



Bond Proposal - May 5th

Frequently Asked Questions



What is a school bond proposal election?

A school bond proposal election is a public vote where community members decide whether their local school district can borrow money for major building and improvement projects. If voters approve the proposal, the district can issue bonds (like borrowing) to pay for things such as renovations, safety upgrades, new equipment or technology improvements. The borrowed money is then repaid over time through property taxes. If voters do not approve it, the district cannot borrow the funds and move forward with the proposed projects.

Why is Hanover-Horton Schools asking voters to consider a bond?

Many of the items prioritized in our project list were addressed in the 1995-1996 bond and are in need of replacement. Some items on the priority list can only be paid for through a bond project.

Is this a millage increase?

No, the current number of mills (1) would continue to be levied for 25 years. This would generate \$3.9 million without increasing the current millage rate.

How many total mills does the district currently levy?

Hanover-Horton Schools has the lowest levy rate in Jackson County. We currently levy one (1) mill for the sinking fund and one (1) mill for bond debt. This bond proposal would not change the total amount levied.

How were the projects identified?

The projects included in the bond proposal were identified through a careful planning process focused on the district's long-term needs. A facilities needs assessment is conducted annually. After reviewing the list of needs with the facilities committee, a prioritized list was developed.

What projects are on the prioritized list?

- *This district will need to replace the boilers which generate heat for all three buildings very soon. The current boilers range from 25-30 years old.*
- *Approximately 132,000 square feet of our middle/high school roof needs to be replaced. This will fix several areas that are currently posing challenges and leaks, ensure the roof is durable for many years to come and increase efficiency, which will ultimately save the district money in heating and cooling costs.*
- *The windows at the high school overall are still in good condition. However, over the years due to normal wear and tear, the struts, handles and seals are in need of repair. Refurbishing the current windows rather than replacing them entirely will save the district thousands of dollars while still equipping the classrooms with fully functioning windows and increased efficiency and helping to maintain a safe environment.*
- *Most of the window blinds are not functioning properly throughout the middle and high school buildings and should be replaced to enhance security and improve the overall appearance of the classrooms.*
- *The elementary school gymnasium and cafeteria are divided into two spaces by a folding wall. The current system is out of alignment and worn from the many years of use. Replacing the folding wall system will ensure that the space can continue to be used as needed while ensuring the safety of the students and staff.*
- *The lockers at the middle and high school buildings have been used for decades. While structurally still relatively sound, refurbishing of the hardware and a new coat of paint will improve their functionality and make for a more pleasant environment for our students. The lockers in the locker rooms need similar repair and updating.*
- *Several events that are held throughout the year in each building require the use of folding chairs and tables. Those in existence were purchased in the 1995-1996 bond and are in need of replacement.*



Bond Proposal - May 5th



Frequently Asked Questions Con't

What can Bond funds be used for?

In Michigan, school bond funds may be used only for long-term, voter-approved capital improvements to school facilities and the bond issuance cost. This includes constructing, renovating, remodeling, or expanding school buildings; upgrading major building systems such as roofs, heating and cooling, electrical, and plumbing; improving safety, security, and accessibility; completing site improvements like parking lots, sidewalks, and playgrounds; purchasing furniture, equipment, instructional technology hardware and covering related project costs such as architectural, engineering, construction management, and bond issuance expenses. Bond funds may only be spent on the project purposes approved by voters in the ballot language.

Are primary homes (homestead) taxed differently from second homes (non-homestead) and businesses?

No. With a Michigan school bond, primary homes (homestead property) and businesses or second homes (non-homestead property) are taxed the same. Bond millages are applied to all taxable property in the district, meaning both homestead and non-homestead properties pay the bond tax.

How does the district's sinking fund impact district finances and this bond proposal?

The district's sinking fund helps pay for some smaller repair projects and some larger ones over time using a pay-as-you-go approach. Sinking funds can be used for things like roof repairs, security upgrades, but very limited equipment purchases. The lower annual revenue generated by a sinking fund makes it difficult to rely on for major projects. Because a sinking fund does not involve borrowing money, it does not create long-term debt.

The bond proposal is different. It would allow the district to borrow up to \$3.9 million for larger projects like replacing the roof and boilers now before we have an emergent situation due to equipment failure or further water damage due to leaks. While the sinking fund has helped to maintain buildings and address ongoing needs, it does not provide enough funding for all of the improvements needed nor can sinking fund money be used for some of the prioritized projects.

How would this bond benefit residents who do not currently have students in Hanover-Horton Schools?

This bond proposal supports improvements that would benefit all of the community members in our school district. Well-maintained and updated school buildings help keep our community strong and attractive.

When is Election Day?

Election Day for the Hanover-Horton Schools bond proposal is Tuesday, May 5, 2026. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Who is eligible to vote in this election?

To vote in the May 5, 2026, school bond election, you must be a registered voter who lives within the Hanover-Horton School District boundaries. You must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old by Election Day, and registered to vote in Michigan. Both homeowners and renters who reside in the district are eligible to vote. If you are not yet registered, you may register in person at your local clerk's office up to and including Election Day.