

WHITEFORD AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ZERO MILL NET INCREASE BOND PROPOSALS ESTIMATED FROM THE CURRENT LEVY



Why was Proposal 1 and 2 put on the August 6 Primary Election Ballot?

With all of the pre-bond feedback meetings and planning, the August 2024 ballot was the earliest we could be on the ballot. If the proposals pass, it would allow for the construction process to begin to get the elementary classrooms built along with the separation of softball and baseball fields in 2025.

Why weren't the elementary upgrades and athletic upgrades put on separate proposals?

The decision to have it on one proposal was the outcome of community feedback received throughout the entire pre-bond process.

Will my current tax rate go up?

If both proposals pass, the district intends to sell the bonds in increments, so that the debt service falls within the current 4.93 debt millage rate when levied in 2025. It is estimated that the current debt millage rate will not change in 2025 if the bonds are issued.

How much of the \$4.1 million for athletic upgrades in Proposal 1 is for synthetic turf?

There is NO SYNTHETIC TURF included in the \$4.1 million estimated for athletic upgrades in Proposal 1. The football, baseball, and softball fields will have grass and dirt surfaces in Proposal 1. (Note: Proposal 2 is for adding synthetic turf to the softball field and baseball infield only. NO SYNTHETIC TURF for Football Field in either proposal.)

Do our School of Choice families pay the 4.93 debt millage tax rate?

No, School of Choice families would be paying the millage rate at their home district. However, the district does receive revenue through the State-allocated per-pupil funds called Foundation Allowance that are provided to schools for operating expenses (i.e. curriculum purchases, staff salaries, and daily operational expenses). For the 23-24 school year, the Foundation Allowance was \$9,608 per student. If we use the 23-24 School of Choice student number, we generate approximately \$2.6 million in Foundation Allowance that offsets our operating expenses and pays for current programming.

What is the contingency money and what is it used for?

The soft costs and construction contingency figure of 27% outlined on the 2024 Capital Bond Estimated Scope Costs on our district website is a conservative number for the purposes of budgeting and creation of the Application for Preliminary Qualification of Bonds (PQA) that was filed and approved by the Department of Treasury. The estimated 27% represented the following: Bond Issuance costs (independent financial advisor to help get the lowest interest cost on the bonds), bond counsel, election costs, underwriter fees, credit rating, Department of Treasury pre-qualified application fee, and all bond sale requirements/fees, architecture/engineering fees, construction management fee, general conditions [including permitting, plan review to the State of Michigan (both Bureau of Construction Codes and Bureau of Fire Safety)], surveys (topographic, utility, etc.), core samples and other testing requirements such as geotechnical, 3rd party construction testing, etc. **The actual combined construction contingency if both proposals pass is \$761,015 (7.61%) outlined on the PQA and included in the estimated 27%.** Construction contingency is used for unforeseen conditions or changes. The money is the district's for the bond project, and if this contingency is not spent on unforeseen conditions or changes, then the following items were identified as possible projects for this money (Note: There is NO intention to use contingency money for synthetic turf for the football field):

Elementary School Upgrades

- ✓ Renovate Bathrooms
- ✓ Replace Classroom Student/Staff Furniture
- ✓ Replace Technology Smartboards, Audio-Enhancement
- ✓ Add Generator

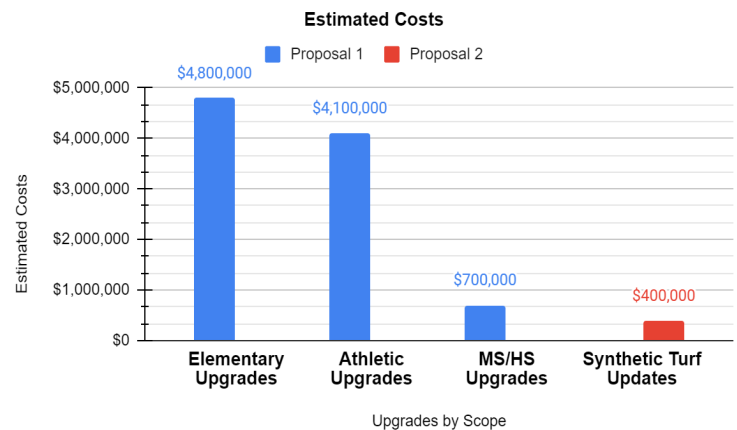
Middle/High School Upgrades

- ✓ Add Outside Middle School Basketball/Pickle Ball Court

Athletic Upgrades

- ✓ Add Signage and Landscaping
- ✓ Replace Football Scoreboard
- ✓ Add Electrical for Future Field Lights
- ✓ Add Field Lighting for Softball, Baseball, Track
- ✓ Add Cross Country/Walking Course

Whiteford Ag School 2024 Capital Bond Proposals



How did the bond proposals come to be?

A State of the District Presentation was offered to community members on 10/3/23, 10/10/23, and 10/12/23. At these meetings, nearly 100 people were presented with an update to the Strategic Plan and Enrollment Vision/Stabilization Plan. Community members were offered opportunities to provide feedback through a workshop approach. The October meetings were then followed up with 12/13/23 and 1/10/24 community meetings presenting alternative ideas that were gathered from the October meetings. A Steering Committee meeting was held on 1/31/24, where additional feedback was gathered regarding a 2024 Whiteford Capital Bond Project. A BOE resolution to authorize the Superintendent to prepare the Application for Preliminary Qualification of Bonds (PQA) was approved on 2/12/24, and the Department of Treasury Meeting was held on 3/22/24 to outline the details of the PQA.

MAJOR PROPOSED PROJECTS

Proposal 1

Elementary School Upgrades

- ✓ Add 4 Classrooms
- ✓ Add 2 Single Stall Bathrooms
- ✓ Add Flex Space, Single Stall Bathroom, Storage
- ✓ Replace Roof
- ✓ Upgrade Boiler/Pump

Athletic Upgrades

- ✓ Relocate Baseball/Softball Fields
- ✓ Replace field drainage tile, irrigation, playing surfaces with all natural grass and dirt field (NO SYNTHETIC TURF for any field)
- ✓ Replace Dugouts, Pressboxes, Fencing, Bleachers, Backstops
- ✓ Add Track Concession and Bathrooms Facility

Middle/High School Upgrades

- ✓ Add Front Parking Lot Extension (60 Spaces)

Proposal 2

Athletic Upgrades

- ✓ Add Softball Field Synthetic Turf
- ✓ Add Baseball Field (Infield Only) Synthetic Turf

Will community and recreation teams be permitted to use the updated softball, baseball, and football fields?

Yes, we currently allow use of the fields for teams that have coaches/players affiliated with Whiteford Middle/High School. Usage is based upon field/weather conditions, and there is a process for securing the field for use. We do not allow recreation teams younger than middle school to use the main fields. Note: 42.3% of our high school students participate in a spring sport (Golf, BB, SB, Track).

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