



SAISD Bond election set for Nov. 3

The San Antonio ISD Board of Trustees voted Aug. 17 to call for a \$1.3 billion bond election, with two separate propositions - for school renovations and technology - to appear on the Nov. 3, 2020 ballot.

The decision to move forward on the Nov. 3 elections followed recommendations from a community-based Blue Ribbon Task Force, as part of the District's long-range facilities master plan.

- **Proposition A.** At \$1.21 billion, it would go toward:
 - Significant renovations for 36 campuses.
 - Safety upgrades at all schools.
 - Replacement of aging chillers that are more than 15 years old, benefiting another 30 campuses.
 - Buildings that house new school models -- to renovate classroom spaces as grade levels are added. Examples include Rodriguez Montessori Elementary and Young Women's Leadership Academy - Primary.
- **Proposition B.** At \$90 million, it would go toward technology upgrades for all schools.
 - Equipping every classroom with high-speed connectivity, audio systems, interactive smart boards, devices, support tools and the necessary infrastructure.
- If approved, taxpayers would not see a tax rate increase from the bond, based on District projections. A few combined factors have put SAISD in this position, including continued downtown development, the paying down of debt and low interest rates.

What is a bond?

Just as homeowners borrow money in the form of a mortgage to finance the purchase of a home, a school district borrows money in the form of bonds to finance construction of new schools and renovation projects. Both are repaid over time, but in order for a school district to sell bonds, it must go to the voters for approval. By law, bond funds may not be used to fund daily operating expenses, which are paid from the district's maintenance and operations (M&O) budget.

Why does the ballot language say this is a tax increase?

In 2019, the Texas Legislature passed legislation requiring the ballots for all school bond elections to include a sentence that states "THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE." The sentence is required even if no actual tax rate increase will occur. FOR SAISD BOND 2020, TAXPAYERS WOULD NOT SEE AN INCREASE TO THE TAX RATE FROM THE BONDS, BASED ON CURRENT PROJECTIONS, IF VOTERS APPROVE THE TWO BOND PROPOSITIONS ON THE NOV. 3, 2020 BALLOT. Together, the proposals total \$1.3 billion. No increase in the total tax rate is anticipated to pay off the bonds associated with these propositions.

How were the schools chosen that will get renovations?

The District has developed a long-range facilities plan identifying schools with the highest need. Of the 43 schools with the oldest infrastructure on the long-range plan, this bond would fund renovations for nearly half of them, and completely renovate the majority of the largest schools.

Which schools would be renovated under SAISD Bond 2020?

Thirty-six campuses would receive significant renovations: This includes 21 schools whose main buildings have not been fully renovated in more than 50 years, and most with 30-year-old infrastructure. In addition, funds would go toward the final phase to complete campus renovations at 15 schools that received partial renovations under Bond 2016 or Bond 2010. Details on the improvement each campus would receive can be found on our School Renovations page at www.saisd.net/bond2020.

The list of Category One schools whose main buildings have not been fully renovated in more than 50 years, and most with 30-year-old infrastructure, is below.

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| Advanced Learning Academy (Euclid) | M.L. King Academy |
| Burnet Middle School | Lamar Elementary School |
| Carroll Early Childhood Center | Madison Elementary School |
| Carvajal Elementary School | Neal Elementary School |
| CAST Med High School | Rhodes Middle School |
| Collins Garden Elementary School | Schenck Elementary School |
| Gates Elementary School | Smith Elementary School |
| Graebner Elementary School | Steele Montessori Academy |
| Highland Hills Elementary School | Storm Elementary School |
| Highland Park Elementary School | Young Women's Leadership Academy - |
| Huppertz Elementary School | Secondary |

Below is the list of Category Two schools to receive funds for the completion of renovations at campuses that received partial renovations under Bond 2016 or Bond 2010.

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|---|------------------------------|
| Bowden Academy | Highlands High School |
| Brackenridge High School | Sam Houston High School |
| JT Brackenridge Elementary | Irving Dual Language Academy |
| Burbank High School | Jefferson High School |
| Davis Middle School | Lanier High School |
| Edison High School | Longfellow Middle School |
| Fox Tech campus (ALA, CAST Tech, Fox Tech High School) | Rogers Middle School |
| | Tafolla Middle School |

Why have more bonds after Bond 2016?

Much was accomplished in the \$450 million Bond 2016, but future bonds are needed to renovate additional aging buildings and complete the final phase of renovations at schools that received partial renovations under Bond 2016 or Bond 2010.

What is the status of Bond 2016?

The Bond is on track to complete on schedule and at budget. Several Bond schools are already substantially or partially complete with some or all instructional spaces occupied, including at Bowden Academy, JT Brackenridge Elementary, Irving Dual Language Academy, Davis Middle School, Tafolla Middle School, H. Rogers Middle School, Brackenridge High School, Edison High School, Fox Tech High School, and Sam Houston High School. The majority of the remaining construction is targeted for completion next summer, 2021. Due to the complexity and phasing of some projects, completion will extend beyond that date for limited areas including at Burbank, Jefferson and Lanier high schools, and H. Rogers Middle School.