proposal into two independent ballot questions: Proposition 1 ($2,105,000) for core science classrooms, and Proposition 2 ($15,955,000) for vocational agriculture and a multipurpose event gym. This allows voters to evaluate and vote on each set of facilities completely separately. You can vote Yes on both, No on both, or Yes on one and No on the other.

Q: What exactly is included in Proposition 1 ($2,105,000) and where will it sit?

A: Proposition 1 focuses exclusively on core academics. It will construct and equip a new, permanent High School classroom building featuring four state-of-the-art science laboratories. It will be built in the open space between the west end of the High School and the Junior High building. This location creates a secure, indoor-corridor academic hallway, keeping students safely inside. Most importantly, constructing this permanent building will allow us to permanently retire and remove four detached, temporary portable trailer classrooms currently in use.

Q: What projects are included in Proposition 2 ($15,955,000) and where will they be located?

A: Proposition 2 targets career-technical vocational training and multipurpose community event space:
1. Upgrades and remodeling of our existing vocational agricultural building. This project will reconfigure and relocate our existing woodshop to establish a brand-new adjacent classroom space, add a large workshop, construct three classrooms, and build a poultry and food science lab designed with improved accessibility to the walk-in cooler. To maximize student safety, the updated layout features large safety observation windows so instructors can clearly monitor machinery and active workshops directly from the classroom.
2. Multipurpose Event Center & Gymnasium ($12,483,130): An ADA-compliant building that will sit on our current practice field space, featuring seating for over 1,150 spectators. To maximize building footprint efficiency and keep construction costs low, classrooms are built directly beneath the bleachers. This location allows us to keep our existing gym fully intact to serve daily elementary physical activity.

Q: How does our school district's current state academic rating (D) relate to this bond election?

A: Our current "D" state academic rating is a serious concern that the Board, administration, and teachers are addressing with absolute focus, particularly in areas like reading comprehension. To improve academic outcomes, our students must have a stable, secure, and distraction-free learning

environment. Currently, our high school students attend core classes in detached portable trailers that suffer from chronic HVAC failure and high humidity, creating a damp, noisy, and highly disruptive learning environment. Furthermore, having students walk outside between detached trailers in rain, freezing cold, or extreme heat breaks their instructional focus and introduces a constant campus security vulnerability. By constructing permanent, quiet, indoor-corridor classrooms in Proposition 1, we can permanently retire those trailers, providing our teachers and students with the safe, modern learning spaces required to raise reading comprehension and elevate our academic performance.

Q: Why weren't the Vocational Agriculture and Science projects put on one proposal, with the new Gymnasium/Event Center as a separate proposal? Wouldn't that have balanced the costs of the two proposals better?

A: While balancing the dollar amounts of the two propositions might seem logical at first glance, the School Board and administration structured the ballots based on **educational and operational alignment rather than price tags.** The Gymnasium/Event Center and the Vocational Agriculture expansion are fundamentally linked because they serve as the dual engines for our district's **Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.**

We feel strongly that the Gymnasium/Event Center and the Agriculture project belong together in **Proposition 2** for several critical reasons:

- **It is Far More Than a Gym:** While our student-athletes and physical education classes desperately need a safe, regulation-sized court, this multipurpose facility is designed to serve our entire student body. It will act as a high-capacity hub where all of our career-tech programs can host regional competitions, leadership assemblies, and community events.
- **A Dedicated FCCLA Classroom & Real-World Hospitality Training:** Our Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) program will have a dedicated classroom and state-of-the-art instructional kitchen housed **directly inside the new Event Center building.** This strategic placement provides our students with invaluable, hands-on, real-world opportunities to plan, cater, and host major athletic tournaments, banquets, and community gatherings.
- **Proximity and Career-Tech Synergy:** The planned location of the new Event Center puts it in immediate proximity to both our current **Vocational Agriculture building** and our **TSA (STEM) program spaces.** This geographical grouping allows our agriculture, woodshop, and STEM students to easily utilize the massive open floor of the Event Center to host hands-on regional exhibitions, livestock grading clinics, and robotics competitions on our home campus.

The Bottom Line: Proposition 1 was strictly reserved for our core, high school academic science classrooms to address immediate reading comprehension and academic trailer replacements.

Proposition 2 brings all of our hands-on vocational, agricultural, and community spaces together into one unified, heavily utilized center that benefits 100% of Westville students

4. Understanding Property Taxes & Sinking Funds

Q: How do school property taxes actually work? Can we keep it simple?

A: Think of property taxes as a cooperative investment in our community's infrastructure. In Oklahoma, you are not taxed on what your home would sell for (its market value). Instead, you are taxed on a much smaller number called the Assessed Value, which is independently set by the County Assessor at about 10% of your home's total value (minus any Homestead exemptions).

- If your home has a market value of $100,000, its Assessed Value is only about $10,000.
- A 'mill' is simply a standard unit of tax equal to $1.00 of tax for every $1,000 of your property's Assessed Value.
- On a home with a $10,000 Assessed Value, 1 mill equals exactly $10.00 per year.

Q: Since the 2015 bond is paid in full next spring, why doesn't our tax rate drop to zero?

A: In April of 2015, Westville voters approved a 12-year bond program to construct our current 4th and 5th-grade elementary classroom building. According to our bond advisors, the final payment on this outstanding program will be made in the spring of 2027. At that exact moment, the 2015 elementary building debt is completely gone and paid in full.

However, when a new bond is approved, what does not disappear is our 6.26 millage rate baseline in the sinking fund. Maintaining this baseline rate is a standard public planning tool that preserves the district's long-term bonding capacity. If we allowed our sinking fund rate to drop all the way to zero, we would completely dismantle Westville's borrowing power and creditworthiness. If a major physical building emergency occurred down the road—or if our community eventually decided we wanted to build a brand-new high school campus—we would be forced to ask for a massive, sudden tax rate spike to get the exact same funding. Maintaining our sinking fund baseline prevents this "tax shock" and keeps our community's financial capacity stable.

Q: How is interest included in the bond amount? Why are net construction proceeds lower than the total bond?

A: This is a crucial financial transparency detail. The principal amounts authorized on the ballot ($2,105,000 for Proposition 1 and $15,955,000 for Proposition 2) represent the maximum bonds that can be issued. Under Oklahoma public school finance rules, all long-term interest, underwriting fees, and standard reserve funds are already factored directly into the sinking fund schedules. This structure is designed to protect taxpayers. By incorporating these financing costs and interest directly into the long-term schedule, the district can guarantee that the tax rate never spikes above the 22.08 mills (if bond propositions 1 & 2 pass). The interest is not 'added on top' of your current tax rate; it is already included within the flat 22.08 mills for the first two years and then would later go to a flat 18.10 mills for

the remaining years. Because of these financing costs over the 19-year term, the projected net funds actually available for physical construction are approximately $10,600,000 (principal only) for Proposition 2.

Q: What is the status of our previous school bonds? Where did that money go?

A: Sinking fund levies are local property taxes (ad valorem taxes) collected on your county property tax bill, not a separate school tax. The last major school building bond passed by Westville voters was approved in April of 2015—the 12-year lease-purchase program that constructed our current 4th and 5th-grade elementary building. According to our bond advisors, the final payment on this outstanding program will be made in the spring of 2027. At that exact moment, the 2015 elementary building program will be paid in full, and that specific physical debt will be 100% gone. Every previous bond has been spent strictly as authorized on school infrastructure and is subject to full, independent public audits filed with the State Auditor.

Q: If the school district's tax rate stays flat, why might my property taxes still change over time?

A: This is due to the independent role of the Adair County Assessor. Under Oklahoma law, the Assessor independently evaluates all local properties and adjusts valuations based on market trends and property improvements. The long-term trend in Oklahoma is that property values—and therefore property tax valuations—will continue to increase over time due to inflation and real estate growth. This process occurs independently, regardless of whether this school bond passes or fails. Because your tax bill is a product of the school district's millage rate multiplied by the Assessor's property valuation, your overall taxes can still rise over time if the Assessor increases your property's value, even though the school district's millage rate remains flat or drops.

5. Incremental Property Tax Lookup Table

To help property owners estimate their exact tax impact, we have constructed a simplified monthly and annual cost lookup table. The tax rate increase is set at 5% for Proposition 1 alone, 15% for Proposition 2 alone, or 20% for both propositions combined. These percentages apply strictly to your current annual school property tax bill, not the total market value of your home.

Current Annual School Tax	Prop 1 Only (5% Increase)	Prop 2 Only (15% Increase)	If Both Pass (20% Increase)
$500.00 / year	+$2.08/mo (+$25.00/yr)	+$6.25/mo (+$75.00/yr)	+$8.33/mo (+$100.00/yr)
$800.00 / year	+$3.33/mo (+$40.00/yr)	+$10.00/mo (+$120.00/yr)	+$13.33/mo (+$160.00/yr)
$1,000.00 / year	+$4.17/mo (+$50.00/yr)	+$12.50/mo (+$150.00/yr)	+$16.67/mo (+$200.00/yr)

$1,500.00 / year	+$6.25/mo (+$75.00/yr)	+$18.75/mo (+$225.00/yr)	+$25.00/mo (+$300.00/yr)
$2,000.00 / year	+$8.33/mo (+$100.00/yr)	+$25.00/mo (+$300.00/yr)	+$33.33/mo (+$400.00/yr)

6. Grants & Daily Operational Funding

Q: Why can't the school just pay for these buildings using state funding, federal grants, or TSET grants?

A: Oklahoma school funding is strictly regulated by state law. Our General Fund and federal grants are legally restricted to operational expenses—such as teacher salaries, classroom utilities, textbooks, and learning programs. It is legally impermissible to use these funds for major brick-and-mortar capital construction.

We have actively applied for and tried to secure funding through the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET) legacy grants in the past. While the district has successfully received several smaller operational grants in recent years to support student programs, it is highly unlikely that we will ever be able to secure a capital grant of this magnitude to fund a major physical project like a permanent classroom wing or event center. The only legal and practical mechanism the State of Oklahoma provides for school districts to construct permanent buildings is through voter-approved Sinking Fund bonds.

Q: Why did the School Board decide not to include a storm shelter in the proposed Event Center bond?

A: Student and staff safety is our absolute priority, and the need for a storm shelter is a very real concern for our families. The decision to remove the storm shelter from this specific bond proposal was a deliberate, strategic choice made by the School Board to **protect local property owners from a significantly higher tax increase while still aggressively pursuing a safe shelter for our campus.**

Rather than funding this expensive project through local property taxes, the district is pursuing federal safety grants. It will also feature a fully integrated performance and presentation stage. In **July of 2026**, Westville Public Schools formally submitted an application for **FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program grant**.

- **What the FEMA BRIC Grant Will Build:** If approved, this federal grant will fund the construction of a state-of-the-art community storm shelter designed to double as a **multipurpose indoor activity space**. This space will be approximately the size of a standard basketball court, providing a safe, climate-controlled indoor area for daily elementary physical education, recess, and school assemblies. It will also feature a fully integrated performance and presentation stage.
- **Two Additional Classrooms:** To maximize building efficiency, the grant-funded design incorporates two brand-new classrooms. One classroom will be dedicated to our Westville Band program to give our student musicians a proper, acoustically optimized rehearsal space, and the second is tentatively planned to serve as a Choir room (with final utilization to be determined by

the Board). Crucially, the storm shelter's thick, reinforced concrete structure is engineered to act as a highly effective sound barrier, keeping high-volume musical rehearsals beautifully insulated and preventing noise distractions for students in surrounding academic areas.

- **Why Westville is a Strong Candidate:** FEMA BRIC funding allocations are heavily weighted by population size and community criteria. Westville Public Schools met **100% of the stringent federal eligibility criteria** required to receive this funding.

The Bottom Line: Incorporating a storm shelter directly into the August 2026 bond proposal would have dramatically increased the total cost of the project and forced a much larger tax increase on our local property owners. By aggressively applying for the FEMA BRIC grant, the Board is working to secure a state-of-the-art storm shelter and two extra classrooms **using federal safety dollars rather than local property tax dollars**

Q: Why does Westville have more employees compared to peer districts of similar student enrollment?

A: Westville is proud to offer a much wider range of specialized educational programs and direct student support services than many peer districts of similar size. To operate local, comprehensive programs directly on our campus—such as full-day Alternative Education (which many districts do not offer locally), robust Special Education services, early childhood development, and extensive career-technical vocational programs (like our expanded Vo-Ag and FCCLA chapters)—we invest in dedicated, specialized personnel. This keeps our student-to-staff ratios low, ensures our children receive direct, individual support, and keeps our rural students from having to travel to other towns for vocational or alternative learning opportunities.

8. Gymnasium & Physical Education Realities

Q: What is the actual physical condition and history of our current gym?

A: Our existing gym has a unique history. Originally constructed as a World War II-era airplane hangar, the building was relocated, repurposed as a school gymnasium, and has served generations of students. However, decades of heavy use have taken a severe physical toll, and it suffers from major structural, safety, and mechanical challenges:

• Court Safety Clearance: The playing area surrounding the court boundary has only approximately one foot of clearance from the surrounding brick walls in some areas, creating a severe collision and injury risk during active, fast-paced play.

• Bleacher Hazards: The cut-out areas beneath the home-side bleachers present a constant injury risk for rolled ankles and head injuries.

• Referee Shortage: The district has experienced increasing difficulty securing certified referees because officials are concerned about player and referee safety in our extremely tight gym layout.

• Bathroom & Shower Bottlenecks: There are only two showers available for the girls and three for the boys. Several locker rooms are cramped directly under the gym bleachers, and not everyone has room for a locker. Additionally, there are only two toilet stalls available for the little gym, and there is no

dedicated place for PE or youth athletic kids to dress out.
• Water Bottleneck: There is only one water fountain in the entire gym to serve over 70+ kids every hour.

Q: Why are permanent indoor corridors necessary? Many of us walked between buildings in the rain, snow, and heat when we went to school here and we did just fine.

A: That is absolutely true, and the resilience of our older generations of Yellowjackets is a proud part of Westville's heritage. Many of our current school board members, administrators, teachers, and local business owners walked those exact same outdoor paths between classes in all kinds of Oklahoma weather.

However, while the weather hasn't changed in 45 years, the **standards for school safety and academic instruction have evolved significantly:**

- **Campus Security is Our #1 Priority:** Forty-five years ago, school campuses could operate safely with wide-open layouts and multiple unlocked exterior doors. Today, modern school safety protocols require secure, single-point-of-entry buildings. Having students constantly walk outside to detached portable trailers makes it incredibly difficult to maintain a locked, secure perimeter and introduces a constant campus security vulnerability.
- **Maximizing Modern Instructional Time:** To help our students succeed and meet today's rigorous state standards, every minute of the school day counts. Transitioning outside during severe storms, freezing temperatures, or high heat breaks students' academic focus. Dealing with damp clothes, wet textbooks, and high HVAC humidity in portable trailers creates a noisy and highly disruptive learning environment that cuts directly into valuable classroom time.
- **A Commitment to Progress:** Just as previous generations of Westville leaders worked hard to improve upon what they had, our goal today is to continue that legacy of progress. By constructing permanent, secure indoor corridors, we are ensuring that today's students have the safest and most focused learning environment possible to prepare them for a competitive world.

Q: How does physical education space impact our student body, and how does it relate to local health trends?

A: Physical activity is a biological requirement for academic success. Peer-reviewed pediatric research proves that regular physical education directly stimulates brain-cell growth and neural connections, improving memory, focus, and reading comprehension across all grades. Daily physical activity is also a

critical public health requirement: Adair County currently faces a 45% obesity rate, which is significantly higher than the Oklahoma average. Freeing up indoor space is vital to giving 100% of our elementary students daily, structured movement for healthy physical development.
Currently, our elementary grades are scheduled so that an entire grade level must utilize the little gym floor at the exact same time, creating heavy congestion. Our Kindergarten students do have a scheduled PE section, but our Pre-K students must use the coach's lunch period as free play in the gym because no other open slots exist in the daily schedule. Creating a new gym gives us the flexibility to schedule classes safely and uncrowded. Our current gym is also a scheduling bottleneck: 32 different school and community groups actively compete for access to only two gym spaces, providing a combined availability of just 14 class periods during the school day. New state legislation requiring an additional 20 minutes of daily recess for K-5 students further increases the demand for indoor activity space during inclement weather.

Q: How do our facility limitations impact student morale and local business revenue?

A: When we host home athletic games or community events, our visiting schools and neighbors see the worn, non-ADA-compliant condition of our facilities. This causes low morale among our students, who feel their home court does not reflect the pride and effort they put into their school. Beyond morale, our single gym forces severe logistical bottlenecks:

- High School boys' athletics is currently forced to practice during the first hour simply due to court limitations. Building the new gymnasium will allow both the boys' and girls' athletic programs to practice at the same time during the 7th hour, expanding available practice times and simplifying transportation for families.
- Our current gymnasium cannot host more than one basketball practice at a time, forcing teams to split court times and pushing practices outside of school hours. Our secondary little gym is not regulation-sized, making it completely unsuitable for full-court varsity practices or competitions.
- Furthermore, because our facilities do not meet modern OSSAA athletic and accessibility standards, Westville is completely disqualified from hosting regional, district, or invitational tournaments. Tournaments are major economic drivers for rural communities. When visitors come to town, they buy gas, eat at our local diners, and shop at our local businesses. By failing to host these events, our school's tight space causes our local business owners to lose out on thousands of dollars in regional economic revenue every year.

Q: What is the Westville Unified Sports program, and how will the proposed gym expansion impact it?

A: Westville Unified Sports is an incredibly proud, inclusive Special Olympics program that joins students with and without disabilities on the same team to train, play, and compete side-by-side. Guided by the principles of friendship, inclusion, and the belief that 'everyone belongs,' Unified Sports breaks down stereotypes, builds self-confidence, and fosters school spirit. You do not have to be a varsity athlete to join—it is a space where every student has a place on the team.

• The Space Constraint: While our Unified Special Olympics athletes and partners are deeply dedicated, our severe lack of physical gym space heavily limits their practice times. With 32 separate school and community groups competing for court space, finding consistent training slots is extremely difficult.

• The Gym Solution: Building the new multipurpose event center under Proposition 2 will provide the dedicated space and court schedule times required to expand the Unified program. More students will have the opportunity to participate and wear our colors. Furthermore, having a modern, fully ADA-compliant, regulation-sized facility will allow Westville Public Schools to host regional Unified Sports tournaments on our home campus for the very first time, welcoming teams from other schools and establishing our district as a regional leader in athletic and social inclusion.

9. A Day in the Life: How Passing Both Propositions Transforms Westville

To truly understand the value of these facility projects, we must look at how they change a normal school day for our students. The goal is not simply to have more buildings; the goal is to remove the daily space limitations that currently restrict how we teach and how students learn.

8:00 AM – Core Academics & STEM: High school students walk through secure, indoor science corridors instead of braving freezing rain or extreme heat to study biology in detached, drafty portable trailers.

10:00 AM – Vocational Agriculture & FFA: Roughly 100 Ag students study in a modern facility with separate wood and welding workshops. Instructors monitor them safely through large glass observation windows, expanding hands-on vocational training.

1:00 PM – Alternative Education Breakthrough: By moving high school science out of the main campus, we trigger a space-efficiency chain reaction. Vacated rooms allow Special Education and Early Childhood to expand comfortably into permanent spaces, while finally freeing up dedicated, secure rooms in the Yellow Building to run both High School and Middle School Alternative Education during the regular school day—giving these students the counseling, structure, and daytime support they deserve.

3:30 PM – Extracurricular and Physical Education Harmony: Elementary PE classes finally enjoy safe, uncrowded floors, and cheerleaders no longer have to manually roll out heavy practice mats daily. Freeing up the old gym gives the marching band an all-weather indoor drill space, the FFA a local clinic center, and our Unified Sports team a dedicated, uncrowded court.

10. Accountability, Oversight, & Cost Protections

Q: What strict safeguards are in place to prevent misappropriation of bond funds?

A: The Board of Education takes the stewardship of public funds with absolute seriousness. Oklahoma law and school district policies have built-in legal blockades to ensure every penny is protected:
1. Strict Legal Ballot Lock: Under the Bond Transparency Act of 2017, the school district is legally prohibited from spending bond proceeds on anything other than the exact physical projects listed on the voter ballot. It is a felony offense to divert these funds. The school district cannot divert funds from a project to another project.
2. Sinking Fund Separation: All bond proceeds are placed in a completely separate, dedicated "Sinking Fund" bank account. They are never mixed with the school's general operating funds. By state law, bond money cannot be used to pay for teacher or administrator salaries, bonuses, utility bills, or daily operating costs.
3. Independent Citizen Oversight Committee: To guarantee complete public accountability, the Board of Education will formally establish an independent Citizen Oversight Committee at its September board meeting if the bonds pass. Modeled after successful public frameworks like Oklahoma City Public Schools (OKCPS), this committee will consist of independent local residents, business owners, and taxpayers. They will meet regularly to review construction progress, monitor all expenditures, and report directly back to the public to ensure every dollar is spent exactly as promised.
4. Independent State Audits: Every single transaction is tracked and subject to annual, independent state-certified audits that are filed directly with the Oklahoma State Department of Education and the State Auditor and Inspector's Office.

Q: How do a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) and the '85/15' model protect taxpayers from construction cost overruns?

A: These are contract-level legal protections built directly into our construction agreements to shield taxpayers:
• Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP): The school district utilizes a fixed-price GMP contract with the builder. Under this agreement, the general contractor is legally obligated to complete the projects at a locked maximum cost and must absorb any material price increases, labor shortages, or cost overruns themselves. Taxpayers are 100% shielded from rising construction costs.
• The 85/15 Contingency Protection: In accordance with professional public finance standards, the project budget is divided so that hard construction contracts are capped at 85% of our funding. The remaining 15% is locked in a strict contingency reserve to handle unexpected site discoveries or structural conditions without exceeding our voter-approved budget limits. The school cannot divert funds from this contingency to fund unrelated projects.

Q: What are the consequences for our school and kids if these propositions fail on August 25th?

A: A "No" vote does not make our facility problems go away—it simply delays the solution while driving up the ultimate cost:
1. Trailers Remain: Our high school students will continue to attend core academic classes in temporary, detached portable trailers that represent a significant campus security vulnerability and suffer from chronic HVAC failure.

2. Rising Construction Costs: Construction inflation consistently runs significantly higher than general inflation. Delaying these upgrades guarantees that our community will pay more in the future for the exact same classrooms.
3. Continued Gym & Ag Bottlenecks: Our 100+ Vo-Ag students will continue training in overcrowded workshops, and our elementary physical education classes will remain packed with entire grades combined on a single floor.
4. Future "Tax Shock" Risk: If we allow our sinking fund millage base to lapse to 0.0 mills, we lose our borrowing capacity. When a major roof collapse, HVAC failure, or academic emergency inevitably forces us to run a bond down the road, we will be forced to ask for a massive, sudden tax rate spike rather than the flat, stable rate we can secure today.

11. Voter Eligibility & Important Election Dates

Q: If my mailing address has a Watts or Proctor zip code, am I still eligible to vote in the Westville school bond election?

A: Yes. Voter eligibility is determined solely by school district boundary lines (Independent School District No. 11), NOT by your mailing address or postal zip code. Because school district boundaries do not align perfectly with post office zip codes, many families living in the rural areas of Watts and Proctor actually reside directly within the Westville School District boundaries and are **fully eligible to vote in this bond election.**

Q: Do I need to own land, pay property taxes, or be a homeowner to vote?

A: No. To vote in this school bond election, **you do not need to own property or pay property taxes.** You simply must be a registered, eligible voter who resides within the geographic boundaries of the Westville School District [User Prompt]. Renters, young adults, and residents who do not own land are fully eligible and strongly encouraged to participate in this election [User Prompt].

Q: When and where can I vote in this election?

A: There are three options available to ensure every eligible resident has an opportunity to cast their ballot:

- **1. Early In-Person Voting:**
  - **Dates & Times:** Thursday, August 20 & Friday, August 21, 2026, from **8:00 AM to 6:00 PM**; and Saturday, August 22, 2026, from **8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**
  - **Location:** In-person at the **Adair County Election Board** office.
- **3. Election Day Voting:**
  - **Date & Times: Tuesday, August 25, 2026, from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.**
  - **Location:** In-person at your designated local polling location.

(Note: You can easily verify your specific polling location and view a sample ballot ahead of time on the online OK Voter Portal.)

12. Community Reflection

A REFLECTION FROM LANDOWNER & POULTRY FARMER LOUANN HAYS

"As a local landowner and poultry farmer, I completely understand why property tax increases make folks pause. Inflation and expenses are real, and I know why some of our agricultural community members are considering a NO vote.

But I'd just like to gently ask our local farmers and landowners to remember where we were just 10 months ago. When the state came after our poultry industry and our property rights were on the line, our Westville FFA members and advisors did not hesitate. They showed up to those meetings, stood side-by-side with us, and gave us their full support when we needed it most. We were all so quick to welcome and praise those kids for backing us up.

Now, those same young people are asking for our support to upgrade their learning facilities and Vo-Ag program. We always talk about the importance of generational farms and educating the next stewards of our land—those future leaders are sitting in our local classrooms right now. I'll be supporting the YES vote to invest back into the kids who stood up for us."

Cast your vote on Tuesday, August 25, 2026. Polling hours are 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.