



DIGEST

INVESTING IN OUR FACILITIES

No Additional Cost to Taxpayers

On Tuesday, Sept. 28, residents within the Smithtown Central School District will have the opportunity to vote on a \$120 million bond proposal for various districtwide capital improvements. If approved, the proposal would not increase taxes, as new payments for the proposed work would replace expiring debt payments. Therefore, no new tax revenue would be needed to support the bond payments.

The proposed bond referendum prioritizes safety and security, renovates and repairs aging facilities, and continues to provide opportunities for student success. The list of projects was developed following extensive walkthroughs of each building as part of the New York State Education Department Building Condition Survey, which is mandated every five years.

The majority of projects proposed in the new bond referendum are essential infrastructure and safety upgrades. Not only have many of these systems exceeded their useful life spans, but they are no longer compliant with code. Proposed projects include:

- Installation of HVAC systems to improve fresh air intake.
- Improvements to lighting in select areas.
- Replacement of outdated hot water heaters.
- Repairs to cracked sidewalks and asphalt.
- Replacement of windows, doors and deteriorating ceiling tiles.
- Upgrades to the fire alarm systems in all buildings to provide adequate audio-visual strobes and smoke detectors to meet current space requirements.
- Renovation of exterior stairs, steps and ramps.

The proposal also includes several enhancements to directly benefit the education of Smithtown students, such as:

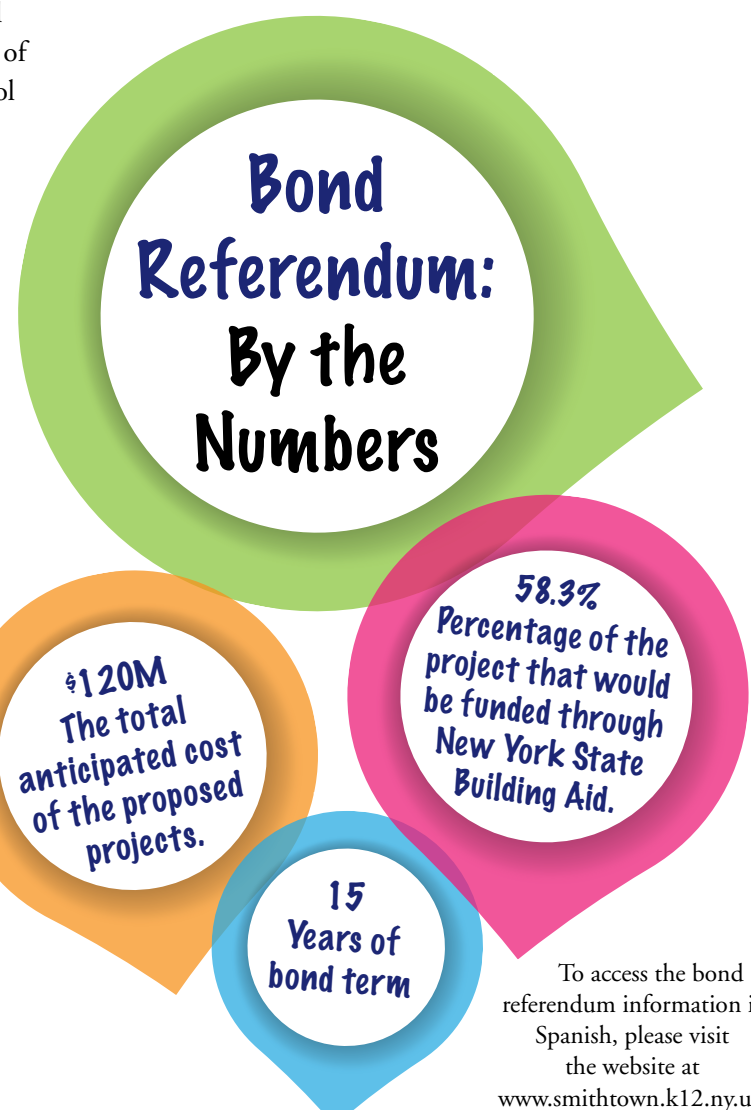
- Enhancements and upgrades to select auditoriums, including new seating, finishes, acoustical treatments, LED house and theatrical lighting, rigging, sound system and smart podiums.
- Reconfiguration and upgrades to existing science, family and consumer science, technology, robotics and preschool classrooms at the secondary level.
- Investments to physical education and athletic programs, including renovated locker rooms, construction of new concession stands and bathrooms at both the High School East and High School West stadium fields, creation of a fitness center at High School West and renovations to the athletic turf fields on the secondary level.

“With state building aid close to 60% and retiring of old debt, this is the ideal time to preserve and invest in our facilities,” said Andrew Tobin, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. “If approved by Smithtown voters, it is anticipated there will be no additional cost to our taxpayers.”

Added Board of Education President Matthew Gribbin, “Over the last several years, we have made significant investments in our educational programs to the benefit of our students. To ensure we are providing adequate learning spaces to complement our educational programs, we must work to preserve the integrity of our facilities.”

The district will host bond forums to provide an overview of the proposal. The forums will take place on Sept. 21 at 3 p.m. at the New York Avenue building and on Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. at Smithtown High School West.

We look forward to your participation on Sept. 28. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, including a video and FAQ, visit the district website at www.smithtown.k12.ny.us.



Smithtown Central School District
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Smithtown, NY 11787

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To access the bond referendum information in Spanish, please visit the website at www.smithtown.k12.ny.us.



INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

The proposed bond will invest in our aging facilities to ensure our district is providing a safe learning environment for all children and staff members:

- Repair cracked sidewalks and asphalt.
- Replace windows, doors and deteriorating ceiling tiles.
- Renovate exterior stairs, steps and ramps.
- Address drainage issues and add additional drainage structures where needed.
- Replace rusting lintels and repair loose and cracked masonry on exterior walls and chimneys.



HEALTH & SAFETY

The proposed bond will help create and maintain a safe and secure learning environment at all schools. Projects include:

- Upgrade the fire alarm systems in all buildings to provide adequate audio-visual strobes and smoke detectors to meet current space requirements.
- Replace and upgrade HVAC systems to improve fresh air intake.
- Improve lighting in select areas.
- Replace outdated hot water heaters.
- Install new cameras and security features districtwide.
- Install new fiber runs to network closets, guard booths, stadium fields, press boxes and new concession stands.
- Install ADA chairlift at Accomsett Middle School to allow people with disabilities to enter building from main entrance.
- Select multistall boys and girls bathrooms along with men's and women's faculty bathrooms in each building will be upgraded with new plumbing fixtures, ceilings, lights and finishes. Where possible these bathrooms will be made handicap accessible.



ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS AND THE ARTS

The proposed bond will provide students and staff with adequate facilities for a 21st-century learning environment.

- Enhancements and upgrades to select auditoriums, including new seating, finishes, acoustical treatments, LED house and theatrical lighting, rigging, sound system and smart podiums.
- Reconfiguration and upgrades to existing science, family and consumer science, technology, robotics and preschool classrooms at the secondary level.
- Investments to physical education and athletic programs, including renovated locker rooms, construction of new concession stands and bathrooms at both the High School East and High School West stadium fields and creation of a fitness center at High School West.
- Irrigation of fields at Middle Schools.
- Replacement of the Synthetic Turf and Track surfacing at the High Schools and replacement of baseball and softball infields with Synthetic Turf at both High Schools.



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BOND VOTE SEPT. 28, 2021

ELECTION DISTRICT No. 1

West of Hauppauge Road (Route 111) south of Jericho Turnpike, and west of Fifty-Acre Road South and Fifty-Acre Road, north of Jericho Turnpike, west to the boundaries of District No. 4.

VOTE AT: Smithtown Elementary School, located at 51 Lawrence Avenue in Smithtown.

POLLING PLACE:

The Smithtown Elementary School Gymnasium.

ELECTION DISTRICT No. 3

East of Hauppauge Road and south of Jericho Turnpike.

VOTE AT: *Nesconset Elementary School, located at 29 Gibbs Pond Road in Nesconset.

POLLING PLACE:

The Nesconset Elementary School Gymnasium.

ELECTION DISTRICT No. 2

East of Fifty-Acre Road South and Fifty-Acre Road, north of Jericho Turnpike.

VOTE AT: St. James Elementary School, located at 580 Lake Avenue in St. James.

POLLING PLACE:

The St. James Elementary School Gymnasium.

ELECTION DISTRICT No. 4

West of the Long Island Rail Road and north of Jericho Turnpike and Creek Road.

VOTE AT: Accomsett Elementary School, located at 1 Lincoln Street in Smithtown.

POLLING PLACE:

The Accomsett Elementary School Gymnasium.

*Please note that although Nesconset Elementary is not being used as a school, the building will still be used as a polling place.

You can also check your voting district by using the "Voter Location Tool" on the district's website at www.smithtown.k12.ny.us.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

To obtain an absentee ballot, a person must be a qualified and registered voter of the Smithtown Central School District on the date of the Bond Vote.

The person seeking the absentee ballot must be approved by the district clerk and/or the board of registration by filing an application with the district clerk. Applications are available at the district's central office at 26 New York Ave., Smithtown, or on the district website at www.smithtown.k12.ny.us.

The application must be received by the district clerk **at least seven days before the Bond Vote**, if the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter, which for the Bond Vote will be Sept. 28, 2021 or the day before the Bond Vote if the ballot is to be personally delivered to the voter, which will be Sept. 27, 2021.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Only registered voters can participate in the bond referendum on Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021. If you have not voted in any political or school district vote within the past four years, you will need to register. If you meet the following requirements, you are eligible to vote:

- 18 years of age or older,
- A citizen of the United States,
- A resident in the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote, and
- A registered voter (with Suffolk County Board of Elections).

You may download a voter registration form from the district website (www.smithtown.k12.ny.us); however, you must return the completed form in person to the district's central office at 26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, during regular business hours, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please call the district clerk's office at 631-382-2012 for further information.



Why is the bond necessary?

Similar to your home, the district's infrastructure requires maintenance, repair and capital improvements over time. School buildings and grounds are typically the most valuable community assets the taxpayers have, and well-maintained school buildings help to preserve, protect and enhance property values.

What are a few benefits to financing through a bond, as opposed to incorporating the projects into the annual budget?

The scope of work and corresponding costs are too expensive to be included in the annual operating budget. The prior bond referendum was 20 years ago, and capital improvements are again necessary. When school districts undertake capital improvement projects, they are reimbursed a share of the cost by the state, called building aid. Based on the current building aid ratio, the state will reimburse the district 58.3% of the cost.

How were the projects in the bond established?

The district architect and engineers walked all of the buildings and prepared a building condition survey and five-year plan. After compiling the list of projects, the district and architect met with all building principals, various departments and staff to review these projects and incorporate any additional projects within areas of concerns and/or that involved additional improvements to the buildings. The list was then prioritized and reduced to a size that matched the retiring debt amounts so there would be no additional impact to the taxpayers.

If approved by voters, how long will it be until the bond work commences?

If approved on Sept. 28, the district and architect will prepare a schedule

to determine which projects will be completed first and when the work will take place. Due to the size of the bond, the work will be spread out over the next five-plus years. The initial plan is to complete all work at an individual building or buildings each year. The schedule will consider all summer programs, building usage and impact to a given building. Where necessary, some programs will need to be temporarily relocated to another building in the district so that work can take place during the summer months without disruption. The district will provide the necessary notice to the community to keep them informed of where and when the work will take place.

Will the work affect any functions or activities in the buildings?

Primarily, the work will take place during the summer months to avoid disruption to the daily functions of the school day. There are some projects that can be completed after school hours during the school year. A detailed schedule will be prepared upon successful approval of the bond vote.

How long after the bond vote can the work start?

After a successful bond vote, a timeline will be generated. At that point, the district architect will prepare plans and specifications and submit them to the New York State Education Department. The architect will concentrate on plans and specifications that involve less complex work and that will result in quicker approvals from NYSED. These projects will be submitted in the fall of 2021. Based on the backlog at NYSED, we anticipate these projects to be approved with enough time to publicly bid out the work and have the construction start during the summer of 2022.

Bond Referendum: Sept. 28, 2021
Polls Open: 6 a.m.-9 p.m.

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY DIGEST

Published by the Smithtown Central School District

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SMITHTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

DIGEST

Smithtown Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of handicaps or on the basis of sex, race, or ethnic background in the educational programs or activities which it operates.