

Frequently Asked Questions about USD 340 School Bond Election on April 3, 2012

Who is asking you to support a new school bond?

- The USD 340 Board of Education has approved a school bond election in April 2012 at the request of the Patrons Advocating for Strong Schools “PASS” bond committee.
- The PASS bond committee evolved from a group of nearly 30 individuals within our district community working with district staff and administration over the past year to discuss and develop ideas to improve our schools.

What is the school bond money going to be spent on?

- This school bond will pay for student & staff technology, facility needs including improvements to our school buildings and improvements to our track/football athletic facilities.

When is the school bond election date?

- Tuesday, April 3, 2012.

When and where do I have to register to vote?

- If you are not registered, Tuesday, March 13, 2012 is the last day you can register to vote in the April election.
- In person at Jefferson County Elections Office, Oskaloosa, Kansas and online at the Office of the Kansas Secretary of State, www.kssos.org
- If you are registered but have moved you will want to update your voter registration so you can vote at the appropriate location serving your precinct.

Where can I get more information about the school bond?

- You may send questions or comments to the email address at usd340bond@gmail.com
- The PASS bond committee members will be available at various activities and events to share information and answer questions.
- Public information meetings will be scheduled before the election to share information and answer questions. Meetings currently scheduled: **Monday, February 6, 2012 - 7 PM @ Middle School, Sunday, February 12, 2012 - 2 PM @ High School**

Why is it important to approve this school bond NOW?

- A vote to approve this school bond before July 1, 2012 means our district gets 40% of our annual bond and interest payments paid by the state of Kansas, so the state of Kansas will pay as much as \$1,444,400 of the bond principal payments **plus** 40% of the interest payments.
- After July 1, 2012, if the legislature approves the governor’s proposed school finance plan, the district would pay 100% of the bond and interest payments.

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Why should I support the school bond if I have no children in school?

- You likely received financial support from district taxpayers when your children were in school, so we are asking you to support the children in school now.
- We believe strong schools will help maintain strong home and property values in the district, encouraging people to stay here and attracting new students and families.

Why do our students need your support for this school bond?

- This money will help pay for improvements that provide a safe and motivational environment for our students, improvements that the district is unable to fund out of the annual capital outlay budget which currently generates about \$114,000 per year.
- The current annual budget funds are used to make payments on the transportation/maintenance building, payments for lease or purchase of buses and other improvements.

How much and how long is the new school bond?

- The new school bond is for \$3,611,000 to be repaid over eight years.

How much will my property taxes increase?

- Your taxes for school bond payments will actually go **down** from the existing high school bond payments.
- The existing high school bond tax of \$8.87 per month would decrease to \$7.73 per month on a \$100,000 home.

How much is the existing high school bond and when will it be repaid?

- The original high school bond was for \$5,700,000 for 20 years to be repaid on September 1, 2015. In 2004, the Board of Education reissued the high school bonds to **lower the interest rate, shorten the payback period by three years and save the taxpayers \$438,000.**
- The existing high school bond will be repaid on September 1, 2012.

How can I get involved?

- Send an email with your name and contact information to usd340bond@gmail.com and a PASS bond committee member will contact you.