Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Garden City Public Schools
May 5, 2020, Bond Proposal Election

When is the election?
Tuesday, May 5, 2020. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Absentee ballots will be available after March 21st.

What is on the ballot?
Registered voters residing within the boundaries of the Garden City Public Schools will vote on a $50 million bond proposal to fund improvements at all school facilities in the school district.

How was the bond proposal developed?
To protect the community’s investment in its schools, Garden City Public Schools' strategic plan includes a process for ongoing evaluation and monitoring of all school facilities. Working with construction and architectural specialists, an in-depth facility study was completed in the Spring of 2019. Following the study, recommendations were made that focused on building exteriors, interiors, surrounding property (site work), mechanical equipment, improvements to the learning environment, and updates to athletic facilities.

Three bond proposal options were developed. The bond options were reviewed with students, parents, staff members, long-time Garden City residents, and community leaders during a series of focus panels that were conducted in October 2019. A summary of focus panel recommendations was shared with the Board of Education to help develop the bond proposal.

What is the purpose of the bond proposal?
The primary purpose of the bond election is to remodel, renovate, update, and upgrade Garden City schools and school facilities. If approved, the bond proposal will address the following areas:

1. facility updates, including roofing replacements, upgrading mechanical and HVAC systems, improving energy efficiency, renovating the pool and pool locker rooms, renovating O’Leary Auditorium, and updating interior finishes;
2. **student safety enhancements**, including installing security hardware on classroom doors, remodeling GCMS to create a secure entrance, replacing firm alarm systems, updating PA systems, improving parking lots, and replacing sidewalks;

3. **improving the learning environment** by remodeling media centers and updating furnishings, updating science labs and greenhouses, creating a student commons area to support collaborative learning, and creating STEM /Maker-spaces, replacing the music instrument collection; and,

4. **improving athletic facilities**, including replacing the gym scoreboard and indoor track, installing a new stadium scoreboard and sound system, installing synthetic turf on the football field, reconstructing the parking lot and driveway approach, replacing fencing, and improving stadium area/athletic field drainage.

**Who determines if the bond proposal projects are allowed by law?**

Every project in the bond proposal must be reviewed and approved by the Michigan Department of Treasury. And, all renovations and upgrades must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

**What will the bond proposal cost?**

If voters approve the $50 million bond proposal, the current tax rate is projected to increase by 1.65 mills. The bond proposal is projected to cost the average Garden City homeowner $66.00 annually or $5.50 per month.

**Why will the bond be sold in two series?**

Selling the bonds in two series saves overall bond costs for taxpayers. The first series of bonds will be sold in June 2020 and the second series in May 2022. Selling bonds in two series also matches the revenue with the construction timeline for the proposed projects.

**What projects will be completed through the bond proposal?**

If the bond proposal is approved by voters, the following projects will be completed…

**Lathers**

- Replace exterior facia at entry
- Replace classroom flooring
- Install security hardware on all classroom doors
- Replace roof
- Replace building mechanical controls
- Replace exhaust fans
- Replace rooftop units
- Replace boilers and pump
- Replace classroom ventilators
- Replace PA (Public Address System)
- Replace/restore parking lots
- Replace curb/sidewalk
- Complete drain repair and replacements

**Memorial**
- Replace exterior facia at entry
- Replace classroom flooring
- Install security hardware on all classroom doors
- Replace office area carpet
- Replace building mechanical controls
- Replace exhaust fans
- Replace rooftop units
- Replace boilers and pump
- Replace classroom ventilators
- Replace PA (Public Address System)
- Replace/restore parking lots
- Replace curb/sidewalk
- Complete drain repair and replacements

**Douglas**
- Replace exterior facia at entry
- Replace classroom flooring
- Install security hardware on all classroom doors
- Replace roof
- Replace exterior gym doors
- Repair/replace aluminum trim and masonry
- Replace building mechanical controls
- Replace exhaust fans
- Replace rooftop units
- Replace boilers and pump
- Replace classroom ventilators
- Replace PA (Public Address System)
- Replace/restore parking lots
- Replace curb/sidewalk
- Complete drain repair and replacements
- Convert playground drainage and remove masonry wall
- Convert Tech Lab to STEM/Maker-space with needed furnishings

**Farmington**
- Replace exterior facia at entry
- Replace classroom flooring
- Install security hardware on all classroom doors
- Replace roof
- Replace building mechanical controls
- Replace exhaust fans
• Replace rooftop units
• Replace boilers and pump
• Replace classroom ventilators
• Replace PA (Public Address System)
• Replace/restore parking lots
• Replace curb/sidewalk
• Complete drain repair and replacements
• Reconstruct east bus loop
• Convert Tech Lab to STEM/Maker-space with needed furnishings

Cambridge
• Roof replacement
• Replace exterior doors
• Replace exterior windows
• Install new interior doors with security locks
• Remodel restrooms
• Replace flooring
• Renovate gym floor and locker room area
• Replace building mechanical controls
• Replace HVAC system
• Replace panel boards
• Replace fire alarm system
• Replace PA (Public Address System)
• Install sump pump
• Install circuiting and replace MDP in the boiler room

Burger Transition Center
• Replace roof
• Install security hardware on classroom doors
• Correct moisture issues in the Media Center
• Replace building mechanical controls
• Replace exhaust fans
• Replace rooftop units
• Replace boilers and pump
• Replace classroom ventilators
• Replace PA (Public Address System)
• Replace/restore parking lots
• Replace curb/sidewalk
• Complete drain repair and replacements
Garden City Middle School

- Replace roof
- Replace exterior facia
- Rekey entire building
- Replace ceiling
- Remodel locker rooms and restrooms
- Replace interior doors and hardware
- Remodel main entrance to provide secure entry
- Replace distribution panel boards
- Replace domestic water heater
- Replace exhaust fans
- Replace fire alarm system
- Replace boilers and air handler units,
- Replace PA (Public Address System)
- Replace sump pumps
- Replace gym air handlers
- Replace classroom unit ventilators
- Add new building mechanical controls
- Replace ceiling
- Remodel locker rooms
- Replace student lockers
- Install security hardware on classroom doors
- Refurbish the elevator
- Renovate restrooms
- Replace north parking lot
- Replace south drive
- Replace east loop /sidewalk
- Make rain repairs and replacements
- Remodel the media center and furnishings
- Update five science labs
- Update the greenhouse
- Replace stage flooring
- Replace stage sound/rigging/lighting
- Replace gym scoreboard and indoor track

Garden City High School

- Partial roof replacement
- Install metal panel siding over exterior insulation system
- Replace O’Leary exterior doors,
- Replace south entrance soffits
- Replace ceiling
- Remodel locker rooms
- Replace student lockers
- Install security hardware on classroom doors
- Refurbish the elevator
- Renovate restrooms
- Restore/renovate pool and pool locker rooms
- Renovate O’Leary Auditorium sound/rigging/lighting and seating and aisle carpeting
- Update HVAC for the pool area
- Add new building controls
• Replace roof mounted exhaust fans
• Replace rooftop units
• Replace unit ventilators
• Replace distribution panel boards
• Replace PA (Public Address System)
• Enhance band instrument collection
• Remodel media center and add collaborative furniture
• Update eight science labs
• Update the greenhouse
• Update the student commons area to support collaborative learning

**Stadium Area/Athletic Field**
• Remodel restrooms
• Remodel concessions area
• Remodel team rooms and storage area
• Reconstruct parking lot and driveway approach
• Replace Fencing
• Replace drain collars
• Install new scoreboard and sound system
• Install synthetic turf on the football field

**Will any other ongoing facility improvement projects be completed in addition to the bond proposal?**
Ongoing facility projects are regularly completed throughout the school year. In 2011, Garden City Public Schools voters passed a Sinking Fund. The Sinking Fund was renewed in 2015, and again in November 2019. The Sinking Fund is a non-general fund revenue source that the district uses for facility upgrades and renovations. The Sinking Fund generates approximately $1 million annually.

**What types of projects have been funded by the Sinking Fund?**
The Sinking Fund has enabled the school district to complete the following projects:
• GCHS Boiler Replacements
• GCHS Rubber Gym Floor
• Farmington IMC Drainage
• Farmington Playground Area
• GCHS Student Restroom Renovation
• Partial Lathers Flooring Replacements
• GCHS Tennis Courts • GCHS Athletic Track
• GCHS Parking Lot Phase I
• GCHS Parking Lot Phase II
• Partial Roof Replacement (GCHS and Cambridge)
Why is the school district installing synthetic turf at the athletic stadium?

Many school districts are moving away from natural grass and installing synthetic turf to their athletic fields. The major reasons for replacing grass with synthetic turf include: to improve student safety (eliminating ruts and providing a consistent playing field); to reduce maintenance costs (watering, use of pesticides, and mowing; and, to allow for expanded use of the field for all sports (including practice and events).

When was the last time a bond proposal was voted on by residents?

Eighteen years ago, in 2002, residents approved a 2.9 mill bond proposal for the school district. The bond proposal generated $36 million dollars. The majority of the bond was spent on updating all school facilities.

Will all bond proposal revenue go to the Garden City Public Schools?

Yes. All revenue from the bond proposal will go directly to the Garden City Public Schools. None of the revenue will go to Lansing or to any other school district or political entity.

If the bond proposal is approved by voters, will property values 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 Garden City Public Schools proposal projects are designed to reflect positively on homeowner property values and the school district’s reputation for effectiveness and efficiency.

What is a bond proposal?

A bond is a State-approved funding process for a set scope of projects. When voters approve a bond proposal, the school district sells bonds in the authorized amount and uses the proceeds of the sale to pay for those projects in the bond proposal. Bonds are usually paid back in 20-30 years.

In many ways, the bonding process is like a homeowner obtaining a mortgage and making payments over a period of years.

Bonds can be used for:

- Constructing new school buildings
- Constructing additions to existing school buildings
- Remodeling existing school buildings
- Energy conservation improvements
- Land purchases
- Site development and improvements
• Athletic and physical education facility development and improvements
• Playground development and improvements
• Refunding debt (if new present value savings can be demonstrated)
• Direct bond program costs such as professional fees, election fees, issuance costs, qualification fees, insurance fees, final audit costs
• School bus purchases
• Purchasing loose furnishings and equipment (including administrative technology)
• Technology purchases limited to hardware and communication devices that transmit, receive or compute information for pupil instructional purposes only. The initial purchase of operating system and customized application software is allowed if purchased with the initial hardware.

• **Bonds cannot be used for:**
  • Salaries, service contracts, lease payments, installment contracts, and supplies
  • Repairs, maintenance, or maintenance agreements
  • Purchasing automobiles, trucks, or vans
  • Portable classrooms purchased for temporary use
  • Uniforms
  • Textbooks
  • Upgrades to an existing computer operating system or application software
  • Computer training, computer consulting, or computer maintenance contracts

**Can any of the bond proposal funds be used for employee salaries or operating expenses?**

No. Bond proposal funds cannot be used for employee salaries. They also cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs or other operating expenses. Bond proposal funds must be used only for purposes specified in the ballot language, and, as required by State law, they must be independently audited.

**What will appear on the May 5th ballot?**

Here is the exact ballot wording:

Garden City Public Schools
Bond Proposal

Shall the Garden City Public Schools, County of Wayne, Michigan, borrow the principal sum of not to exceed Fifty Million Dollars ($50,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds for the purpose of defraying the cost of making the following improvements:
remodeling School District buildings, including security, roof and energy improvements and restoring the high school pool;
• equipping, furnishing, reequipping and refurnishing School District buildings, including the acquisition of musical instruments;
• acquiring and installing instructional technology infrastructure and equipment; and
• improving and developing sites, including outdoor athletic fields, facilities, structures and parking lots, in the School District?

☐ Yes
☐ No

The following is for informational purposes only:

The debt millage levy required to retire all bonds of the School District currently outstanding and proposed by this ballot proposal is estimated to be at or below 6.40 mills, resulting in an estimated net increase of 1.65 mills over the prior year’s levy. The estimated millage to be levied in 2020 to service this issue of bonds is 2.31 mills ($2.31 per $1,000 of taxable value) and the estimated simple average annual millage rate required to retire the bonds of this issue is 5.12 mills ($5.12 per $1,000 of taxable value). The bonds may be issued in multiple series, payable in the case of each series in not to exceed 26 years from the date of issue of such series. The School District currently has $16,520,000 of qualified bonds outstanding and $0 of qualified loans outstanding under the State School Bond Qualification and Loan Program. The School District does not expect to borrow from the program to pay debt service on these bonds. The computed millage rate may change based on changes in circumstances.

(Under state law, bond proceeds may not be used to pay teacher or administrator salaries, routine maintenance costs or other School District operating expenses.)

A YES vote typically means that a voter supports a proposal. Is that the case in this election?

Yes. Voters who support the Garden City Public Schools bond proposal should vote YES; voters who oppose the bond proposal should vote NO.

What will happen if voters do not approve the bond proposal?

The bond projects cannot be addressed as proposed.
Who can vote in this bond proposal election?
Residents of the Garden City Public Schools who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day and are registered to vote.

Where can I get information about voting (such as how to register, where to vote, and absentee voting)?
Go to the Michigan Voter Information website (www.michigan.gov/vote) or call the Clerk’s Office where you reside.

Do I need to update my voter registration?
You need to update your voter registration if you have changed your name or address since the last time you voted. You can do this at any Secretary of State Office or at the Clerk’s Office where you reside.

Can I vote by absentee ballot?
Yes. Since voter approval of Proposal 3 in November 2018, registered voters do not need a reason to vote by absentee ballot. You can request an absentee ballot application from your Clerk’s Office or by going online to www.michigan.gov/vote and clicking on Absentee Voting in the left column. Absentee ballots will be available to voters after March 21st.

To get more information about the bond election and answers to your questions...
● Go to www.gardencityschools.com click on School Election Information
● Call any Garden City Public Schools principal
● Call Superintendent of Schools Derek Fisher at 734/762-8300 or email him at fisherd@gardencityschools.com

This document was prepared to provide factual information about the Garden City Public Schools May 5, 2020 election and was paid for by the Garden City Public Schools, 1333 Radcliff Garden City, MI 48135.