



# Lapeer Community Schools Bond Proposal

## THE PEOPLE'S PROPOSAL

# VOTE NOVEMBER 5th

## Absentee Ballots Available September 21st

For more information, visit [lapeerschools.org](http://lapeerschools.org)

### The People's Proposal: This is our time

We could not be more excited about the future of Lapeer! The November 5th bond proposal provides an opportunity to revitalize our schools and our entire community.

With input from more than 600 community members, we were able to design a proposal focused on innovation, opportunity, and efficiency. This is why we are calling it The People's Proposal. For us, it represents an investment that secures our successes and creates even more comprehensive learning opportunities for all students.

I say this everywhere I go: As a community, we must think big. This is our time to move the community forward with an innovative

plan that provides a vision for the future. This plan allows us to raise the level of resources available to our students to match the incredible academic program we've created, and that so many of our students have used as a springboard to success after graduation.

Over the last several months, I've visited with groups all over the county sharing our vision, answering questions and taking feedback. What I've learned in those small groups, and in one-on-one interactions with stakeholders, is simple: Lapeer Community Schools truly is the beating heart of this community. And, the people I have talked with have agreed that a dynamic, forward-thinking community requires

investment in education. I believe we are uniquely positioned to be the driving force for positive change.

If not us, who? If not now, when?

Are you willing to invest in the future of Lapeer, for the betterment of this community now and in the future?

***This is our time! Vote November 5th.***

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions at [mwandrie@LapeerSchools.org](mailto:mwandrie@LapeerSchools.org) or 810-538-1600.

  
**Matt Wandrie**, Superintendent  
Lapeer Community Schools





# Lapeer Community Schools

## Bond Proposal FAQs

### ***Why has the District scheduled this bond election?***

The primary purpose of the bond election is to restructure, right-size and upgrade our schools to serve this generation and the next.

### ***What would the bond cost the average homeowner?***

The cost to the average homeowner in the District is estimated to be \$12 per month or 39 cents per day. (Based on most recent average taxable value in the District). Most will pay less.

### ***What is the schedule for bond proposal projects?***

Work on the projects will begin immediately after voter approval of the November 5th bond proposal.

### ***If the bond proposal is approved by voters, will property value be affected?***

Research indicates that real estate values tend to be higher in communities with school districts that are perceived to offer a quality educational program and have up-to-date school facilities. All Lapeer bond proposal projects are designed to reflect positively on homeowner property values and the District's enviable reputation.

### ***Who can vote in this bond election?***

Residents of the Lapeer Community Schools District who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day and are registered to vote.

### ***What is the timeline for implementation of the strategic plan?***

If the bond proposal is approved by voters, the construction of the high school at the CFI site would begin in the latter half of the 2019-20 school year. The new high school would open for the 2022-23 school year and the new district configuration would begin that same year.

### ***Why is the current plan necessary?***

In the midst of our last strategic planning process, we assured the community that we would re-evaluate our plan over time and continue the process in another five years. During this time, the declining enrollment trends we witnessed back then have continued. The District does not have the necessary funds to cover the nearly \$25 million in identified facility maintenance costs that must be addressed. As a result, our current structure is not feasible for the longterm financial viability of the District.

### ***How would the failure to pass the bond impact the structure of the District?***

Failure to pass the bond would require the District, in the short-term, to make significant changes to the current structure. This would include building closures that would require redistricting, the re-deployment of staff and the determination of how to fund remaining facility maintenance costs not currently appropriated. Additionally, long-term implications from having to use operating dollars to address critical core building deficiencies would put severe strain on the District's fund balance.



### ***How would the new district structure impact transitions for students?***

Under this plan, students would make each building transition together, as an entire group. For instance, a student starting kindergarten in 2022 would make every major transition with the same group of students all the way to graduation.

### ***Would the new building configuration require fewer teachers when fully implemented?***

No. The number of teachers we require is tied directly to the number of students we have. This structure would, however, require the District to examine/assess the current deployment/assignment/configuration of staff in order to best meet the academic needs of students.

### ***When would any changes to the elementary configuration go into effect?***

The new configuration for elementary would not go into effect until the start of the 2022-23 school year.

### ***Why did the District choose the West Campus for the site of the new High School?***

The West Campus is ideal as a site for a new high school for several reasons:

- Its geographic position in the center of the District – within 0.5 miles of Zemmer, Rolland-Warner, Schickler and the Mott Campus.
- Large and accessible property (73 acres)
- Site of LCS Athletic Campus



# Lapeer Community Schools

## What is on the Ballot?

*The bond proposal on the November 5th ballot will address...*

- Safety, security, and technology upgrades at all facilities
- Developing an Early Childhood Center at Turrill
- Reconfiguring East Campus to house all students in grades 1-4
- Reconfiguring the Rolland-Warner Campus to serve all students in grades 5-6
- Reconfiguring the Zemmer Campus to serve all students in grades 7-8
- Constructing a comprehensive high school at the West Campus to house all students in grades 9-12
- Renovating Schickler Elementary to house alternative and virtual learning programs
- Renovations to the bus garage and replacing school buses

## Cost Information

To calculate your cost, go to [lapeerschools.org](http://lapeerschools.org)

### Millage rates of surrounding districts:

**Lapeer Community Schools currently levies 2.75 mills, the lowest rate in Lapeer County. The 2018 millage rates\* in Lapeer County are:**

School District	Current Bonded School Debt Millage
•Almont.....	8.45 mills
•North Branch.....	8.44 mills
•Imlay City.....	7.00 mills
•Dryden.....	3.03 mills
•Lapeer.....	2.75 mills

\*Data collected by the Michigan Department of Treasury

## School Improvement Bond Proposition

Shall the Lapeer Community Schools, County of Lapeer, State of Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Ninety-Four Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$94,900,000) 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:

- Erecting, completing, equipping and furnishing additions to the new High School building;
- Remodeling, equipping, re-equipping, furnishing, re-furnishing school buildings, playgrounds and other facilities to convert the current High School building to a Lower Elementary School building and a current Middle School building to an Intermediate School building and for 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, playgrounds and other facilities, which will include parking lot improvements, and the purchase of school buses?

YES       NO



# Lapeer Community Schools

## Focus on Efficiency

The District's focus on operational efficiency, including the high school merger, the closure of two elementary facilities and numerous other decisions aimed at right-sizing the District, have allowed for the creation of numerous programs for students including:

- **Lapeer Virtual Learning**
- **On-Campus Dual Enrollment**
- **Lapeer Early College**
- **Lapeer Homeschool Partnership**
- **K-12 Project Lead the Way (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)**
- **The most Advanced Placement opportunities, including the first AP Capstone program in Michigan**
- **Computer Numeric Control Program**

The 2019 School Bond is being proposed to ensure the District can offer these great opportunities and more to the students of Lapeer now and in the future.

***The restructuring financed by the bond proposal will reduce school district operating costs by an estimated \$1 million annually.***

## Bond Proposal Town Hall Forums

The District will host a pair of community forums, open to the public, in order to answer questions regarding the bond proposal.

**September 24th, 6pm • Murphy Elementary**  
**October 17th, 6pm • Zemmer Campus**



**Vote by ABSENTEE BALLOT  
after September 21.**

*A new law now allows any registered voter to vote an absentee ballot.  
Absentee ballots applications are available at [www.michigan.gov/documents/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos)*

Over 600 people were involved in shaping the bond proposal. That's why the school district is calling it *The People's Proposal*.

The proposal is designed to restructure, right-size, and upgrade Lapeer Community Schools to serve this generation and the next.

- ✓ Based on feedback from over 600 residents, the Lapeer Community Schools developed an updated district structure that will accommodate each student and serve the community.
- ✓ The restructuring financed by the bond proposal will reduce school district operating costs by an estimated \$1 million annually, while providing more educational opportunities and specialized programming for students beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.
- ✓ All revenue from the bond proposal will benefit the Lapeer Community School District. None of the revenue will go to Lansing or to any other school district or political entity.