



NEWS FROM LINDEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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Linden Community Schools places bond proposal on November 3rd ballot

The Linden Community Schools Board of Education has approved placing a \$55 million bond proposal on the November 3rd ballot.

To keep voters safe and to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Linden Community Schools Board of Education rescheduled the May proposal to November 3rd. The November ballot proposal contains the same projects as the May 5th proposal, and the net tax rate increase will also remain the same—1.0 mill. To reduce overall bond interest cost, the bonds will be sold in three series.

The comprehensive bond proposal addresses needs in four general categories:

1. enhancing student safety and school security
2. expanding and enhancing the instructional environment
3. remodeling, upgrading, and constructing school facilities
4. upgrading technology and technology infrastructure

The bond proposal calls for numerous projects, including adding a Media Center to Linden Elementary School, expanding the Linden High School Media Center, adding secure entrances to Central, Hyatt, and Linden Elementary, Linden Middle School, and Linden High School, relocating our Early Childhood Center from its current location in Argentine to Hyatt Elementary, building a new Multipurpose Center between Linden Middle School and Linden High School, developing areas for student collaboration, and adding space for robotics instruction and Science, Technology, Engineer, and Math (STEM) programming.

The school district worked with construction and architectural specialists, to complete an in-depth facility study in early 2019. The overall focus was to identify projects designed to upgrade and enhance the learning environment.

The bond proposal was developed following a review of the facility study by the school district's Facilities Needs Committee and Strategic Planning Leadership Group that regularly meet to assess Linden's school environment and make recommendations for Board of Education consideration. The assessment process also included conducting a stakeholder survey as part of the school district's strategic planning process.

"The facility assessment process led to a bond proposal that will affect every classroom and instructional space in the Linden Community Schools," said School Superintendent Russell Ciesielski.

"If this proposal is approved by voters, it will address our education and facility priorities," said Ciesielski. "A successful bond proposal will provide the school district with revenue to update and enhance our school facilities and provide a positive learning environment that supports quality instruction."

According to School Board President Scott Maker, "I believe it was in the best interest of our community to postpone the May election and move the bond proposal to the November 3rd ballot." Maker said that he and his School Board colleagues believe voter approval of the ballot proposal will be a significant step toward a positive future for Linden students and the Linden community. "We have a long history of community support for schools," he added. "Our residents understand that a successful election will have a positive impact on student achievement, homeowner property values, and the Linden community's enviable reputation."

Superintendent Ciesielski said the school district will be producing informational materials and making community presentations to explain the various components of the election proposal. "We want to make sure members of our community understand the ballot proposal, and that all of their questions are answered before the November 3rd election."

Registered voters can cast their ballot at the polls on Election Day or from September 19th through Election Day by absentee ballot.

To obtain bond-related information, residents of the school district are invited to visit www.lindenschools.org and click on *2020 School Election*. Residents are also invited to contact School Superintendent Russell Ciesielski at 810-591-0983 or by email at rciesiel@lindenschools.org.

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