



Frequently Asked Questions

Willmar Public Schools
May 19th, 2015 Bond Referendum

What are the driving needs?

Growth

Both Kennedy Elementary and Roosevelt Elementary are over capacity with 900+ students. These buildings are not large enough to comfortably house staff and programs for the number of students attending. Buildings are crowded, and instruction (interventions and pullouts) is happening in hallways and nooks because all other spaces are being used.

There is need to modify and reconfigure existing facilities to meet the educational and instructional needs of students as well as the need for construction of a new PreK-5 facility.

Aging Infrastructure

The Middle School is holding science in rooms constructed in 1967. These classrooms have served students well, but constructing new science classrooms will enhance science instruction and allow better implementation of teaching practices focused on the Minnesota State Standards. The old science classrooms will be remodeled and will provide additional teaching space to accommodate additional students. In addition to science classrooms, plans to enclose a courtyard attached to the cafeteria will provide more seating and better flow of students during breakfast and lunch.

Lack of Gymnasium Space

Many sports and activities at the Senior High are held in the hallways or at odd hours due to limited space. Teams running in the hallways create safety issues as well as increased wear and tear on the existing building because the hallways and carpeting were not designed for this type of activity. Currently, gymnastics is set up at Kennedy Elementary for half the year. This reduces the number of teaching spaces for elementary physical education. The addition of gymnasium and gymnastics space allows all Senior High athletics to move back to the Senior High campus and keeps students off the road and not driving to different locations in the community for daily practices.

What is the District's proposed response to the issues?

QUESTION 1: WPS is asking for \$52,345,000 in school building bonds (20 years) to:

- Construct a new PreK-5 elementary school.
- Remodel learning/instructional space at Kennedy, Roosevelt, Middle School and the High School.
- Build eight new science classrooms at the Middle School.
- Add additional gymnasiums and a gymnastics addition to the Senior High.
- Complete \$ 9 million dollars of deferred maintenance projects at all buildings.

QUESTION 2: WPS is asking for \$7,750,000 in school building bonds (20 years) to:

- Construct a 51,000 sq. ft. field house.



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Tax Implications

Type of Property: Residential Homestead

Estimated Market Value: \$100,000

Estimated Monthly Tax Increase for Q1: \$9.59

Estimated Monthly Tax Increase for Q2: \$1.42

Total Estimated Monthly Tax Increase for Q1 & 2: \$11.00

Total Estimated Annual Tax Increase for Q1 & 2: \$132.00

For complete tax information and the tax calculator please visit **www.willmar.k12.mn.us**.

Location of PreK-5 Elementary School

Willmar Public Schools has not built a school for children (K-4) since 1953. Both Roosevelt and Kennedy are located on the west side of town. The east side would be a good location, but the district has not secured land. Cost of land will be a major factor.

Contingency Question

Question 2 (field house) cannot pass if Question 1 does not pass. Willmar Public Schools needs more instructional space, including gymnasium space for physical education. A field house would be a wonderful addition, but the addition of instructional space, updating science classrooms and completing deferred maintenance projects are the top priorities.

When & Where to Vote

Date: Tuesday, May 19th

Opening Time: Polls open at 7 a.m.

Closing Time: Polls close at 8 p.m.

Location: WEAC/Rehearsal Hall

611 5th St. S.W.

Willmar, MN 56201

More Information

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