



NEWS RELEASE

Tomball Independent School District
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bond 2017 Information

New growth in Tomball ISD prompts Bond 2017

On Tuesday, November 7, voters will go to the polls to vote on a \$275 million school bond referendum. The bond package provides for new district facilities, renovations at existing campuses, new technology, and additional school buses.

Over the next five years, Tomball ISD is projected to grow by more than 4,500 students. In order to accommodate student growth, the district is proposing to add classrooms by building two new campuses and constructing an additional classroom wing to a high school campus.

This anticipated student growth prompted the district to commission a Facility Planning Steering Committee, which was organized last fall and comprised of 18 community members. These individuals along with other volunteers looked at enrollment projections, analyzed district facility capacities, and then made recommendations to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees reviewed the recommendations and unanimously approved the \$275 million bond proposal being presented to voters.

10 things to know about Bond 2017

1. **This is a Growth-Based Bond:** Projects included in this \$275 million bond referendum address Tomball ISD's immediate growth projections while minimizing the impact on tax payers.
2. **No Projected Tax Impact:** It is anticipated that new development and increasing property values are forecasted to generate sufficient tax revenue to retire the debt utilizing the district's current Interest and Sinking levy of \$.30 per \$100 valuation. During the past ten years, Tomball ISD has sold \$350 million in bonds and opened eight new schools without increasing the tax rate. In fact, the tax rate has gone down. Tomball ISD maintained a flat tax rate of \$1.36 for seven years, and in 2015, the district lowered the tax rate by two cents to \$1.34 and it has remained at \$1.34.

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3. **New Schools:** Bond 2017 includes a new elementary school, a new junior high, and an expansion project at Tomball Memorial High School to accommodate new student growth.
 - The new elementary school would relieve Wildwood Elementary, where the district has installed two portable buildings to accommodate new growth during the 2017-2018 school year.
 - A new junior high school would be built to relieve Willow Wood Junior High. There are five portable buildings at this campus to accommodate new growth.
 - The expansion project at Tomball Memorial High School would also add classrooms to accommodate new growth. Tomball Memorial High School was designed to serve 2,500 students. Over 2,200 students are currently enrolled. Five portable buildings have been added to this campus to accommodate student growth.

4. **Technology:** Instructional technology such as laptops, Chromebooks, and document cameras will be included as well as upgrades in the district technology infrastructure.

5. **New Agricultural Barn & Swim Training Facility:** A new agricultural project barn would be built for Tomball High School. A new swim training facility would also be constructed for Tomball Memorial High School.

6. **Fine Arts Auditorium Renovations:** The Tomball High School auditorium would receive renovations including a new sound system, lighting, curtains, and paint. Choir, orchestra, theatre, dance, and feeder pattern schools all utilize the facility.

7. **Land Acquisitions & Site Development for Utilities:** This bond referendum would fund future land sites in the district and fund the installation of utilities for property the district already owns.

8. **Buses to Address Growth:** This bond referendum calls for the purchase of over 20 air conditioned buses for new routes to accommodate growth.

9. **Football Stadium:** Bond 2017 would fund a district stadium that could seat approximately 10,000 spectators and provide 3,000 parking spaces. The current district stadium was built in 1971 and does not meet current American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance requirements. If the district were to renovate the current stadium, it would need to be rebuilt to meet ADA requirements. Building a new stadium at the current location on Quinn Road would consume a portion of Tomball High School's student parking lot. If a new stadium is built, the district does not intend to demolish the current district stadium on Quinn Road.

10. **Various Additional Renovations:** The front elevation of Tomball Intermediate School would be redesigned. Turf would also be added to the baseball and softball fields at Tomball High School and Tomball Memorial High School. Additional storage and means of transportation would be funded for district fine arts equipment.

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Tomball ISD's Actual & Projected Student Enrollment

2013-2014	12,387
2014-2015	13,133
2015-2016	14,023
2016-2017	14,700
2017-2018	15,869 (Projected student enrollment begins here.)
2018-2019	16,793
2019-2020	17,704
2020-2021	18,523
2021-2022	19,288

Questions & Answers about Bond 2017

What is a bond?

A school bond is similar to a home mortgage. It is a contract to repay borrowed money with a low-cost interest rate over time. Bonds are sold by a school district to competing lenders to raise funds to pay for the cost of construction, renovations, and equipment. Most school districts in Texas utilize bonds to finance renovations and new facilities.

How can bond money be used?

Bond money can be used for new schools, renovations, furniture, equipment, new school sites, and buses.

How was the bond package developed?

Anticipated student growth prompted the district to commission a Facility Planning Steering Committee, which was organized last fall and comprised of 18 community members. Additional community volunteers collaborated with the committee members and shared their input, reviewed enrollment projections, and analyzed district facility capacities. The Facility Planning Steering Committee presented their recommendations to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees reviewed the recommendations and unanimously approved the \$275 million bond proposal being presented to voters.

How are school locations determined and where would the proposed new schools be built?

A primary factor in determining a school location is the identified population pattern. Other factors such as land availability and cost also influence the decision.

How long will the proposed improvements serve students in the district?

This is entirely dependent upon the growth of the district. This proposal is designed to meet the projected enrollment from 2018 to 2022. A slower growth than predicted would result in these improvements serving our students for a longer period. Faster growth would result in these improvements serving our students for a shorter period than expected.

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How will the bond issue impact the tax rate?

Bond 2017 will not impact the tax rate. Tomball ISD maintained a flat tax rate of \$1.36 for seven years, and in 2015, the district lowered the tax rate by two cents to \$1.34 and it has remained at \$1.34.

If the bonds are approved, is the District obligated to spend the money?

No. Voter approval is an authorization for the district to issue bonds. They will be sold at future dates approved by the Board of Trustees when the facilities are nearing capacity. If growth slows, the district will revise its facility plans and postpone selling bonds and constructing new buildings until the appropriate time. Once the projects have been completed, no additional bonds would be sold.

Will the bond increase my taxes if I am 65 years of age or older or disabled?

No. Residents will not see an increase in the tax rate. If you are a senior citizen receiving the “over-65 exemption,” or an individual who has a disability and is receiving a “disability exemption,” your tax payment on your home will not change as a result of the bond program unless you have made new improvements to your home. If you currently do not have an exemption for which you may be qualified, contact your county appraisal district.

When was the last successful bond election and how was the money used?

The last successful bond election was held May 11, 2013, for \$160 million. That bond referendum funded the following projects, all of which were completed within budget.

- New facilities included Creekview Elementary, Wildwood Elementary, and Oakcrest Intermediate
- Renovations and additions were completed at Decker Prairie Elementary and Lakewood Elementary
- New weight rooms were added at Tomball Junior High and Willow Wood Junior High, and additional parking was added to the Transportation Facility
- Purchased school sites and new buses

Who is eligible to vote?

Any United States citizen who meets the following requirements is eligible to vote:

- A resident of the Tomball Independent School District
- At least 18 years of age
- Registered to vote at least 30 days prior to election day
- Not a convicted felon (unless a sentence, probation and/or parole have been completed)

Fluctuating construction costs may require Tomball ISD to modify projects.

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Early Voting Information

Harris County – Main Early Voting Location

Tomball Public Works Building

501 B. James Street

Tomball, TX 77375

Oct. 23-Oct. 27 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Oct. 28 & Oct. 30-Nov. 3 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Oct. 29 1 p.m.-6 p.m.

Montgomery County – Main Early Voting Location

Magnolia Community Building

422 Melton Street

Magnolia, TX 77354

Oct. 23-28 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Oct. 30-Nov. 1 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Nov. 2-3 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7, 2017

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