



Kentwood Public Schools

May 4, 2021 Bond Proposal

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

On Tuesday, May 4, 2021, voters in Kentwood Public School District will be asked to consider a school bond proposal. There are two important things to understand about the proposal:

- If approved, the debt tax rate would **decrease by .25 mills, decreasing the tax burden to property owners.**
- This proposal would fund 10+ years of improvements to District infrastructure and educational technology.

What is a school 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 new construction, additions, remodeling, site improvements, athletic facilities, playgrounds, buses, furnishings, equipment, technology, and other capital needs. Funds raised through the sale of bonds cannot be used on operational expenses such as employee salaries and benefits, school supplies, and textbooks. Bond funds must be kept separate from operating funds and must be audited by an independent auditing firm.

How would this impact my taxes?

If approved by voters, a debt tax rate decrease is expected for Kentwood Public Schools property owners. It is projected to result in a net .25 mill decrease to the debt tax rate from the prior year.

Is this a new tax?

No. If approved, this bond would extend the current debt tax levy from 2044 to 2058. It would decrease the debt tax rate by .25 mills, from 4.25 mills to 4.00 mills, in 2022. The debt tax rate is projected to remain at 4.00 mills through 2038 and projected to decline further in the future.

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

While funding from this bond proposal is independent of the support the district receives from the State of Michigan for annual operations on a per pupil basis, the bond would likely have a positive impact on the annual operating budget for existing facilities. It would allow the district to reallocate operating funds that are currently being spent on aging facilities, mechanical systems, and technology. The savings generated from new and cost-efficient facilities could be redirected to student programs and resources.

What is the focus of the 2021 school bond proposal?

The bond dollars would be utilized around three critical areas of focus to provide facilities that

- Advance Excellence and Innovation in our Educational Programs
- Enhance Educational Technology and Security
- Ensure Student and Staff Health and Wellness

How large is the District?

KPS serves over 9,000 students and 1,200 staff, and is responsible for 22 buildings, including 17 schools, totaling over one million square feet of structures on over 450 acres of sites. KPS is responsible to provide and prepare the schools to serve current and future generations of students. This bond proposal builds on the District tradition of systematic planning by establishing strategic development for the next ten years. All schools would receive improvements while developing equitable resources across the District.

How would I know the bond funds would be spent the way they are supposed to be spent?

Michigan law requires that 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. An audit would be completed at the end of each project to ensure compliance.

Is the school district going to immediately issue \$192,150,000 of bonds?

No. The bonds are proposed to be issued in five series over 10+ years.

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 operating costs. Bond revenue must be kept separate from operating funds and bond revenue expenditures must be audited by an independent auditing firm.

If I rent a house, can I vote?

Yes, if you rent a house you can still vote. You do need to be a registered voter in the city or township you are living in.

How do I register to vote?

It is recommended by the Secretary of State to register to vote by mail by April 19, 2021. Individuals may also register to vote online at Michigan.gov/vote, or in-person at their local clerk's office through May 4, 2021, with the required documentation. For assistance in obtaining the address of your local clerk, visit Michigan.gov/vote.

How is an absentee voter ballot obtained?

Due to COVID-19, the Secretary of State is mailing absentee voter ballot applications to all registered voters. 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 mail or email 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 online at Michigan.gov/vote. Absentee voter ballots are available by March 20 through May 4, 2021.

Where can I find more information about this bond proposal?

- Visit the district website at www.kentwoodps.org/bond2021
- Follow us on Facebook at [@kentwoodps](https://www.facebook.com/kentwoodps)

Where and when will the vote occur?

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 is election day, but absentee voting can occur leading up to that date. All registered voters may cast an absentee voter ballot by mail. Voters may cast a ballot at the polling location established by their city/township. If you have questions or do not know where you vote, please contact your city/township office. Polls will be open from 7:00am to 8:00pm on Tuesday, May 4, 2021.

What are the key dates leading up to the Tuesday, May 4, 2021 election day?

- Registering to vote:
 - The last day for voters to register by mail is April 19, 2021
 - Voters may register in-person through May 4, 2021 (election day) with the required documentation
- Absentee Voting:
 - Absentee voter ballots are available from March 20 until May 4, 2021
 - Contact your local clerk with questions

What is the ballot language?

KENTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS BONDING PROPOSAL

Shall Kentwood Public Schools, borrow the sum of not to exceed One Hundred Ninety-Two Million One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$192,150,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefore, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

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

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2022 is 0.21 mill (\$0.21 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation), for a net 0.25 mill decrease from the prior year's levy. The maximum number of years the bonds of any series 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 2.26 mills (\$2.26 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

(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.)

If the bond proposal is approved, will homestead properties and non-homestead properties be taxed at the same debt millage rate?

Yes. If the bond proposal passes on May 4, 2021 the debt millage rate for both homestead and non-homestead property is expected to decrease by .25 mills from the prior year's levy.

What is meant by homestead and non-homestead properties?

When Michigan voters passed Proposal A in 1993, Michigan's property taxes for schools were restructured and reduced. Property was divided into two categories: homestead and non-homestead. A homestead property is your primary residence (the home where you live). Non-homestead properties include land and buildings such as businesses, rental properties and vacation homes that have not been designated as a primary residence.

Where do I vote?

All registered voters can vote via absentee voter ballot or in-person. In-person voting will take place at the polling locations which have been designated by your local township/city clerk. Contact and precinct information are included below.

TOWNSHIP/CITY	PRECINCT	PRECINCT LOCATION
BYRON CENTER	Precinct 3	Cutlerville Fire Station — 11 -68th Street SW
GAINES TOWNSHIP	Precinct 2	Gaines Township Offices — 8555 Kalamazoo Ave. SE
	Precinct 3	Gaines Township Library — 421 -68th Street SE
	Precinct 4 & 5	Heritage Baptist Church — 1570 -60th Street SE
	Precinct 6	Hillside Community Church — 1440 -68th Street SE
	Precinct 9	Ada Bible Church — 2045 -68th Street SE
GRAND RAPIDS	All — 1 through 5	Brookside Christian Reformed Church — 3600 Kalamazoo Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508

KENTWOOD	Ward 1, Pct 2	St. Mary Magdalen Church — 1213 -52nd St SE
	Ward 1, Pct 3, 6	Kelloggsville Christian Reformed Church — 610 -52nd St SE
	Ward 1, Pct 7	Kentwood Christian Church — 5841 Kalamazoo Ave SE
	Ward 1, Pct 8	Princeton Christian Reformed Church — 5330 Kalamazoo Ave SE
	Ward 1, Pct 9	Grand Rapids Baptist Church — 4525 Stauffer Ave.
	Ward 2, Pct 10	St. Mark's Lutheran Church — 1934 -52nd St. SE
	Ward 2, Pct 11	African Community Fellowship Church — 4275 Shaffer Ave. SE
	Ward 2, Pct 12	Kentwood Library — 4950 Breton
	Ward 2, Pct 13, 15	St. Paul's United Methodist Church — 3334 Breton Ave SE
	Ward 2, Pct 14, 18	E. Paris Christian Reformed Church — 3065 E. Paris SE
	Ward 2, Pct 17	Pentecostals of Kentwood — 2627 -44th St. SE

Should you have any questions regarding your assigned polling location, please contact your local Township or City Clerk.

Where can I get answers to other questions I have about the school bond proposal?

Please call Todd Bell, Executive Director of Finance & Business of Kentwood Public Schools at 616-455-4400.