



NOVEMBER 4

**ZERO-TAX-RATE INCREASE
FACILITIES BOND PROPOSAL**

QA &

BOND PROPOSAL INFORMATION

What is on the November 4 ballot?

A \$62 million Facilities Bond Proposal will be on the ballot. The bond proposal would **not increase the current tax rate**. Instead, it continues the rate residents are already paying by replacing the existing bond as it's paid off.

The 2025 Facilities Bond Proposal focuses on four key areas:



Infrastructure
Improvements



Safety & Security
Enhancements



Learning
Environment
Updates



Arts, Athletics,
& Play Area
Upgrades

How were the bond proposal projects identified?

The 2025 Facilities Bond Proposal is the final step in Romeo Community Schools' long-range facilities plan. The facilities plan was developed to maintain current school facilities, update educational spaces, and continue to provide a safe learning environment for students, staff, and the community, all while maintaining the current tax rate.

Project priorities for the 2025 Facilities Bond Proposal were identified as part of an updated district-wide facility assessment that evaluated short- and long-term needs across all school buildings.

Community input also helped shape the project list. A series of focus panels and a district-wide survey, open to all residents, were conducted by the Romeo Community Schools before finalizing the project list.



VOTE NOVEMBER 4
Zero-Tax-Rate Increase Facilities Bond Proposal

BOND PROPOSAL PROJECTS

IMPROVING SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

What infrastructure improvements are included in the bond proposal?

Across all buildings, the bond proposal prioritizes replacing or updating the following:

- Heating and cooling equipment (boilers, chillers, HVAC units, power upgrades)
- Hot water heaters and water pumps
- Electrical infrastructure for heating and cooling systems
- Exterior improvements (replacing soffits, metal siding, roofing components, masonry, and window glazing)
- Interior renovations (replacing doors, ceilings, lighting, and flooring)
- Technology infrastructure upgrades (cabling, digital displays, and backup power systems)
- Kitchen and restroom renovations
- Paving, sidewalk, and parking lot replacements

ENHANCING SAFETY & SECURITY

What safety and security enhancements are included in the bond proposal?

The bond proposal includes upgrades that strengthen school security systems, improve emergency response capabilities, and create safer, more controlled student spaces across all buildings. Projects include:

- Replacing or upgrading security camera technology
- Replacing the public address, bell, phone, and clock systems
- Upgrading secure entry systems
- Replacing fencing and gates
- Replacing parking lot lighting
- Updating the network system firewalls
- New main office & secured entry at Hevel Elementary



VOTE NOVEMBER 4

Zero-Tax-Rate Increase Facilities Bond Proposal

BOND PROPOSAL PROJECTS

UPDATING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Are instructional technology updates included in the bond proposal?

Yes. The facilities bond proposal includes:

- Replacing technology infrastructure (cabling & backup power) district-wide
- Replacing interior digital displays in hallways, lobbies, cafeterias, kitchens, and media centers district-wide
- Replacing wireless networks district-wide
- Replacing audiovisual systems in cafeterias, gymnasiums, common spaces, band/choir rooms, pool, auxiliary gymnasiums, and the outdoor facility
- Purchasing emerging educational technology devices (wearable technology, Osmosis, Robotics, and 3D printing)
- Replacing printers and copiers
- Replacing security cameras and public address, bell, phone, and clock systems district-wide

What updates are planned for media centers?

The school district plans to renovate and modernize all elementary school media centers to meet the current, multifaceted learning needs. The renovations will create updated spaces for research and collaborative learning for all Romeo students.

How will the planned additions at Romeo High School benefit students?

The bond proposal includes a classroom addition at Romeo High School to support evolving educational models and to provide flexible learning spaces. This addition will help accommodate current and future enrollment growth while supporting the expansion of hands-on, career-focused opportunities.

Why is the school district adding a special education addition at Hevel Elementary?

Special Education enrollment from the elementary to the middle school level has grown significantly in recent years. The bond proposal includes a five-classroom addition at Hevel Elementary to better serve our highest need students in a more appropriately equipped, accessible, and inclusive environment. Currently, special education students are learning in general education classrooms, which limits access to specialized resources, sensory spaces, and individualized instruction. The new addition is designed to provide specific spaces for instruction and support services for special education students from all five of our elementary schools, who then transition into specialized programs at the middle school and high school. This reflects Romeo Community Schools' commitment to meeting the needs of every learner.



VOTE NOVEMBER 4

Zero-Tax-Rate Increase Facilities Bond Proposal

BOND PROPOSAL PROJECTS



UPDATING ARTS, ATHLETICS, & PLAY AREAS

How will the bond proposal support the arts?

The bond proposal includes several improvements to the arts, including:

- Stage curtain replacements
- Replacing audiovisual systems at Romeo High School and Romeo Middle School
- Music room renovations at Hevel and Washington

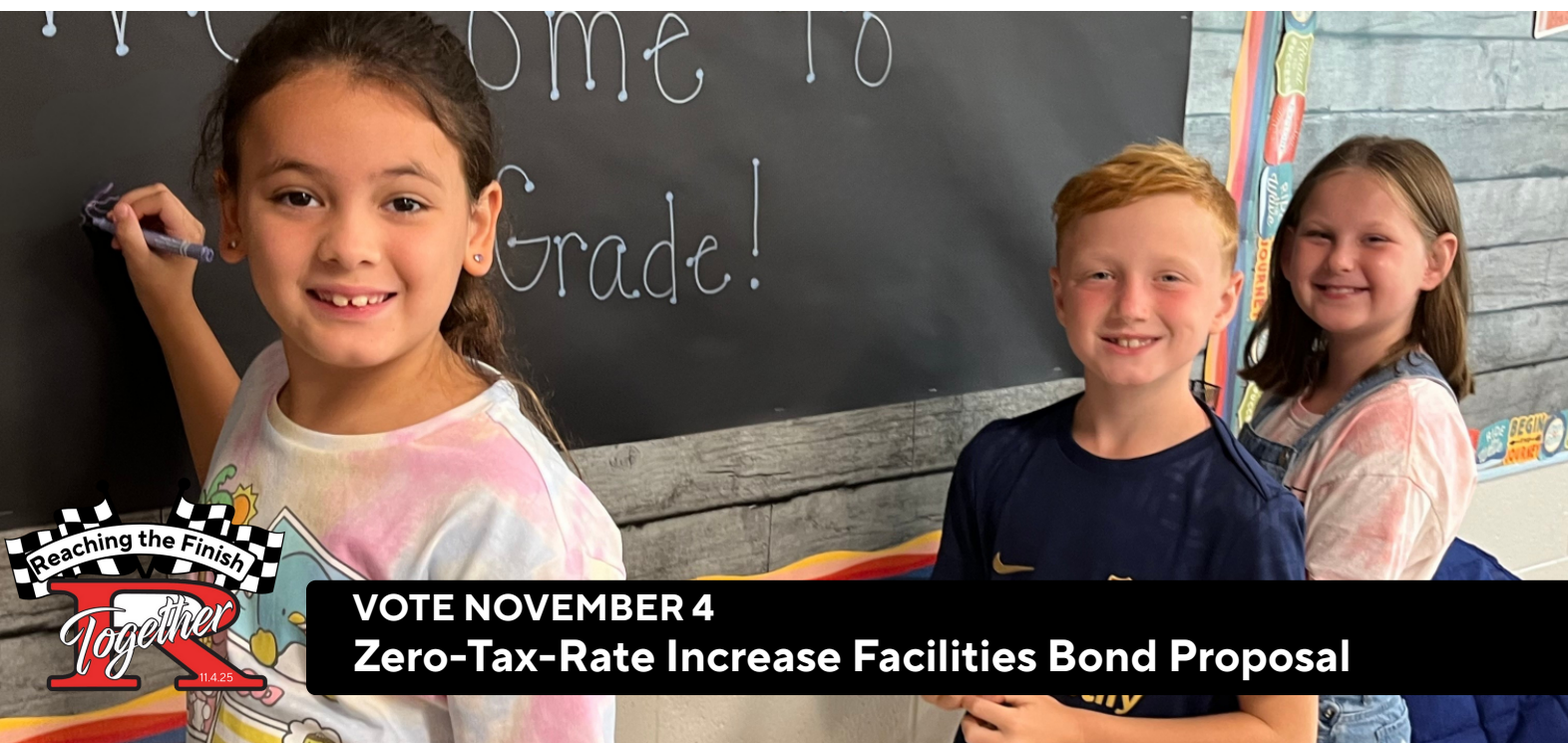
Will play areas be improved?

Yes. Phase one playground updates are currently being completed with funds from the 2021 bond. The 2025 bond proposal will fund the completion of the play area upgrades, including additional play structures, site drainage, walking paths, hard surface expansion, or playground surfacing.

What are the major projects that will be completed to support athletics?

The bond proposal includes the following athletic updates:

- Upgrading athletic fields (fencing, backstops, and soccer goal posts) at Amanda Moore, Hamilton-Parsons, and Indian Hills
- Adding an auxiliary gym at Romeo High School
- Constructing a turf practice field at Romeo High School
- Constructing a new JV baseball field at the Hevel Campus



VOTE NOVEMBER 4

Zero-Tax-Rate Increase Facilities Bond Proposal

BOND PROPOSAL LANGUAGE

What is the exact ballot language of the ZERO-TAX-RATE INCREASE Facilities Bond Proposal, and what does the language mean?

Below is the exact ballot language for the facilities bond proposal:

OFFICIAL BALLOT

ROMEO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS COUNTIES OF MACOMB AND OAKLAND STATE OF MICHIGAN

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT BOND PROPOSITION

Shall the Romeo Community Schools, Counties of Macomb and Oakland, State of Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Sixty-Two Million Dollars (\$62,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds, in one or more series, to pay the cost of the following projects to create a modern learning environment for students and for health, safety, security, energy conservation and other purposes:

- Remodeling, equipping, re-equipping, furnishing, re-furnishing school buildings, athletic fields, playgrounds and other facilities;
- Erecting and completing additions to school buildings;
- Acquiring and installing instructional technology infrastructure and equipment in school buildings and other facilities; and
- Preparing, developing and improving sites at school buildings, athletic fields, playgrounds and other facilities and the purchase of school buses?

YES___

NO___

The annual debt millage required to retire all bonds of the School District currently outstanding and proposed pursuant to this ballot is expected to be at or below 3.85 mills which is a 0 mill increase from the annual debt millage levied in 2025. The maximum number of years any series of bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of refunding, is not more than twenty-five (25) years; the estimated millage that will be levied to pay the proposed bonds in the first year is 0.72 mills (which is equal to \$0.72 per \$1,000 of taxable value); and the estimated simple average annual millage that will be required to retire each series of bonds is 0.98 mills annually (\$0.98 per \$1,000 of taxable value).

If approved by the voters, the bonds will be guaranteed by the State under the School Bond Qualification and Loan Program (the "Program"). The School District currently has \$132,755,000 of qualified bonds outstanding and \$0 of qualified loans outstanding under the Program. The School District does not expect to borrow from the Program to pay debt service on these bonds. The estimated computed millage rate required to be levied to pay the proposed bonds may change in the future based on changes in certain circumstances.

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

Public school districts typically issue bonds to finance long-term capital needs.

The new bond will be a ZERO increase over the current levy.

By law, bonds can only be used for projects identified in the ballot language.

The length of the bond will be 25 years, and will be issued in series to save on interest.

Bonds **cannot** be used to repair or maintain facilities or cover employee salaries and operating costs.



VOTE NOVEMBER 4

Zero-Tax-Rate Increase Facilities Bond Proposal

2021 BOND PROPOSAL UPDATE

Why are some projects from the 2021 bond proposal included in the 2025 bond proposal?

After voters approved the 2021 Facilities Bond Proposal, the cost of construction rose significantly due to inflation and increased prices for building materials and labor. While the school district was able to complete most of the proposed projects, a few projects had to be deferred to stay within the approved bond funds as defined by the Michigan Department of Treasury.

The Board of Education approved the list of deferred projects from the bond at the May 2023 Regular meeting. The deferred projects are now included in the proposed 2025 Facilities Bond to ensure continued progress on the district's long-range facilities improvement plan.

These projects include:

- Replacing outdated technology infrastructure (cabling and battery backups) – district-wide
- Purchasing new school buses (remaining balance of busses from 2021 bond)
- Adding an auxiliary gym at Romeo High School
- Constructing a turf practice field at Romeo High School
- Constructing a new JV baseball field at the Hevel Campus
- Renovating media centers at all elementary schools and Romeo Middle School



VOTE NOVEMBER 4

Zero-Tax-Rate Increase Facilities Bond Proposal

BOND PROPOSAL FUNDING INFORMATION

What is a bond?

A bond is a state-approved funding process that allows school districts to complete a set scope of projects. When voters approve a bond proposal, the school district sells bonds in the authorized amount and uses the bond sale proceeds to pay for those projects described in the bond proposal.

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 or benefits. They also cannot be used to hire additional staff. Bond proposal funds must be used **only** for purposes specified in the ballot language, and as required by Michigan law, they must be independently audited annually.

What will happen if voters don't approve the 2025 Facilities Bond Proposal?

If voters do not approve the 2025 Facilities Bond proposal, the projects cannot be completed as proposed. The school district would need to use its operational budget and sinking fund to address emergency infrastructure issues. This would reduce funding available for educational programs, day-to-day operations, and small-scale updates.

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

YES. Voters who support the Romeo Community Schools **ZERO-TAX-RATE INCREASE** Facilities Bond Proposal should vote YES; voters who oppose the bond proposal should vote NO.



VOTE NOVEMBER 4
Zero-Tax-Rate Increase Facilities Bond Proposal

BOND PROPOSAL INFORMATION

If the bond proposal is approved by voters, how will home values be affected?

Research shows that real estate values tend to be higher in communities where school districts are perceived as providing quality educational programs and maintaining modern facilities.

The proposed bond projects for Romeo Community Schools were designed to enhance both the functionality and appearance of school buildings and to positively influence local property values. These improvements also reflect the school district's commitment to long-term fiscal responsibility—qualities that add to a community's overall appeal.

How will the facilities bond proposal benefit residents who don't have students attending Romeo Community Schools?

Strong public schools benefit the entire community. School district facilities are used by residents of all ages for everything from attending community events to educational programs.

Bond-funded improvements will enhance these shared spaces and help maintain the schools as valuable community spaces. Updated, well-maintained schools also help retain families, attract new residents, and support property values, fostering local pride and strengthening the entire Romeo community.

How will residents be informed about the 2025 Facilities Bond Proposal?

Romeo Community Schools officials are sharing information about the bond proposal through community meetings, direct mailings, social media, the school district website, and the news media.



VOTE NOVEMBER 4
Zero-Tax-Rate Increase Facilities Bond Proposal

VOTING INFORMATION



Who can vote in the November 4, 2025, election?

Residents of Romeo Community 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 your local clerk's office.



Do I need to update my voter registration?

Yes, 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 your local clerk's office.



Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Yes, any registered voter can vote by absentee ballot. Simply request an absentee ballot application from your clerk's office or by visiting mvic.sos.state.mi.us/AVApplication/Index.

Once your application is received, your absentee ballot will be mailed to you.

**Absentee ballots will be available to voters after September 25
and can be cast through Election Day.**



Where can I get more information about the 2025 Facilities Bond Proposal?

- Visit romeok12.org and click on the election badge
 - Phone: [586-752-0225](tel:586-752-0225)
 - Email: todd.robinson@romeok12.org

Share your thoughts about the bond proposal by scanning the QR code or by visiting www.research.net/r/RCSNov4Bond



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Zero-Tax-Rate Increase Facilities Bond Proposal