

Holly Area Schools Excellence in Action!

April 29, 2022

Dear Families and Community Members of Holly Area Schools,

We would like to remind everyone to vote next Tuesday, May 3. Holly Area Schools has a school bond proposal on the election ballot. If approved, this bond proposal would provide \$97 million for district-wide improvements with **no tax rate increase** to property owners.

This bond proposal addresses the highest priority projects and focuses on three key areas:

- **Safety and security.** If approved, the bond would fund several health and safety projects, including upgrading fire protection and public address systems, improving parking lots and sidewalks, and replacing worn playground structures.
- **Providing our students with skills to compete.** The bond would help enhance academic, professional trades, performing arts and athletic opportunities districtwide to help prepare all Bronchos for the jobs of tomorrow.
- Making necessary repairs to aging infrastructure. This proposal would fund the construction of a new middle school to replace our aging building with expanded learning spaces, a career lab, fine arts and athletics facilities. It would include additional building and site improvements, including replacement of septic systems at Davisburg and Rose Pioneer elementary schools.

Learn more on the district website, <u>www.hask12.org/has-bond/may-2022-bond-proposal</u>. Here, you will find facts about the bond proposal, including a frequently asked questions document. Unfortunately, some misinformation regarding the district's bond proposal was recently mailed out to some Holly residents. This is why getting the facts is so important.

- **This is a <u>no tax increase</u> proposal**. If approved by voters, this bond proposal would not raise the current Holly Area Schools bond millage rate for district property owners.
- The May 3 election date was selected to avoid additional cost to taxpayers. Postponing the bond proposal would extend the financial burden on the district's general fund to pay costs of critical facility repairs and improvements. A later proposal also would have resulted in increased construction costs due to inflation.

Administration Office

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Scott M. Roper, Superintendent Jennifer Herbstreit, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum/Instruction Steve Lenar, Asst. Superintendent Administrative Services Michelle Flessa, Director of Special Education

- **Record of fiscal responsibility, accountability.** Over the past 15 years, Holly Area Schools has saved taxpayers nearly \$6 million in interest costs by refinancing outstanding bond debt. The district has also improved its Standard & Poor's credit rating from an "A-" to an "A."
- These will be environmentally sound improvement projects. All projects will be overseen by architects and builders, and have multiple regulatory agencies involved during the construction process to ensure we are following code, best practices and safety procedures.

At Holly Area Schools, we recognize the trust our community places in us to make wise use of their tax dollars, and we take that responsibility very seriously. I again encourage you to visit www.hask12.org/has-bond/may-2022-bond-proposal to learn more about the facts of our bond proposal on the Tuesday, May 3 ballot.

Sincerely,

Scott Roper, Superintendent Holly Area Schools