



# 2022 BOND PROPOSAL



## WARREN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

OUR KIDS. OUR COMMUNITY.

PLAN : PROTECT : PROVIDE

VOTE TUESDAY, MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS | BOND PROPOSAL 2022

## Q: WHAT IS ON THE MAY 3, 2022, BALLOT?

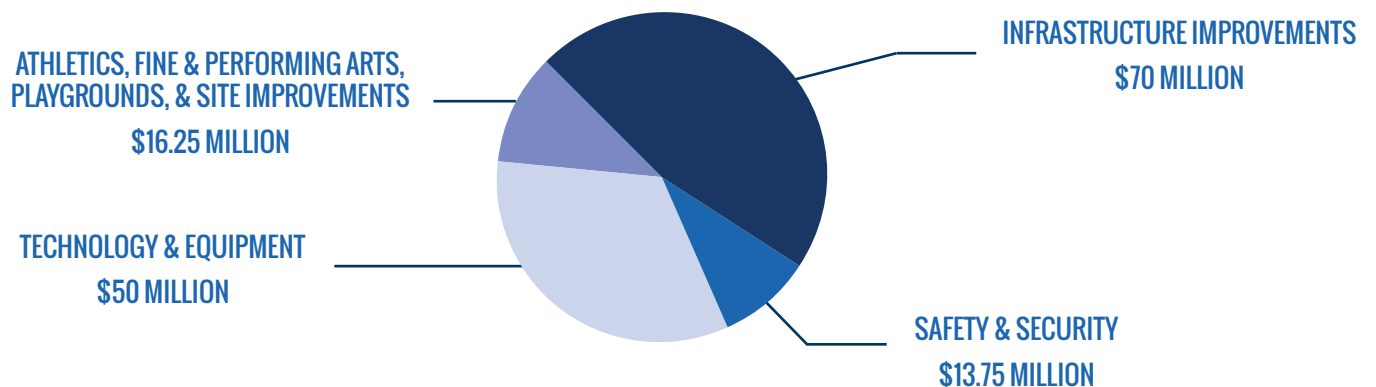
Warren Consolidated Schools' (WCS) Board of Education is proposing a bond issue on the May 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot. The proposal asks voters to consider a **\$150 MILLION** bond for a wide range of projects, including Infrastructure Improvements, Safety & Security, Technology & Equipment, and Athletics, Fine & Performing Arts, Playgrounds, & Site Improvements.

## Q: WHY IS THE DISTRICT PROPOSING THIS BOND?

WCS is committed to providing students with outstanding educational opportunities and modern learning environments. We continually see the unwavering dedication of our teachers, principals, and support staff. If approved by the voters, it is estimated that the bond proposal would result in a **ZERO TAX RATE INCREASE** over the debt millage taxes levied in 2021 and would address improvements to all schools.

## Q: WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED COST BREAKDOWN FOR THE BOND PROGRAM?

Costs associated with the projects identified in the 2022 bond program are allocated across the following major focus areas:



## Q: HOW WAS THIS PLAN DEVELOPED?

WCS conducted a facility assessment in the fall of 2020. The report was updated in the summer of 2021. After creating a detailed list of needs, requirements, and suggested improvements by administration and the school board in the fall, WCS met with the operations committee. The District reviewed the bond assessment with the school board and concluded that a bond proposal was needed for improving each building in the District. WCS met with the State of Michigan and reviewed the bond with their professional teams to ensure the District is using taxpayer money wisely.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS | BOND PROPOSAL 2022

## Q: WHAT INFORMATION IS PROVIDED ON THE BALLOT FOR THE WCS 2022 BOND PROGRAM?

The bond proposal will be on the May 3, 2022 ballot. Below is a comprehensive breakdown of the ballot language.

Shall the Warren Consolidated Schools District, Counties of Macomb and Oakland, State of Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed One Hundred Fifty Million Dollars (\$150,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds, in one or more series, for the purpose of paying for the cost of the following projects:

- Remodeling, equipping, re-equipping, furnishing, re-furnishing school buildings, athletic fields, playgrounds and other facilities to create a modern learning environment for students and for safety and security, energy conservation and other purposes;
- Acquiring and installing instructional technology infrastructure and equipment in school buildings and other facilities; and
- Preparing, developing and improving sites at school buildings and other facilities, erecting school facilities and additions to school buildings and the purchase of school buses?

YES \_\_\_\_\_  
NO \_\_\_\_\_

The annual debt millage required to retire all bonds of the School District currently outstanding and proposed pursuant to this Proposal is expected to remain at or below the annual debt millage of 4.78 mills levied in 2021. The maximum number of years any series of bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of refunding, is not more than twenty (20) years; the estimated millage that will be levied to pay the proposed bonds in the first year is 0.68 mills (which is equal to \$0.68 per \$1,000 of taxable value); and the estimated simple average annual millage that will be required to retire each series of bonds is 1.49 mills annually (\$1.49 per \$1,000 of taxable value).

If approved by the voters, the bonds will be guaranteed by the State under the School Bond Qualification and Loan Program (the "Program"). The School District currently has \$161,645,000 of qualified bonds outstanding and \$0 of qualified loans outstanding under the Program. The School District does not expect to borrow from the Program to pay debt service on these bonds. The estimated computed millage rate required to be levied to pay the proposed bonds may change in the future based on changes in certain circumstances.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for teacher, administrator or employee salaries, repair or maintenance costs or other operating expenses.)

### \$150 MILLION BOND

The District would sell bonds totaling \$150 million

### INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

### SAFETY & SECURITY

### TECHNOLOGY & EQUIPMENT

### ATHLETICS, FINE & PERFORMING ARTS, PLAYGROUNDS, & SITE IMPROVEMENTS

- Update HVAC systems and facilities to improve air quality and indoor spaces
- Update security features, roofing, windows, and doors to provide safety for students
- Update technology and equipment for today's modern learning environment
- Update sites, athletic fields, and playgrounds that promote district-wide health, safety, and wellness

### ZERO TAX RATE INCREASE

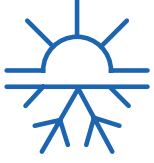
- The bond proposal would result in a Zero Tax Rate Increase over the debt millage taxes levied in 2021
- Bond funds can only be used for physical improvements

Information provided by Warren Consolidated Schools

ELECTION DAY TUESDAY, MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS | BOND PROPOSAL 2022

## Q: WHAT ARE THE MAJOR FEATURES OF THE PROPOSED BOND PROGRAM?



### INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Update HVAC systems and facilities to improve air quality and indoor spaces

- Enhance air quality with HVAC upgrades
- Update piping, hot water heaters, filter systems, and energy management systems
- Replace ceiling, carpeting, LED lighting, electrical panel, roofing, window treatments, casework, and flooring



### SAFETY & SECURITY

Update security features, roofing, windows, and doors to provide safety for students

- Upgrade security cameras and secure card entry
- Upgrade safety/security features, including door locks and fire alarm system equipment
- Replace exterior and interior doors, frames, and hardware
- Upgrade IT power equipment and cameras



### TECHNOLOGY & EQUIPMENT

Update technology and equipment for today's modern learning environment

- Update classroom instructional technology
- Update and expand wireless network
- Refresh mobile learning devices for students and staff
- Upgrade network infrastructure
- Purchase new classroom furniture



### ATHLETICS, FINE & PERFORMING ARTS, PLAYGROUNDS, & SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Update sites, athletic fields, and playgrounds that promote district-wide health, safety, and wellness

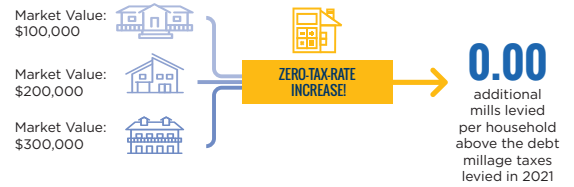
- Upgrade athletic fields, scoreboards, and playground structures
- Upgrade gymnasium, pool, and lockers
- Make site and landscape enhancements to improve parking lots, sidewalks, and building exteriors
- Upgrade auditorium HVAC, auditorium/dance flooring, auditorium seating, and musical equipment

The 2022 bond program would allow WCS to preserve general fund dollars for instruction and classroom needs by providing a dedicated funding source to address Infrastructure Improvements, Safety & Security, Technology & Equipment, and Athletics, Fine & Performing Arts, Playgrounds, & Site Improvements

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS | BOND PROPOSAL 2022

## Q: WILL MY TAXES INCREASE IF I VOTE YES?

If approved by the voters, the bond proposal would result in a **ZERO TAX RATE INCREASE** over the debt millage taxes levied in 2021. This means that the 4.78 mills the District is currently levying per household **WOULD NOT** change. The bond would allow WCS to fund proposed projects while keeping general fund dollars in our classrooms.



## Q: HOW WOULD OUR STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT?

The bond proposal would help assure that our school facilities provide opportunities for our students and community.

## Q: WHAT INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS IS THE DISTRICT PROPOSING?

The proposed bond would address HVAC and facility improvements including enhancing air quality with HVAC upgrades; updating the piping, hot water heaters, filter systems, and energy management systems; and replacing ceiling, carpeting, LED lighting, electrical panel, roofing, window treatments, casework, and flooring.

## Q: WHAT SAFETY & SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS IS THE DISTRICT PROPOSING?

The proposed bond would address safety and security improvements including upgrading security cameras and secure card entry; upgrading safety/security features such as door locks and fire alarm system equipment; replacing exterior and interior doors, frames, and hardware; and upgrading IT power equipment and cameras.

## Q: WHAT TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT IMPROVEMENTS IS THE DISTRICT PROPOSING?

The proposed bond would address technology and equipment improvements including updating classroom instructional technology, updating and expanded wireless network, refreshing mobile learning devices for students and staff, upgrading network infrastructure, and purchasing new classroom furniture.

## Q: WHAT ATHLETICS, FINE & PERFORMING ARTS, PLAYGROUNDS, & SITE IMPROVEMENTS IS THE DISTRICT PROPOSING?

The proposed bond would address site, athletics, and playground improvements including upgrading athletic fields, scoreboards, and playground structure; upgrading gymnasiums, pools, and lockers; and making site and landscape enhancements to improve parking lots, sidewalks, and building exteriors.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS | BOND PROPOSAL 2022

## Q: HOW ARE MICHIGAN SCHOOLS FUNDED?

The state of Michigan provides funding to school districts on a per-pupil basis, based on the cost to educate the average pupil per year. The state of Michigan **DOES NOT** provide funding to address facilities, which are funded exclusively through local property taxes. There are two ways that school districts can raise money for facility improvements: levying sinking funds and selling bonds.

## Q: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A BOND PROPOSAL AND A SINKING FUND?

Bond proposals are used to finance major capital projects. The District is able to borrow money up front and pay back the bond amount over time.

Sinking funds are provided on an annual basis to address immediate needs of school buildings, facilities, and surrounding school sites. This is intended for short-term improvements rather than major renovations and upgrades.

## Q: IN 2016, THE WCS COMMUNITY PASSED A BOND PROPOSAL. WHAT WAS THE SCOPE OF WORK COMPLETED?

The WCS 2016 bond program focused on improving educational opportunities by creating modern learning environments so all students may benefit, providing school safety and security enhancements, and reducing utility costs via environmentally smart upgrades.

Technology upgrades included upgrading technology and infrastructure to support learning, enhancing technology in each classroom, providing mobile learning devices for students, replacing obsolete computers, and updating the wireless network.

District-wide facility and security improvements included secure entry vestibules; security card reader systems for doors; security cameras; roofing and flooring replacements; upgraded fire alarm panels; replacement of interior and exterior doors where needed; improvements to HVAC, plumbing, and lighting/electrical systems; renovations to restrooms, locker rooms, and cafeterias; energy enhancements; and LED exterior lighting upgrades in buildings and parking lots.

Sites, fields, and playground improvements included re-paving deteriorating parking lots and sidewalks; replacement of worn fences where needed; upgrades to athletic fields, tennis courts and high school tracks; as well as upgrades to playground areas.

Other improvements included the replacement of worn classroom furniture and the purchase of 60 new school buses as well as band, athletic and recess equipment.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS | BOND PROPOSAL 2022

## Q: WHAT IF THE BOND PROPOSAL DOESN'T PASS?

Failure to approve the bond proposal will mean the District will have to delay much-needed improvements and enhancements. In addition, emergency improvements will have to be paid for with general operating funds that would otherwise go to support educational programs for students. It is also likely that program enhancements would be put on hold, potentially impacting opportunities and programs for our students.

## Q: ECONOMICALLY, IS THIS A GOOD TIME FOR A BOND PROGRAM?

With historically low interest rates, if the bond is approved by the voters, the District would have to pay a smaller amount of interest to bond holders for the bonds than it would at another time, should rates hold. The smaller amount of interest to bond holders for the bonds maximizes taxpayer benefit. WCS would be able to use the bond funds to align facility needs with the District's vision.

## Q: WILL TAXES CHANGE FOR SENIOR MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY?

Property tax costs may be lower for senior citizens or households with incomes below a certain level that qualify for the Homestead Property Tax Credit. For more information, please visit [www.legislature.mi.gov/publications/ServicesforSeniors.html](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/publications/ServicesforSeniors.html).

## Q: WHERE DO I VOTE?

To find where your voting precinct is located, visit [mvic.sos.state.mi.us](http://mvic.sos.state.mi.us) or contact your City Clerk.

### **Warren City Clerk**

Sonja Djurovic Buffa  
(586) 574-4557 | [clerk@cityofwarren.org](mailto:clerk@cityofwarren.org)

### **Sterling Heights City Clerk**

Melanie D. Ryska  
(586) 446-2420 | [mryska@sterling-heights.net](mailto:mryska@sterling-heights.net)

### **Troy City Clerk**

Aileen Dickson, MMC, MiPMC II  
(248) 524-3316 | [Aileen.Dickson@troymi.gov](mailto:Aileen.Dickson@troymi.gov)

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS | BOND PROPOSAL 2022

## Q: WHAT CAN PROCEEDS GENERATED BY THE BOND PROGRAM BE USED FOR? AND WHAT CAN THEY NOT BE USED FOR?

Bond proceeds **CAN** be used for the following items:

- Construction and remodeling of facilities
- Purchase of technology equipment and infrastructure
- Purchase of equipment and furniture
- Site improvements

Bond proceeds **CANNOT** be used for the following items:

- Staff salaries and wages
- General operating expenses, repairs, and maintenance
- Classroom supplies and textbooks
- Administrative costs

## Q: WHEN AND WHERE CAN I REGISTER TO VOTE?

To vote in the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, school election, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years of age by election day
- A resident of Michigan and WCS for at least 30 days (when you vote)
- Registered to vote
- Not currently serving a jail or prison sentence

Absentee ballots are available to voters starting March 24, 2022. You may register to vote online or by mail until April 18<sup>th</sup>. From April 19<sup>th</sup> through May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8 PM, registration will be open in-person **ONLY** at your local clerk's office.

Voter registration forms and absentee ballots are available online at [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos).

## Q: WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

For more information visit [www.wcskids.net](http://www.wcskids.net).

You are also welcome to contact the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Robert D. Livernois, at 1-888-4-WCSKIDS.