



Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees Calls School Bond Election

Galena Park ISD's Board of Trustees approved calling a bond election at a special meeting on February 16, 2016.

Voters will decide whether to approve the \$290 million dollar bond proposal. The district currently intends to use the bond, if approved, to address aging facilities, student safety and building new facilities. Under the current proposed use, all 23 GPISD school facilities and support facilities would receive renovations and upgrades.

Specific proposed uses for the bond funds include:

- Rebuild 6 Elementary Campuses
- North Shore 10th Grade Center
- Renovations and Upgrades to all other Campuses
- Land Acquisition for Facility Opportunities

More than 70 percent of GPISD buildings are 24-77 years old, and a recent assessment by independent school facilities experts identified more than \$500 million in renovation and construction needs throughout the district. This list does not reflect the routine maintenance GPISD regularly performs on district buildings. It is a result of mechanical, electrical, heating and cooling systems reaching the end of their life cycles, as well as changing state and federal standards and regulations. The \$290 million dollar bond proposal represents those needs deemed most critical: approximately one-third of the overall total. A diverse citizens' committee of more than 30 people helped determine priorities and made recommendations to GPISD Trustees.

The board currently plans to use approximately \$217.5 million for the replacement of 6 elementary schools and a 10th Grade Center, along with \$70 million to address facility deficiencies at all district campuses and support facilities, plus \$2.5 million for land acquisition to address future growth.

Voters will decide May 7th whether to approve GPISD's \$290 million dollar bond proposal. The last day of voter registration is April 7th, and early voting begins April 25th through May 3rd. Early polling locations include Galena Park Middle School and the GPISD Administration Building.

If voters approve the bond package, GPISD estimates the maximum interest and sinking tax rate will be \$0.17 phased in over a three-year period. This would result in an additional \$7.83 in monthly taxes for the owner of a home valued at \$100,000. The tax rate increase would have no impact on the homesteads of district residents 65 or older, because their tax rates can be frozen once senior citizen exemptions are filed with the

appropriate county appraisal district. Additionally, GPISD will continue to offer all homeowners a 20% homestead exemption.

Visit the district website at www.galenaparkisd.com for more information.