



Durand Area Schools

November 3, 2026 Bond Proposal

FAQs: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Introduction: Residents within the Durand Area Schools district will have the opportunity to vote on a bond proposal on the **November 3, 2026**, election ballot. If approved, it would authorize **\$30,290,000** for building and site improvements to address identified and ongoing capital projects based on facility assessments and community input. If the proposal is approved by voters, the overall debt millage is expected to have a **ZERO TAX RATE NET INCREASE** from the 2026 tax year levy. This proposal is focused on projects that keep our kids **SAFE, WARM, and DRY**, as well as infrastructure improvements.

1. What is a bond proposal, and how can bond funds be spent?

A bond proposal is how a public school district asks its community whether to authorize borrowing money to pay for capital expenditures. Voter-approved bond funds can be spent on projects generally described in the ballot language. Funds raised through the sale of bonds cannot be used for operational expenses such as employee salaries and benefits, school supplies, and textbooks. Bond funds must be kept separate from operating funds and must be audited by an independent auditing firm.

2. What are the key projects in this bond proposal?

This bond proposal would address the highest priority projects as determined by the district and community input with a focus on **Safe, Warm, and Dry** projects for the district.

ROBERT KERR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Safety and security:

- Replace exterior doors for security
- Add window shades for safety, enclose playground with fence
- Extend public announcement system for full building coverage/safety
- Upgrade security cameras

Warm:

- Replace heating and ventilation units

Dry:

- Build a covered outdoor area (canopy) for pickup and dropoff

Infrastructure:

- Renovate select 25+ year old restrooms
- Fix parking lots and roads
- Light renovation of cafeteria

BERTHA NEAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Safety and security:

- Replace exterior doors for safety
- Add window shades for safety
- Add new outdoor and parking lot lights
- Extend public announcement system for full building coverage/safety
- Upgrade security cameras

Warm:

- Upgrade heating and cooling controls

Dry:

- Fix drainage in the drop-off area

Infrastructure:

- Replace broken basketball hoops
- Improve office acoustics for confidentiality
- Remove and replace old wall panels in the cafeteria
- Replace gym/cafeeteria floor
- Renovate select 25+ year old restrooms
- Remove an extra classroom door and close the space
- Expand the parking lot
- Turn baseball fields into soccer fields
- Fix parking lots and drives
- Move the driveway entrance
- Replace lighting control systems

DURAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Safety and security:

- Improve front office entrance for visibility of visitors
- Upgrade security cameras
- Extend public announcement system for full building coverage/safety
- Replace exterior doors for safety
- Add privacy film on windows
- Add shades to windows
- Add new parking lot lights
- Add a backup generator for power outages to keep safety systems operational

Warm:

- Replace classroom heating/cooling units

Dry:

- Improve drainage around building

Infrastructure:

- Replace old carpet with new flooring
- Media center improvements
- Resurface west parking lot and sidewalks
- Fully replace south parking lot
- Fix drainage pond issues

DURAND HIGH SCHOOL

Safety and security:

- Replace mezzanine railings in the gym for safety
- Update stairs and handrails around the school
- Replace exterior doors for safety
- Extend public announcement system for full building coverage/safety
- Add a backup generator for power outages to keep safety systems operational
- Upgrade security cameras

Warm:

- Replace heating and cooling units
- Improve air flow and fans

Dry:

- Remove and replace the roof

Infrastructure:

- Update science classrooms with new equipment
- Replacement of gym bleachers and select basketball hoops
- Update locker rooms
- Update cooking (Home Ec) classrooms
- Add kiln room in art classroom to meet fire code
- Update wrestling, art, and band rooms
- Renovate select 25+ year old restrooms
- Improve one classroom with step-style seating
- Replace old carpet with new flooring
- Update the front office desk
- Repave parking lots and roads
- Improve the sewer system with a lift station
- Replace water systems and pipes

ATHLETICS / OUTDOOR SPORTS AREA

- Build a new combined sports complex on campus:
 - A new press box
 - A new concession stand
 - Baseball and softballs fields
- Build a new building with bathrooms and concessions at the football field
- Pave a gravel soccer parking lot
- Reconstruct parking areas
- Add new sidewalks

3. Would artificial turf be included in the bond for the athletic fields?

No, artificial turf would not be included in this bond proposal.

4. What would happen to Goudy Field once the varsity baseball field is relocated?

With school board approval, Goudy Field would be sold at fair market value.

5. What would you do with the potential proceeds of the sale of the Goudy Field, and would it go towards bond projects?

The potential sale of Goudy Field would go towards operating costs of the district and would not be put towards bond projects.

6. Why a bond proposal now?

The 2026 bond proposal is planned to address the currently identified issues, with construction scheduled to begin in 2028 and end in 2029. While sinking fund dollars address many critical needs, there are still core infrastructure system needs — such as safety items like updated secure entries, exterior doors, fire alarm systems; as well as heating and cooling systems — that have exceeded their expected lifecycles. Replacing these systems will extend the useful life of our school buildings and sites.

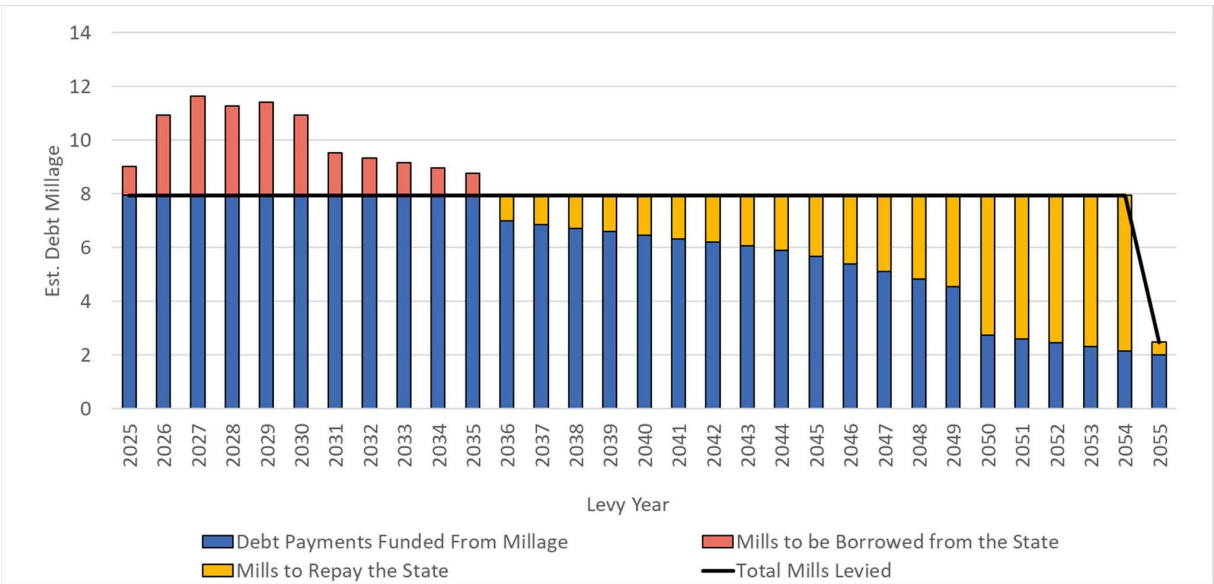
7. What was the process to determine what is in this bond proposal?

The District has consistently studied the current and projected needs of school buildings and educational programs to determine a facility plan. Using this information, supplemented with the District’s strategic plan initiatives, an independent facility assessment that was published in [2025 by School Finance Research Foundation](#), staff and student focus groups, a community survey, and input from our Architect/Engineers and Construction Manager bond partners, District leaders and the Board of Education are now asking voters to consider a school bond proposal on the November 3, 2026 ballot that includes only the highest priority projects.

8. How would the bond proposal impact my property taxes?

Durand Area Schools will levy 7.94 mills for debt millage rate in tax year 2026. If the 2026 bond proposal is approved by voters, the debt millage rate is expected to remain the same at 7.94 mills in 2027, resulting in a **ZERO TAX RATE NET INCREASE** from the 2026 tax year levy .

9. If the November 3, 2026, bond proposal passes, how will it impact the projected debt levy in the future?



10. When would the millage for this proposal first be levied, if approved?

The millage for this proposal, if approved, would first be levied on the December 1, 2027, property tax bill.

11. Would the approval of the bond proposal have any impact on our current operational budget?

While funding from this bond proposal is independent of the district’s general fund operating budget, the bond would likely have a positive impact on the district’s general fund by allowing the district to reallocate operating funds that are currently being spent on aging facilities, mechanical systems, and technology. The operational savings generated from new and cost-efficient facilities could be redirected to student programs and resources.

12. Are businesses and second homes (non-homestead properties) and primary homes (homestead properties) treated the same regarding bond debt millage?

Yes, businesses and second homes (non-homestead) and primary homes (homestead) are treated the same regarding bond debt millage.

13. What oversights would hold the district accountable?

If approved by voters, the district's Architect/Engineer would design the proposed projects and prepare construction documents and specifications for the projects. Once the projects are designed, the district's Construction Manager will assemble bid packages and publicly advertise to solicit competitive bids for all work. This is required in the Revised School Code. This process ensures that the district selects the lowest responsible bidder. All qualified contractors will have an opportunity to attend a pre-bid meeting to obtain additional information and project clarification. All qualified contractors will have the opportunity to participate in the competitive bid process.

14. At what point would the State of Michigan, as well as the local fire and police departments, provide input into the bond projects?

Each project will be required to be submitted to both the State's Bureau of Construction Codes (BCC) and the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) for both plan review and permitting. These agencies will review the projects to ensure they comply with applicable codes, before any building permits are issued. Building plans and specifications must be signed and sealed by a Licensed Architect/Professional Engineer before submission. Michigan law requires school districts to consult on the plans for the construction or major renovation regarding school safety issues with the law enforcement agency that is the first responder for that school building. This consultation would happen if the bond proposal is approved by voters, before construction documents are finalized prior to project commencement.

15. Are owners of property in the school district eligible to vote if they do not reside in the school district?

Owners of property are only eligible to vote if they reside in the school district boundaries. To be eligible to register to vote, you must be:

- A Michigan resident (at the time you register) and a resident of your city or township for at least 30 days (when you vote)
- A United States citizen
- At least 18 years of age (when you vote)

16. If I rent a home, can I vote?

Yes. If you rent a home, you can vote as long as you are a registered voter in the city or township in which you live, and you live within the district boundaries.

17. How is an absentee voter ballot obtained?

Registered voters must complete and submit the application to receive their absentee voter ballot. To vote by mail, fill out the application and sign it, and then return it to your local clerk. If you registered to vote after absentee voter ballot applications were mailed, applications may be obtained online at [Michigan.gov/vote](https://michigan.gov/vote). Absentee voter ballots are available from September 24 through November 3, 2026.

18. What are the key dates leading up to Tuesday, November 3, 2026, election day?

- Registering to vote:
 - The last day for voters to register by mail/online is April 20, 2026.
 - Voters may register in-person through November 3, 2026 (election day) with the required documentation.
- Absentee Voting:
 - Absentee voter **ballots** are available from September 24 until November 3, 2026.
 - **October 20 is the last day recommended turning in your ballot by mail to avoid postal delays.**
 - Ballots can be dropped off at your local clerk's office or in a designated drop-off bin
 - Contact your local clerk with questions
- Early voting:
 - **October 24, 2026**, is first day of the statewide in-person early voting period. All communities must offer in-person early voting at a designated early voting site starting on this day
 - Contact your clerk or visit mi.gov/vote to find out when and where you can vote early in person for the November 3 General Election.

19. What is the ballot language for the bond proposal?

**DURAND AREA SCHOOLS
BOND PROPOSAL**

Shall Durand Area Schools, Shiawassee and Genesee Counties, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Thirty Million Two Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$30,290,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, for the purpose of:

erecting and remodeling school buildings and facilities; equipping, re-equipping, furnishing and refurnishing school buildings and facilities; purchasing school buses; and preparing, developing, improving and equipping athletic fields, play fields, playgrounds, structures, facilities and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2027, under current law, is 0.14 mill (\$0.14 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a 0 mill net increase over the prior year's levy. The maximum number of years the bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is thirty (30) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 3.72 mills (\$3.72 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district expects to borrow from the State School Bond Qualification and Loan Program to pay debt service on these bonds. The estimated total principal amount of that borrowing is \$9,781,210 and the estimated total interest to be paid thereon is \$21,618,901. The estimated duration of the millage levy associated with that borrowing is 30 years and the estimated computed millage rate for such levy is 7.94 mills. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is \$32,500,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is approximately \$4,215,341.

(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.)

20. In the ballot language, it states that the estimated millage that will be levied in 2027 to pay the proposed bonds in the first year is 0.14 mill, what does this mean?

The proposed bonds are estimated to require the levy of an additional 0.14 mills for debt in 2027. However, the total debt levy is projected to remain at the 7.94 mills that were levied in 2026 for an expected zero-mill net increase from the 2026 levy. This is possible since the debt levy for the currently existing debt is projected to decrease by 0.14 mill with the 2027 levy.

21. In the ballot language it states that the maximum number of years any series of bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of refunding, is not more than thirty (30) years, what does this mean?

The school district plans to issue one series of bonds with all bond principal and interest paid off within thirty (30) years.

Questions?

If you have further questions, please contact Shannon Knapp, Superintendent:

knapp@durand.k12.mi.us