



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Hartland Consolidated Schools

August 4, 2020 Bond Proposal Election

When is the election?

Tuesday, August 4, 2020. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Absentee ballots will be available after June 20th.

Why did the Hartland Consolidated Schools postpone the May 5th election?

In the early stages of the coronavirus pandemic, the Michigan Secretary of State, the County Clerk, and local Township Clerks asked school districts with May elections to postpone until August 4th. In the interest of public health and safety, the Hartland Consolidated Schools complied with this recommendation.

Hartland's bond proposal election is now scheduled for August 4th. Voters can cast their ballots at the polls or from the safety of their own home by absentee ballot from June 20th through Election Day.

What is on the ballot?

The August 4th bond proposal is the same as the proposal originally scheduled for last May. Registered voters residing within the boundaries of the Hartland Consolidated Schools will vote on a \$45 million bond proposal designed to keep Hartland Consolidated Schools facilities and instructional spaces updated when students return to school by...

- renovating, upgrading, and constructing school facilities, including making safety and security improvements
- upgrading technology and technology infrastructure
- upgrading athletic facilities
- replacing school buses as they reach the end of their useful life

If approved by voters, the bond proposal will affect every Hartland student and every Hartland school facility.

How was the bond proposal developed?

To protect the community's investment in its schools, Hartland Consolidated Schools annual goals include a process for ongoing evaluation and monitoring of all school facilities. Working with construction and architectural specialists to conduct an in-depth facility study, the district administrative team developed a list of potential bond proposal projects. The final list of projects was developed after obtaining feedback from parent-teacher organizations, senior citizen voters, HAYAA representatives, archery, music, and robotics advocates, school administrators, teachers, and school district coaches. Finally, the proposed list of projects was presented to a series of focus panels composed of various school district constituents. The entire planning process took about one year.

What determines if the bond proposal projects are allowed by law?

Every project in the bond proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Michigan Department of Treasury. And, all renovations and upgrades comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

What will the bond proposal cost?

The \$45 million bond proposal will require a 1.44 mill increase in the current tax rate. For a Hartland Township homeowner living in a home with a **taxable value** of 117,500.00 (the taxable value is typically 50 percent of the market value of a home), this increase would cost \$169.20 per year, or about 46¢ per day. The longer you have lived in your home, the more likely the taxable value is less than 50 percent of the market value.

While some Hartland homeowners may pay more, many Hartland Township homeowners may pay less than 46¢ per day.

To calculate your annual cost, multiply the **taxable** value of your home (not the market value) by 0.00144. Taxable value is typically 50 percent of the market value. The longer you have lived in your home, the more likely the taxable value is less than 50 percent of the market value.

What's included in the bond proposal?

There are the major bond projects proposed for each Hartland Consolidated Schools facility:

Creekside Elementary School

- Create a collaboration center and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Lab that safely addresses teacher-student interaction and collaboration
- Create a secure entry vestibule and security cameras
- Replace select exterior doors
- Replace technology infrastructure and equipment
- Purchase furniture and equipment where needed

Lakes Elementary School

- Create a collaboration center and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Lab that safely addresses teacher-student interaction and collaboration
- Replace select roofing
- Replace technology infrastructure and equipment
- Purchase furniture and equipment where needed
- Add security cameras

Round Elementary School

- Create a collaboration center and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Lab that safely addresses teacher-student interaction and collaboration
- Replace gym floor
- Replace aging mechanical equipment
- Replace technology infrastructure and equipment
- Purchase furniture and equipment where needed
- Add security cameras

Village Elementary School

- Create a collaboration center and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Lab that safely addresses teacher-student interaction and collaboration
- Replace select roofing
- Add toilet rooms for kindergarten classrooms
- Replace aging mechanical equipment
- Update select lighting
- Create a home and storage for the archery program
- Replace technology infrastructure and equipment
- Purchase furniture and equipment where needed
- Add security cameras

Hartland Farms Intermediate School

- Create collaboration center that safely addresses teacher-student interaction and collaboration
- Replace select roofing
- Replace aging mechanical equipment
- Replace technology infrastructure and equipment
- Purchase furniture and equipment where needed
- Add security cameras
- Purchase select band instruments

Hartland Middle School (Ore Creek)

- Create a collaboration center that safely addresses teacher-student interaction and collaboration
- Build auxiliary athletic facility
- Replace select windows
- Replace classroom flooring
- Replace aging mechanical equipment
- Replace technology infrastructure and equipment
- Purchase furniture and equipment where needed
- Add security cameras
- Purchase select band instruments
- Update auditorium curtains and sound system

Hartland High School

- Create a collaboration center that safely addresses teacher-student interaction and collaboration
- Replace select parking lots and redesign drop-off and pick-up area
- Upgrade and build athletic facilities
- Replace select roofing
- Replace aging mechanical equipment
- Replace technology infrastructure and equipment
- Purchase furniture and equipment where needed
- Add security cameras
- Purchase select band instruments
- Repair front wall
- Update auditorium lighting and curtains

Hartland Daycare Center

- Replace select roofing
- Replace aging mechanical equipment
- Replace technology infrastructure and equipment
- Purchase furniture where needed

Educational Support Service Center

- Replace select roofing
- Update auditorium lighting, curtains, and seating
- Update restrooms
- Create Robotics Lab
- Replace aging mechanical equipment
- Upgrade select lighting
- Replace flooring in Senior Center
- Replace technology infrastructure and equipment
- Replace buses
- Purchase furniture and equipment where needed

District Wide

- Create Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Lab/collaborative learning centers that safely address teacher-student interaction and collaboration
- Replace aging infrastructure
- Replace instructional technology and infrastructure
- Purchase furniture, equipment, and band instruments
- Purchase buses

What technology is included in the bond proposal?

During the pandemic we all learned the importance of using technology for instructional purposes. The technology upgrades included in the proposal are designed to support classroom instruction, enhance the learning environment, and replace the outdated phone system. A primary focus of the proposal is to provide current technology for students and teachers and to equip instructional areas with up-to-date instructional technology.

Will taxpayers be paying for buses and computers when they are obsolete?

No. The Michigan Department of Treasury and federal tax regulations require that specific items in a bond proposal (such as computers and buses) be paid for before they become obsolete. Computers must be paid off within five years of their first use and buses must be paid for within six years. The bond proposal is structured to continue updating technology over time.

Are updates to athletic facilities included in the bond proposal?

Yes. The school district will construct a concession/storage/team room at Hartland High School in addition to a synthetic field, scoreboard and sound system.

At Hartland Middle School, the school district will install an auxiliary synthetic turf field, create a running track, construct a concession facility with restrooms, install bleachers and a press box, and make various site improvements. This is in place of spending money to update and replace the bleachers at the current auxiliary field located at the Hartland Educational Support Service Center.

What percent of the bond will be used for athletic-related improvements?

Approximately 18% (or approximately \$8 million of the entire bond) will be used for athletic-related improvements.

What is the schedule for bond proposal projects?

If the bond proposal is approved by voters, the bonds will be sold in at least two (2) series to save interest costs.

The first series will be sold after approval of the bond proposal and will be used to finance elementary STEM/collaboration centers, facility upgrades,

construction of a robotics center, technology upgrades, and the initial purchase of buses.

The second series will be sold in 2021 for upgrades at the middle school and athletic facilities, exterior work at Hartland High School, and the purchase of technology, band instruments, and buses.

Will all bond proposal revenue go to the Hartland Consolidated Schools?

Yes. All revenue from the bond proposal will be used to benefit the Hartland Consolidated Schools. None of the revenue will go to Lansing or to any other school district or political entity.

If the bond proposal is approved by voters, will property values be affected?

Research indicates that real estate values tend to be higher in communities with school districts that are perceived to offer a quality educational program and have up-to-date school facilities.

All Hartland Consolidated Schools proposal projects are designed to reflect positively on homeowner property values and the school district's reputation for effectiveness and efficiency.

What is a bond proposal?

A bond is a State-approved funding process for a set scope of projects. When voters approve a bond proposal, the school district sells bonds in the authorized amount and uses the proceeds of the sale to pay for those projects in the bond proposal. Bonds are usually paid back in about 25 years.

In many ways, the bonding process is like a homeowner obtaining a mortgage and making payments over a period of years.

Bonds can be used for:

- Constructing new school buildings
- Constructing additions to existing school buildings
- Remodeling existing school buildings
- Energy conservation improvements
- Land purchases
- Site development and improvements
- Athletic and physical education facility development and improvements
- Playground development and improvements
- Refunding debt (if new present value savings can be demonstrated)
- Direct bond program costs such as professional fees, election fees, issuance costs, qualification fees, insurance fees, final audit costs
- School bus purchases
- Purchasing loose furnishings and equipment (including administrative technology)

- Technology purchases limited to hardware and communication devices that transmit, receive or compute information for pupil instructional purposes only. The initial purchase of operating system and customized application software is allowed if purchased with the initial hardware.

Bonds cannot be used for:

- Salaries, service contracts, lease payments, installment contracts, and supplies
- Repairs, maintenance, or maintenance agreements
- Purchasing automobiles, trucks, or vans
- Portable classrooms purchased for temporary use
- Uniforms
- Textbooks
- Upgrades to an existing computer operating system or application software
- Computer training, computer consulting, or computer maintenance contracts

Can any of the bond proposal funds be used for employee salaries or operating expenses?

No. Bond proposal funds cannot be used for employee salaries. They also cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs or other operating expenses. Bond proposal funds must be used only for purposes specified in the ballot language, and, as required by State law, they must be independently audited.

What will appear on the August 4th ballot?

Here is the exact ballot wording:

**HARTLAND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS
BONDING PROPOSAL**

Shall Hartland Consolidated Schools, Livingston County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Forty-Five Million Dollars (\$45,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

- remodeling, equipping and re-equipping and furnishing and refurnishing school buildings, including STEM/collaboration centers and safety and security improvements;
- acquiring, installing, and equipping or re-equipping school buildings for instructional technology;
- purchasing school buses;
- erecting, furnishing and equipping additions to school buildings;
- erecting, furnishing and equipping athletic support structures at the middle school and high school; and
- preparing, developing, improving and equipping athletic fields and facilities and sites?

- Yes
- No

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2020, under current law, is 1.44 mills (\$1.44 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation). The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is twenty-five (25) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 1.25 mills (\$1.25 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 \$122,095,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is approximately \$48,696. 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.)

A YES vote typically means that a voter supports a proposal. Is that the case in this election?

Yes. Voters who support the Hartland Consolidated Schools bond proposal should vote YES; voters who oppose the bond proposal should vote NO.

What will happen if voters do not approve the bond proposal?

The bond projects cannot be addressed as proposed.

Who can vote in this bond proposal election?

Residents of the Hartland Consolidated Schools who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day and are registered to vote.

Where can I get information about voting (such as how to register, where to vote, and absentee voting)?

Go to the Michigan Voter Information website (www.michigan.gov/vote) or call the Clerk's Office where you reside.

Do I need to update my voter registration?

You need to update your voter registration if you have changed your name or address since the last time you voted. You can do this at any Secretary of State Office or at the Clerk's Office where you reside.

Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Yes. Since voter approval of Proposal 3 in November 2018, registered voters do not need a reason to vote by absentee ballot. You can request an absentee ballot application from your Clerk's Office or by going online to www.michigan.gov/vote and clicking on Absentee Voting in the left column.

Absentee ballots will be available to voters after June 20th, and may be cast through Election Day.

To get more information about the bond election and answers to your questions...

- Go to www.hartlandschools.us click on *2020 School Election*
- Call Superintendent of Schools Chuck Hughes at 810/626-2105 or email him at chuckhughes@hartlandschools.us

This document was prepared to provide factual information about the Hartland Consolidated Schools August 4, 2020 election and was paid for by the Hartland Consolidated Schools, 9525 Highland Road Howell, MI 48843.