



Lake Linden-Hubbell Schools Ballot Proposals

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the two ballot proposals?

- The first proposal is asking voters to **renew** the current operating millage which was last voted on in 2022 and would extend it for another three years.
- The second proposal is asking voters to allow the District to issue bonds in the amount of \$6,500,000 to be repaid in up to 15 years to take care of infrastructure, safety/security and efficiency needs. It would continue the current debt levy or 4.5 mills resulting in a **zero mill increase** for residents.

Why are these necessary?

- Renewing the operating millage proposal would generate almost \$1.5 million in revenue this coming year for the District. That represents around 1/3 of the District's annual revenue.
- The bond proposal would allow the District to address safety and security along with infrastructure needs. It would add a new secure entrance in the elementary school, replace the entire security camera system, replace all the windows in the elementary school and replace all the boilers in the District. There are 4 boilers that currently serve the District. They range from 27 to 33 years in age. They are at or beyond their life expectancy and are not energy efficient. Those would be replaced through this proposal while also allowing for a lengthy list of other needs to also be addressed.

Why do schools use bonds to finance items?

- It can be a financial advantage to the District operating fund to pay for some capital expenditures such as technology, buses, land, buildings and large infrastructure and renovation projects with bond money rather than from the General Fund. First, bonding allows the cost of the purchases to be spread over the life of the asset rather than coming from a single year's General Fund budget. The District's General Fund does not have adequate annual revenues to fund capital projects and also carry on the operations of the District. Importantly, state law requires that the bonds for the short useful life items be paid off within that useful life. That means a bus or a computer cannot be financed for an excessive length of time.

The ballot language for the second proposal (bonds) mentions, “preparing, developing and improving an athletic field”. Is the District constructing a new athletic field?

- No. The football field will get a re-crowning/reshaping but in order to include it in the project list the ballot language had to be such what it is.

Why should I consider supporting these proposals if I do not have students attending the school district?

- Community Prosperity: Strong schools increase property values which benefit homeowners whether they have children in the District or not.
- Skilled Workforce: Quality education produces a skilled and educated workforce. This benefits area-wide employers leading to better job opportunities with good wages.
- Safety and Crime: Good schools help reduce crime rates by keeping young people engaged in positive activities and programs while promoting a sense of community.
- Social Responsibility: Supporting education is a social responsibility. Education is the foundation of a well-functioning society and an investment in schools is an investment in the future of your community.
- Long Term Benefits: Education has a lasting impact on society. By supporting education today, you are contributing to the future well-being and success of the students that go through the District and your community.
- Remember, strong schools benefit everyone, not just those with children in the system. Considering these proposals is to consider investing in your community and the students that reside within it while helping to ensure our community remains a great place to live, work and visit.

What safeguards are in place to ensure the funds collected through this bond proposal are allocated as described if passed?

- The Department of Treasury of the State of Michigan has reviewed and approved this project application. The Department of Treasury has granted Lake Linden-Hubbell Public Schools “Qualified” status for this bond question.
- The State of Michigan requires the school district to obtain a five-year enrollment projection from an approved, independent service. The District obtained the five-year enrollment projection from Michigan Alliance for Student Opportunity from Lansing, MI. The five-year enrollment projection showed the District as being stable with a slight 1.83% or 6 student increase over that time period.

Who is eligible to vote on these proposals?

- All registered voters who live within the school district boundaries are eligible to vote on these proposals.

Where can I get more information on the ballot proposals?

- There is more information available on the Lake Linden-Hubbell Public Schools website at:
<https://lakelindschools.org/bond.php>

Residents are also encouraged to contact Superintendent Brad Codere at (906) 296-6211 or email:
coderebr@lakelinden.k12.mi.us