

INSIDE

White
Cloud
Schools

White Cloud Public Schools Newsletter • Bond Proposal Issue 2025



On Tuesday, May 6, 2025, voters living in the White Cloud Public Schools district will have the opportunity to consider a bond proposal that, if approved, would result in \$28.4 million for district-wide facility improvements with a **ZERO TAX-RATE INCREASE** over the 2024 levy expected.

This bond would allow for safety and security upgrades, while also addressing aging facilities to provide modernized learning and athletic environments. The proposal comes as a result of in-depth evaluations by school staff, parents and community members to create a long-term plan that addresses the current and future needs of district facilities and programs.

For more, visit www.whitecloud.net or contact Superintendent, Ed Canning, at 231-689-6591 or canninge@whitecloud.net.

VOTING INFORMATION

Registered voters may vote via absentee ballot as early as March 27 or in person May 6, 2025. Polls will be open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Visit www.michigan.gov/vote or scan the QR code to register to vote, request an absentee ballot or locate your polling place.



BOND PROPOSAL QUICK FACTS



ZERO TAX-RATE

INCREASE OVER
LAST YEAR'S MILLAGE
LEVY EXPECTED



TOP PRIORITIES

ARE SAFETY, SECURITY
AND MODERNIZED
FACILITIES



ALL STUDENTS

AND BUILDINGS TO
EXPERIENCE UPGRADES
AND IMPROVEMENTS



VOTE BY MAY 6

RESIDENTS 18+ YEARS
CAN REGISTER TO VOTE

Paid for by White Cloud Public Schools
555 E. Wilcox Avenue, White Cloud, MI 49349

VOTE BY MAY 6!



WHITE CLOUD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025 BOND PROPOSAL



DISTRICT IMPROVEMENTS

Our main priorities are to give our students safe and secure facilities and improved learning environments. If approved by voters, this bond would impact every student and school building, while also expanding programs and opportunities for our community. Here is a snapshot of what would be included:

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

- Construct secure building entry
- Create lighted path connecting Elementary to Jr/Sr High schools
- Renovate office
- Replace select windows, doors and roof
- Replace boilers and select HVAC equipment
- Upgrade fire alarm system
- Expand parking lot
- Update locker rooms
- Expand gym/mezzanine storage
- Update library and lobby
- Renovate science lab and select classrooms

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

- Construct secure building entry
- Create lighted path connecting Elementary to Jr/Sr High schools
- Replace exterior doors
- Renovate gymnasium and stage
- Renovate science lab
- Replace select classroom doors and windows
- Upgrade cabinets and counters
- Upgrade fire alarm system
- Replace electrical panels
- Improve outdoor student space

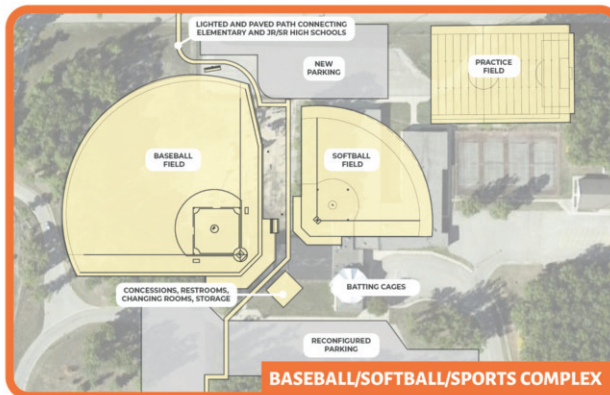
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Construct secure building entry
- Create lighted path connecting Elementary to Jr/Sr High schools
- Update gymnasium
- Reconfigure lobby and entry
- Replace select doors and windows
- Replace select HVAC equipment
- Upgrade cabinets and counters
- Improve traffic flow and parking
- Improve paved areas, sidewalks and other exterior areas
- Add playground

ATHLETICS/OTHER

- Construct Baseball/Softball/Sports Complex and football practice field at former Jack D. Jones Elem. site
- Construct concessions, restrooms and storage building at football stadium
- Replace home and visitor bleachers at football stadium
- Improve sidewalks and plaza at football stadium
- Upgrade football stadium lighting
- Add parking at football stadium
- Add canopy for buses
- Construct bus garage addition
- Update maintenance garage

AGING FACILITIES AT A GLANCE



DISTRICT FINANCING OVERVIEW



Per Pupil Allowance

- \$9,608 per student from State of Michigan

Operational Millage

- 9.5 mills, which supports general fund and annual district budget

Opportunity

- **\$28.4 Million For District-Wide Improvements**

ZERO TAX RATE INCREASE

EXPECTED OVER LAST YEAR'S LEVY

WHY NOW?



- Opportunity to extend debt with **no tax-rate increase over the prior year's levy**
- Improvements are part of strategic plan
- Generational improvements
- Community opportunities

HOW DID WE GET HERE?



- Facility evaluation: District administration, Triangle (construction manager), Pure (architect)
- Staff and community surveys
- **Total Recommendations = \$28.4 Million**
Facilities improvements would occur at:
High School
Junior High
Elementary School
Maintenance/Transportation
Football Stadium
New Baseball/Softball/Sports Complex

ZERO TAX-RATE INCREASE

OVER LAST YEAR'S LEVY

KEY PRIORITIES



Safety and Security

- Lighted pathway connecting elementary to Jr/Sr High
- Secure entrances
- Replace fire alarms
- Traffic flow improvements
- Replace select doors and windows
- Energy-efficient lighting



Improve Aging Facilities

- Outdoor student space improvements
- Classroom renovations
- Library, mezzanine, gymnasium upgrades
- Junior High stage area updates
- Boiler, HVAC upgrades
- Select furniture replacements
- Parking lot and sidewalk improvements



Athletic Improvements

- Baseball/softball/sports complex
- Locker room improvements
- Restrooms, concessions and team room building at football field
- New home and visitor bleachers at football field

ZERO TAX-RATE INCREASE

OVER LAST YEAR'S LEVY

SURVEY FEEDBACK



All proposed projects supported by at least 91% of surveyed community and staff

- **Most Supported by Community:**
Safety and Security: 98% support
- **Most Supported by Staff (two-way tie):**
Safety and Security, Lighted Pathway connecting Elementary and Jr/Sr High: 100% support
- **Least Supported by Community and Staff:**
Transportation facility improvements: 84% / 99% support

SURVEY FEEDBACK (COMMUNITY/STAFF)

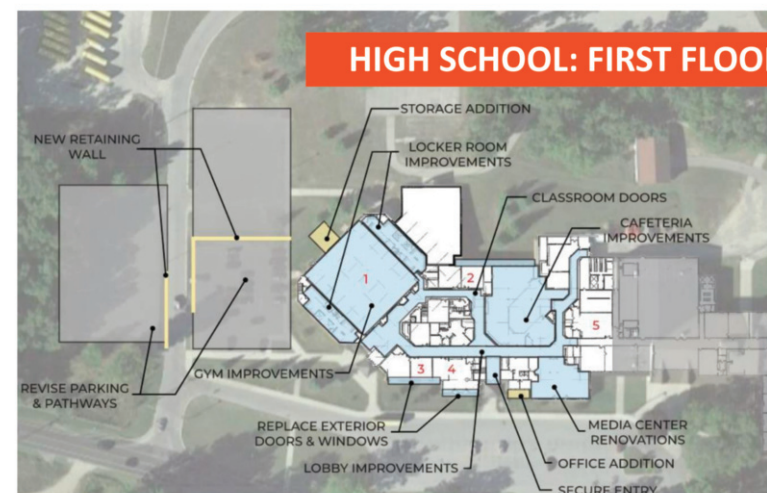
- **Traffic Flow Improvements at Elementary:** 93% / 99%
- **Security Upgrades (select door and window replacement, access controls, cameras):** 96% / 100%
- **Secure Entrances/Office Renovations:** 87% / 99%
- **Baseball/Softball/Sports Complex:** 90% / 97%
- **Improved Classrooms, Storage, Lighting, Flooring, Boilers, Electrical Panels and Parking Lot:** 92% / 97%
- **Football Stadium Improvements:** 90% / 94%

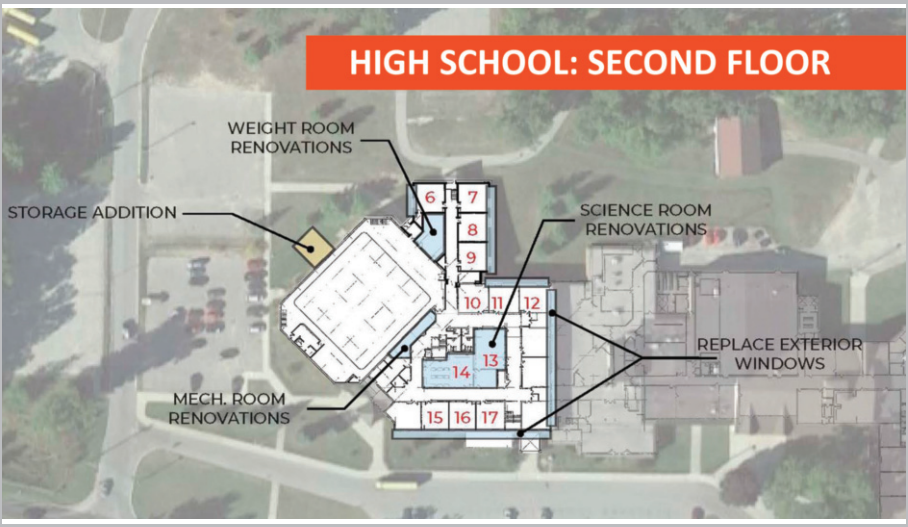
HIGH SCHOOL



- Construct secure entry
- Lighted pathway connecting Elementary to Jr/Sr High
- Add additional offices
- Replace select windows, doors and roof areas
- Replace boilers and select HVAC units
- Upgrade fire alarm system
- Expand parking lot
- Update locker rooms
- Gym and/or mezzanine storage addition/upgrades
- Update media center
- Renovate science lab and select classrooms

HIGH SCHOOL: FIRST FLOOR



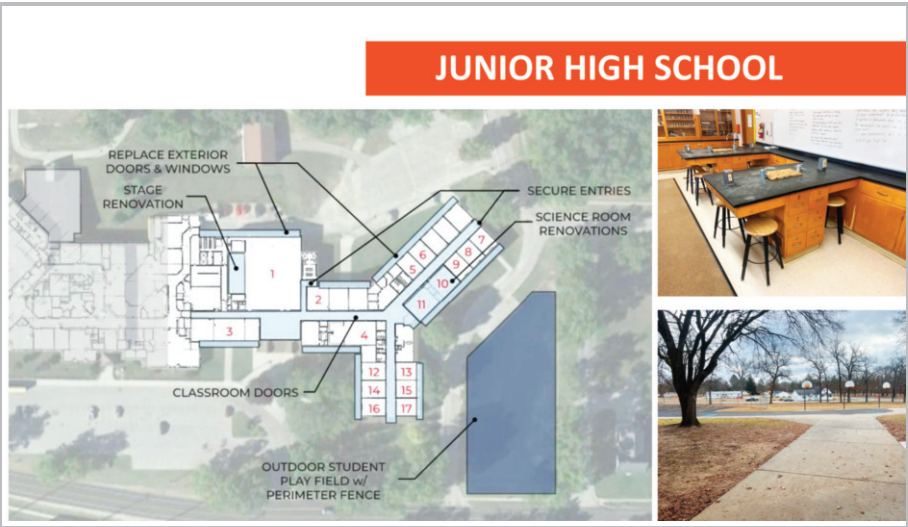


HIGH SCHOOL: SECOND FLOOR



JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

- New secure entries
- Lighted pathway connecting elementary to Jr/Sr High
- Replace windows
- Replace exterior doors
- Create air-lock vestibule
- Renovate gymnasium and stage
- Renovate science lab
- Replace select classroom doors and windows
- Upgrade interior finishes
- Upgrade fire alarm system
- Replace electrical panels
- Improve outdoor student space

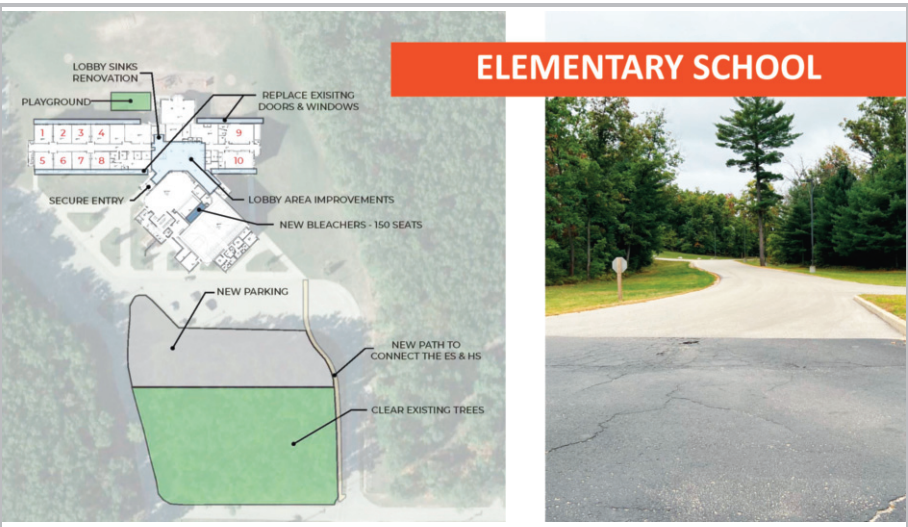


JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Secure entries
- Lighted pathway connecting Elementary to Jr/Sr High
- Gymnasium improvements
- Playground addition
- Secure entries and lobby area improvements
- Replace needed doors and windows
- Replace needed HVAC equipment
- Upgrade interior finishes
- Improve traffic flow and parking
- Improve paved areas, sidewalks and other exterior areas

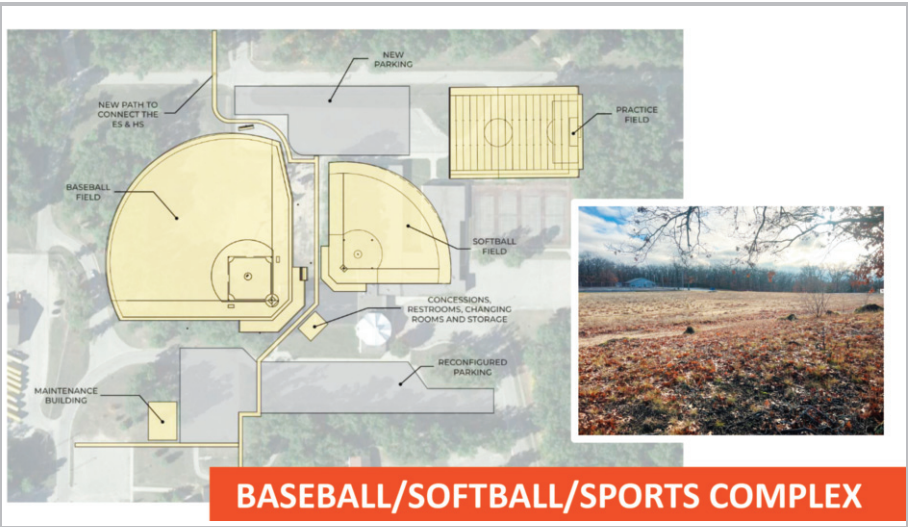


ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



BASEBALL/SOFTBALL/SPORTS COMPLEX

- Construct baseball field with scoreboard and seating
- Construct softball field with scoreboard and seating
- Construct concessions, restroom, storage and team room building
- Add parking areas
- Construct football practice field

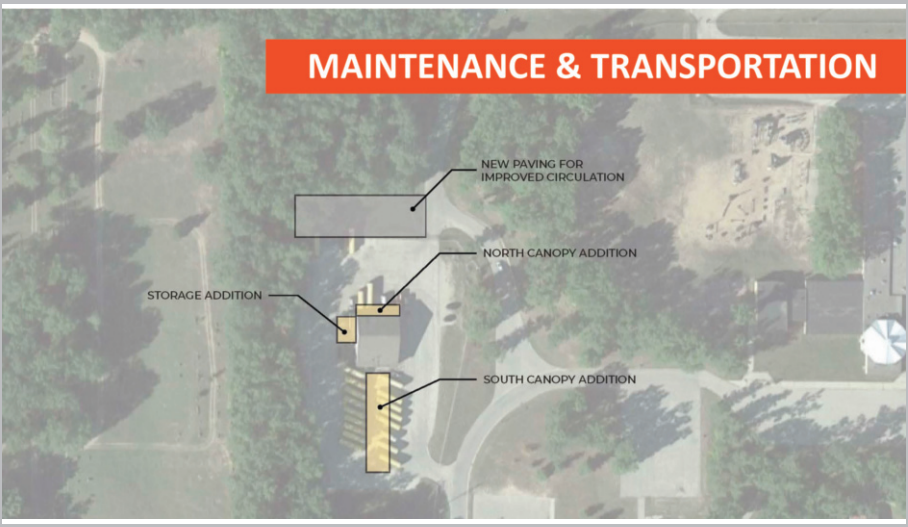
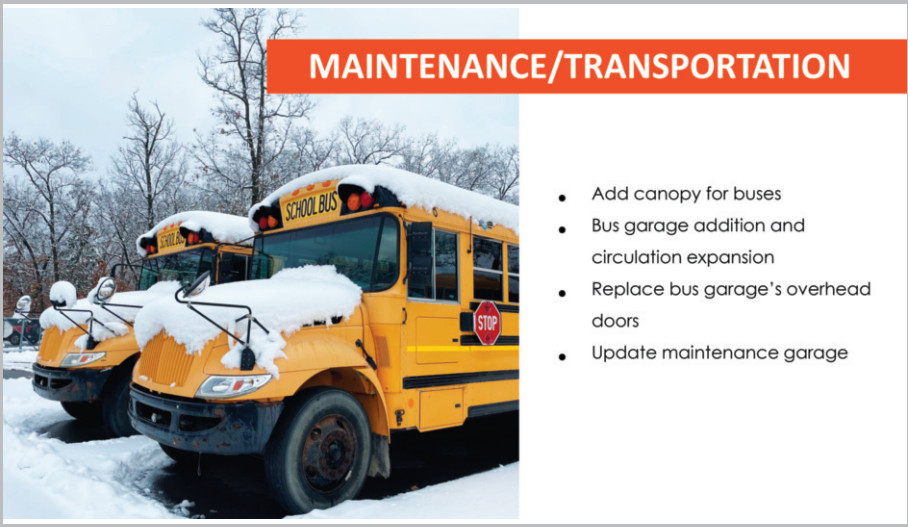


BASEBALL/SOFTBALL/SPORTS COMPLEX



FOOTBALL STADIUM

- New stadium storage, restroom and concessions building
- Relocate/modify water well and electrical service
- New home and visitor bleachers
- Circulation improvements (sidewalks/plaza)
- Upgrade stadium lights



BOND PROPOSAL

UNDERSTANDING THE BALLOT LANGUAGE

Shall White Cloud Public Schools, Newaygo County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Twenty-Eight Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$28,400,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, for the purpose of:

erecting, completing, remodeling, and equipping and re-equipping school buildings and facilities, and additions to school buildings and facilities; furnishing and refurbishing school buildings and facilities; acquiring, installing, equipping and re-equipping school buildings for instructional technology; and preparing, developing, improving and equipping athletic fields, play fields, playgrounds, structures, facilities and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2025, under current law, is 1.65 mills (\$1.65 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a 0 mill net increase over the prior year's levy. The maximum number of years the bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is thirty (30) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 3.64 mills (\$3.64 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district expects to borrow from the State School Bond Qualification and Loan Program to pay debt service on these bonds. The estimated total principal amount of that borrowing is \$4,112,299 and the estimated total interest to be paid thereon is \$1,162,234. The estimated duration of the millage levy associated with that borrowing is 8 years and the estimated computed millage rate for such levy is 9.5 mills. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is \$13,405,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is approximately \$471,135.

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

ZERO NO TAX-RATE INCREASE

\$28.4 MILLION
White Cloud Public Schools would sell bonds totaling \$28.4 million for facility improvements.

PROJECT FOCUS

- Safety and security enhancements
- Address aging educational spaces
- Technology upgrades
- Athletic improvements

ZERO INCREASE

- No tax rate increase is projected over the current rate of 9.5 mills
- The debt millage rate has been 9.5 mills since 2016 and is projected to remain at 9.5 mills until 2033, when it is expected to decrease

VOTE BY MAY 6

Learn more at www.whitecloud.net

ELECTION INFORMATION

VOTE BY MAY 6, 2025

WHO?
Any registered voter living in the White Cloud Public Schools District can vote. Visit www.michigan.gov/vote

ABSENTEE BALLOTS
Available beginning March 27, 2025

ELECTION DAY: May 6, 2025
Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Visit www.michigan.gov/vote to determine your polling location

REGISTER TO VOTE

VOTE ABSENTEE

Bond Proposal FAQs

Looking to the future of White Cloud Public Schools, our community will have an opportunity to vote on a school bond proposal on the May 6, 2025 election ballot. If approved by voters, this bond proposal would provide \$28,400,000 for district-wide improvements with a **ZERO tax-rate increase expected**.

BOND BASICS:

"What is a bond proposal and how can funds from a bond be spent?"

A bond proposal is how a public school district asks its community for authorization to borrow money to pay for capital expenditures. Voter-approved bond funds can be spent on projects identified in the proposal. Funds raised through the sale of bonds cannot be used on operational expenses such as employee salaries and benefits, school supplies, textbooks or general maintenance. Bond funds must be kept separate from operating funds and must be audited by an independent auditing firm.

"What was the process to determine what is in the bond proposal?"

The District has methodically studied the current and projected needs of school buildings and educational programs to determine a facility master plan. Using this information, supplemented with staff input and a community survey, district leaders and the Board of Education are now asking voters to consider a school bond proposal on the May 6, 2025 ballot to address: safety and security, aging facilities and athletic improvements. For a detailed list of projects, see the district website at www.whitecloud.net.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

"How would the bond proposal impact my property tax rate?"

If approved by voters, the White Cloud debt millage rate is projected to remain the same as the current levy with no tax-rate increase expected to property owners.

"How is a no tax rate increase possible?"

The current debt millage tax rate of 9.5 mills is expected to remain the same. The overall debt millage rate of 9.5 mills is projected to be extended until 2032; thereafter it is expected to decline.

"Would the approval of the bond proposal have any impact on our current operational budget?"

While funding from this bond proposal is independent of district's general fund operating budget, the bond would have a positive impact on the district's general fund by allowing the district to reallocate some of the operating funds that are currently being spent on aging facilities, mechanical systems and technology. The operational savings generated from new and cost-efficient facilities could be redirected to student programs and resources.

"Would money from the bond proposal be used to pay teachers' salaries and benefits?"

No. School districts are not allowed to use funds from a bond for operating expenses such as teacher, administrator or employee salaries, routine maintenance or other operating costs. Bond proceeds can only be spent for purposes approved by the voters. Bond revenue must be kept separate from operating funds and all bond expenditures must be audited by an independent auditing firm.

"How can voters be sure the bond funds would be spent the way they are supposed to be spent?"

Michigan law requires that expenditure of bond proceeds be audited. The bond proceeds can only be spent for purposes approved by the voters. The bond proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses. An audit would be completed and filed with the Department of Treasury to ensure compliance.

"When will the millage for this proposal first be levied?"

On the Winter 2025 property tax bill.

Bond Proposal FAQs, continued

"Are businesses and second homes (non-homestead property) and primary homes (homestead property) treated the same regarding bond millage?"

Yes, businesses and second homes (non-homestead) and primary homes (homestead) are treated the same regarding bond millage. All properties are assessed for debt millage based on their taxable value.

PROJECT INFORMATION:

"Why are we constructing a lighted pathway connecting the WC Elementary School to WC Junior/Senior High Schools?"

Several students walk between the Elementary and Junior/Senior High schools for activities or to pick up siblings. There isn't a set pathway, and during the early hours and in the evening, visibility is low.

"Why are we constructing a new baseball/softball/sports complex?"

White Cloud Public Schools and our community have expressed a desire for the district to have its own baseball/softball/sports complex and develop the land on the Jack D. Jones Elementary site. The addition of a new baseball/softball/sports complex could impact students and their families for generations. Currently, the baseball and softball fields our school teams play on are owned by the city. A new complex would free up those city-owned fields for youth programs and events.

"Where will the new baseball/softball/sports complex be located?"

The complex will be located north of the Jr./Sr. High School on the Jack D. Jones Elementary site.

"How old are the facilities?"

Senior High: 1992 (2003 partial remodel)
Junior High: 1962 (1992, 2003 partial remodel)
Elementary School: 2002
Bus Garage: 1992

"What oversights would hold the district accountable?"

If approved by voters, the district's Architect/Engineer would design the proposed projects and prepare construction documents and specifications for the projects. Once the projects are designed, the district's Construction Manager will assemble bid packages and publicly advertise to solicit competitive bids for all work. This process is required by law as outlined in the Revised School Code. This process ensures that the district selects the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. All qualified contractors will have an opportunity to attend a pre-bid meeting to obtain additional information and project clarification. All qualified contractors will have the opportunity to participate in the competitive bid process.

"At what point would the State of Michigan, as well as the local fire and police departments, provide input into the bond projects?"

Each project will be required to be submitted to both the Bureau of Construction Codes (BCC) and the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) for both plan review and permitting. These agencies will review the projects to ensure they comply with applicable codes, before any building permits are issued. Building plans and specifications must be signed and sealed by a Licensed Architect/Professional Engineer before submission. Michigan law also requires school districts to consult on the plans for the construction or major renovation regarding school safety issues with the law enforcement agency that is the first responder for that school building. This consultation would happen after a bond proposal has been approved by voters, before construction documents are finalized, prior to project commencement.

VOTING INFORMATION:

"Am I eligible to vote?"

To be eligible to register to vote you must be:

- A Michigan resident (at the time you register) and a resident of your city or township for at least 30 days. (when you vote)
- A United States citizen.
- At least 18 years of age (when you vote)
- Not currently serving a sentence in jail or prison.

Bond Proposal FAQs, continued

"How do I register to vote?"

- Visit michigan.gov/vote to register to vote online.
- It is recommended by the Secretary of State to register by mail by April 21, 2025 to participate in the May 6, 2025 election.
- Individuals may also register in-person at their local clerk's office through May 6, 2025 with the required documentation. For assistance in obtaining the address of your local clerk, visit michigan.gov/vote.

"If I rent a house, can I vote?"

Yes, if you rent a house you can still vote. You must be a registered voter in the city or township you are living in and live within the school district's boundaries.

"How is an absentee voter ballot obtained?"

- Registered voters must complete and submit the application to receive their absentee voter ballot.
- To vote by mail, fill out the application and sign it, and then return it to your local clerk.
- For assistance in obtaining the address of your local clerk, visit michigan.gov/vote.
- When filling out the application, if you check the box to be added to the permanent absentee voter list, you will get an application mailed to you before every election.
- If you registered to vote after absentee voter ballot applications were mailed, applications may be obtained at michigan.gov/vote.
- Absentee voter ballots are available to the general public by March 27, 2025 through Election Day, May 6, 2025.

"What are the key dates leading up to Tuesday, May 6, 2025, election day?"

Registering to vote:

- The last day for voters to register by mail is **April 21, 2025**.
- Voters may register in-person through Tuesday, May 6, 2025 (Election Day) with the required documentation.

Absentee voting:

- Absentee voter ballots are to be made available by **March 27, 2025** until Tuesday, May 6, 2025.
- Contact your local clerk with questions.

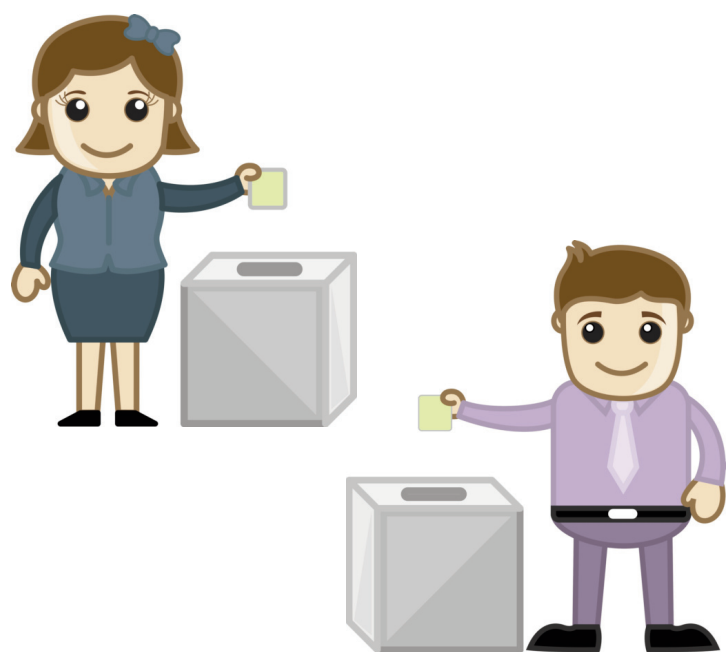
"Where and when will the vote occur?"

- Tuesday, May 6, 2025 is Election Day, but registered voters may vote early using an absentee ballot.
- On Election Day, polls will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm on Tuesday, May 6, 2025.
- If you have questions or do not know where you vote, please contact your city/township office.

BALLOT VERBIAGE:

Shall White Cloud Public Schools, Newaygo County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Twenty-Eight Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$28,400,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, for the purpose of: erecting, completing, remodeling, and equipping and re-equipping school buildings and facilities, and additions to school buildings and facilities; furnishing and refurbishing school buildings and facilities; acquiring, installing, equipping and re-equipping school buildings for instructional technology; and preparing, developing, improving and equipping athletic fields, play fields, playgrounds, structures, facilities and sites?

This informational material is paid for by White Cloud Public Schools, 555 E. Wilcox Avenue, White Cloud, MI 49349.





Bond Proposal Would Improve Safety, Security, Facilities



By Ed Canning, Superintendent

On May 6, 2025, we have the chance to vote on a bond proposal that, if approved, will enhance our educational facilities and strengthen the safety and security measures across our campus.

After careful consideration and extensive community surveys, we have identified several key areas that require attention. The proposed bond focuses on addressing these needs with no expected overall debt milling from the 2024 rate for our residents.

The bond proposal includes updates to enhance safety and security measures districtwide. From improved lighting and surveillance systems to enhance emergency preparedness protocols, these updates would ensure that our schools' improvements remain safe and welcoming environments for all.

Furthermore, the proposed bond would fund the creation of a safe and secure walkway connecting our elementary school to our junior high and high school buildings. This walkway would provide a protected lighted route for students and staff, promoting peace of mind for parents and establishing a safe passage between schools.

In response to community feedback, we are also pleased to announce that the bond proposal would include

improvements to the traffic flow at our elementary school. By implementing strategic traffic management solutions, we aim to alleviate congestion and enhance safety during drop-off and pick-up times.

The bond proposal includes plans for the construction of a baseball and softball sports complex located on the former JDJ property. These facilities would benefit our student-athletes.

We understand the importance of being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars, which is why we want to emphasize that if this bond proposal is approved, there would be no expected tax rate increase for our community from the 2024 debt millage rate.

Please consider voting by **May 6, 2025**, on this important issue.

To provide further information and address any questions you may have, we have links available on our website at www.whitecloud.net. We encourage you to explore these resources and engage with us as we work together to shape the future of White Cloud Public Schools.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our community's educational excellence. ■

OR OCCUPANT
POST OFFICE BOX
RURAL ROUTE BOX HOLDER

White Cloud Public Schools
P.O. Box 1000
White Cloud, MI 49349

Important School Phone Numbers

Superintendent's Office
(231) 689-6591

High School
(231) 689-1705

Junior High
(231) 689-2181

White Cloud Elementary
(231) (1) 689-2300

