



District Office
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www.sjredwings.org

February 4, 2025

Dear SJPS Families,

After months of work and detailed facilities planning with our community, the Board of Education has approved a resolution to call a special election this May for a revised bond proposal.

On May 6, SJPS voters will consider a bond proposal to provide facilities improvements across the district. The proposal is aimed at two key priorities of the district:

- **Taking Care of What We Have** by addressing concerns in aging facilities, equipping them to improve safety and provide students with improved opportunities:
 - Safe & secure entrances, door hardware, and access controls
 - Updated learning environments and additional elementary classrooms for individualized and hands-on instruction
 - Improved athletics facilities
 - Improved fine arts facilities
 - *See our webpage for more.*

- **Building for Our Future** through committing to renovate and build for our youngest learners
 - Committing to and renovating Eureka and Riley
 - New Early Learning Center to support our at-capacity programs and our young families

We're excited about all the possibilities the future holds, and we hope you are too.

I've included a few key FAQs from our site below, but please see our webpage for details regarding the proposal.

Visit our webpage: <https://www.sjredwings.org/bond-2025/>

What does “zero-mill increase to the tax rate” mean?

The tax rate to repay the bonds is not projected to increase beyond the current debt millage rate of 7.00 mills. Taxpayers would expect to continue paying the same rate of 7.00 mills, which SJPS has levied since 1995, one of the few districts in the state to hold steady for nearly twenty years.

How is this bond proposal different from the 2024 proposal?

The St. Johns community was instrumental in the development of the 2025 bond proposal. Through months of deliberation, touring of school facilities, and surveying the community, a broad-based community steering committee of students, staff, parents, and community members worked with the district administration team to build a proposal that would have no projected increase to the tax rate.

Our District Steering Committee was committed to doing what was best for students throughout the process. The Steering Committee weighed all the priorities across the district with a commitment to be fiscally responsible to our community, while balancing the needs of the district without a proposal that would raise our millage rate from 7.00 mills. I'm grateful for their efforts and their passion for providing environments where students, staff and community come first!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Berthiaume".

Dr. Anthony Berthiaume, Ph.D., Superintendent

Together, we succeed.