HOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

VOTE NOVEMBER 7, 2023

$258 Million for District Facilities, No Expected Tax Rate Increase

Understanding the Bond Ballot Language

Shall Howell Public Schools, Livingston County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Two Hundred Fifty Eight Million Dollars ($258,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

If approved, the district would sell bonds totaling no more than $258,000,000 to fund the projects outlined below.

erecting, furnishing and equipping two new elementary school buildings and a new community center building; erecting, furnishing and equipping additions to school buildings; remodeling, furnishing and refurnishing and equipping and re-equipping school buildings; acquiring, installing, equipping and re-equipping school buildings for instructional technology; purchasing school buses; and preparing, developing, improving and equipping playgrounds, playfields, athletic fields and facilities and sites?

The proposal focuses on the following key areas:

Safety & Security: security cameras, bollards, building air quality, ADA upgrades, window blinds, door hardware, building access controls, life safety systems, and buses.

Learning Environments: Replacement Northwest Elementary and Southwest Elementary schools, additional learning space at Challenger Elementary, major renovations at Highlander Way Middle School.

Teaching Tools: classroom and student instructional technology and classroom furnishings.

Aging Building Infrastructure: pavement, asphalt, select roof replacements, flooring, lockers, upgrades to air conditioning, boilers and electrical systems for increased efficiency.

Community Needs: new Community Center and new youth baseball and softball fields.

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2024 is 1.53 mills ($1.53 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation) for a 0 mill net increase over the prior year's levy. The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is twenty (20) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 3.86 mills ($3.86 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district does not expect to borrow from the State to pay debt service on the bonds. The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is $78,990,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is $0. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

(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.)

No Expected Tax Rate Increase

If the bond proposal is approved by voters, it is estimated that the current millage rate would remain the same with no expected tax rate increase

Our Kids, Our Community, Our Future

Understanding the Bond Ballot Language

What are the numbers in the bottom of the ballot language?

The ballot language states, "The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2024, under current law, is 1.53 mills ($1.53 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation) for a 0 mills net increase over the prior year's levy." What does this mean?
This means the estimated new bond millage for this proposal to be levied in 2024 is 1.53 mills. The 1.53 mills of new bond mills plus the existing bond mills would equal 5.5 mills for an expected 0 mill net increase over the current levy.

The ballot language states, "The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is twenty (20) years." What does this mean?
The district plans to issue the bonds in separate series, and each bond series would have a length of 20 years or shorter.

The ballot language states, "The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 3.86 mills ($3.86 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation)." What does this mean?
It means over the entire life of the bonds to be issued, the average annual debt millage rate is estimated to be 3.86 mills.

The ballot language states, "The school district does not expect to borrow from the State to pay debt service on these bonds." What does this mean?
The State of Michigan offers the Michigan School Bond Qualification and Loan (SBQL) Program to assist school districts with voted bond issues by providing a bond credit rating enhancement and loan mechanism for school district bond issues. Howell Public Schools does not need to take advantage of the loan mechanism portion of this program.

The ballot language states, "The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is $78,990,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is $0. What does this mean?
The term "qualified" means the school district has existing outstanding bonds that are qualified by the SBQL Program. At the time of the election, the amount of the school district's qualified bonds is $78,990,000. Michigan also offers a program known as the School Loan Revolving Fund (SLRF), a self-sustaining fund that makes loans to school districts to assist with making debt service payments on state-qualified bonds issued under the SBQL Program. The district does not have any outstanding loans from the SLRF.

Paid for by Howell Public Schools, 411 N. Highlander Way, Howell MI 48843