



# NET ZERO MILLAGE INCREASE EXPECTED FROM THE 2024 DEBT LEVY

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

### BOND PROPOSAL - MAY 6, 2025

#### **When is the election?**

The election polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 6, 2025. Absent voter ballots must be available for issuance to voters by Thursday, March 27, 2025.

#### **What is on the ballot?**

The Board of Education at Fruitport Community Schools unanimously voted on January 27, 2025 to approve placing a bond proposal on the ballot for the May 6, 2025 election. If approved, the bond proposition would authorize the district to borrow approximately \$82,000,000, would result in an expected **zero (0.00) mill net increase** over the 2024 debt levy, and would be in alignment with the District's Master Facilities Plan that has been communicated with the community since the passage of the bond proposal that resulted in the new Fruitport High School being built. The Board is committed to its long term Master Facilities Plan using bond proposals, that when issued, do not increase the overall debt levy, approved by voters, to construct safe and modern schools that support students and their learning.

Key projects being addressed by the bond project include, but are not limited to:

- Construction of a new Edgewood Elementary School.
- Renovation of a portion of the current Edgewood Elementary School into a standalone Early Childhood Center to improve access to early childhood programs, and increase the available number of classrooms across the District to account for significant growth that is expected within the Edgewood catchment zone. This project is also expected to help address traffic concerns on Pontaluna Rd. by distributing traffic flow, while providing updated, modern, and safe learning facilities for our youngest learners.
- Updates and renovations to Beach, Shettler, and the Middle School to complete projects based upon needs and the District's Master Facilities Assessment.
- Improvements to barrier free school playgrounds, and construction of a soccer field that may be used for recess and physical education spaces to replace the current soccer field on the playground at Edgewood Elementary, while also using this new space as a new Ken Erny Field for our competitive soccer programs as well.

- Purchase of new transportation vehicles and school buses to ensure that we continue to update our transportation replacement cycle.

### **Why are bonds being sold in a three (3) part series?**

The bonds for this proposal would be sold in a three-series sale (May 2025, Spring 2027, and Spring 2029). Selling bonds in series reduces interest costs, while allowing the District to add the interest cost savings to the overall bond value. Additionally, this approach would allow the District to take advantage of the existing future bond payment step downs to place new bonds where it has capacity to do so, while holding the overall debt millage at 6.90 mills. This approach has allowed the District to place the bond proposal on the ballot sooner than originally planned, so that if approved, the new Edgewood Elementary School is expected to be built and opened sooner than expected in the Master Facilities Plan. This is important as it is expected that the projected growth within the Edgewood catchment zone will increase with significant housing development along the Harvey Street corridor.

### **What input will parents and staff have regarding the design of the projects included in the bond proposal?**

The Board of Education held two community forums, with one on November 18, 2024, and a second on December 9, 2024 to collect feedback and input from key stakeholders. The presentations that were shared with the community on each of these dates, along with the completed feedback forms from those in attendance at the forums are provided on the District's website.

The community is cordially invited to community meetings on the following dates and times to learn more about the District's bond proposition. Each meeting will begin with a presentation that outlines the process that has been followed by the District and the Board of Education, and time will be provided for community input and feedback. Each meeting will take place at Edgewood Elementary School, and guests should enter through the main doors of the elementary school. Dates and times of the upcoming meetings to learn more about the bond project are listed below:

- February 26, 2025 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- March 12, 2025 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Additionally, if approved by voters on May 6, 2025, a planning committee that involves parents and staff members will be established to work with members of the District's Bond

Team to provide additional feedback and input into the finalized design plans for each project outlined in the bond proposition.

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

### **Voter Registration Information:**

- To learn more about voter registration, such as eligibility requirements, how to register to vote in Michigan, and updating or canceling your voter registration, please click on the following link: <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/register-to-vote>.

Methods and requirements for voter registration depend on the following deadlines:

- **If there are 15 days or more before the election**, voters can register online, by mail, or in person.
- Voters may register in person through Tuesday, May 6, 2025 (Election Day) by visiting their local clerk's office to register in person with proof of residency documentation.

### **Absentee Voting:**

All registered voters in Michigan have the right to vote by mail using an absentee ballot delivered to their home. Voters can also request an absentee ballot directly from their local clerk's office. Absentee ballots are available beginning 40 days prior to every election. Michigan voters can decide to be placed on a permanent absentee ballot list. The local clerk will then mail them an absentee ballot for all local, state, and federal elections. For more information about absentee voting, visit the website below:

- <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/absentee-voting>.