

Lindale ISD 2018 Bond

FAQs

Q: What is a bond election?

The law provides that a school district must hold an election and get permission from voters to sell bonds and to levy taxes to pay for them. Bonds are sold to provide funding for capital improvements that last for a number of years. Such investments are too large to be included in operating budgets. Just as an individual agrees to repay a new home loan, voters authorize the district to sell and repay bonds for making major capital improvements.

Q: How can bond money be used?

Bond money can be used for new schools and facilities, expansion and renovation of existing facilities, furniture, technology, equipment, buses and other support vehicles, new school sites and other necessary land parcels. However, bond money cannot be used to fund daily operating costs, ie, employee salaries, benefits, utilities, fuel, etc.

Q: How is Lindale ISD funded?

The Lindale Independent School District is funded primarily through local taxes and state funds. Local taxes are collected and go into two different funds: maintenance and operations, or M&O, and Interest and Sinking, or I&S. The M&O side pays for everyday district operations including salaries, books and building maintenance; The I&S side is similar to a mortgage and can only be used to pay the debt on school bonds. Bonds pay for new school construction and other capital improvements.

Q: Will this bond raise our taxes?

Yes, an average increase of \$4.85 per month (the average home value in Lindale is \$170,456), which includes the Homestead Exemption.

Q: Will funds be taken from other programs to make this happen?

Absolutely not.

Q: Do we need upgrades to Eagle Stadium?

The south side of the stadium has not been addressed in more than 30 years. The restrooms on the SW end are still on septic which causes problems on Friday nights. There is no handicap access for the outdated press box and concession areas are very inadequate for the size of crowds we host for 5A games.

Q: Has an impact study been done for the additional drainage for the expanded field?

Yes, our architect works alongside a Civil Engineer prior to construction to determine these issues.

Q: Will renovations to Eagle Stadium raise the ticket costs?

No, ticket prices are set by the District Executive Committee of all schools involved (Nacogdoches, Whitehouse, Jacksonville, Mt Pleasant, Marshall, Hallsville, Pine Tree and Lindale).

Q: What is a 65-and-Over Homestead Exemption?

A person who is age 65 or over and who has successfully filed an application for a Residential Homestead Exemption is eligible for a homestead tax ceiling. The homestead tax ceiling is a limit on the amount of school taxes paid on a residence. School taxes on that home will not increase as long as the age 65 or over resident owns and occupies that home. The tax ceiling freezes school taxes at the amount paid in the year the resident qualifies for the 65-and-Over Homestead Exemption. Residents who have received an 'Over-65 Exemption' or 'freeze' from the Smith County Appraisal District will incur no tax impact as a result of the approved bond referendum.

Additionally, school taxes on the home may go below but not above the ceiling. If improvements are made on the home (other than normal repairs or routine maintenance), the tax ceiling may go higher because of the new additions. For example, if a garage or game room is added to the house, the tax ceiling will be adjusted to a higher level for the value of the addition.

If a 65 or older homeowner moves to another home they can transfer the percentage of the tax ceiling to a different home in the same or another school district. The ceiling on the new home will be calculated to give the same percentage of taxes paid as the ceiling on the original home. To transfer a school tax ceiling, please contact the

appraisal district offices of your previous and current counties of residence to request the necessary certificate for processing.

Q: Was a second high school considered?

No, cost estimates for a new high school to accommodate between 1,500 – 1,800 students would be between \$85 to \$100 million dollars. LISD Administration is not sure that LISD has enough bond capacity for such a large bond.

Q: Has Lindale ISD purchased any land to address future growth needs across the district?

Yes, LISD has purchased 109 acres on HWY 69 to address future campus growth.

Q: What happens if the bond election fails?

Portable buildings at Lindale High School could be a possibility in the near future. Growth projections for Lindale ISD continue to point toward steady growth.

Q: If the Bond passes, when would construction start?

With community approval, construction would start in the spring of 2019.

Q: Can I, as a teacher, promote community members to vote “yes” for the bond election?

Yes, you can but not while at work or by using district resources. All citizens, including teachers and school staff can encourage others to vote “yes” while out in the community or on your personal time.

Q: What does “core capacity” mean?

An area of a school that supports a service to instruction such as a cafeteria, kitchen, media center, guidance/student services, restrooms and administration. Past additions to LISD have not addressed some Core areas such as the cafeteria/kitchen.

