

Vote November 8

Fast Facts

2016 School Bond Referendum Informational Guide

STRONG SCHOOLS, STRONG COMMUNITY

A NEW PLAN

The district surveyed the community twice since the 2015 election.* We appreciate your feedback and have designed a new plan that provides the maintenance and facility updates prioritized by the community. Community members will vote on the new plan in a one-question referendum Nov. 8. This new plan meets many of the needs identified by the community facilities task force in 2015 at a much lower cost.



**Surveys in March and June had a record response rate - the highest ever seen by our consultants.*



The Needs Are Real and Are Not Going Away

Two-thirds of our high school building is over 60-years old and is in need of maintenance and learning improvements. This bond addresses remodeling and updates for out-dated classrooms as well as long-term maintenance needs. These investments will ensure that our high school remains a viable community asset long into the future.

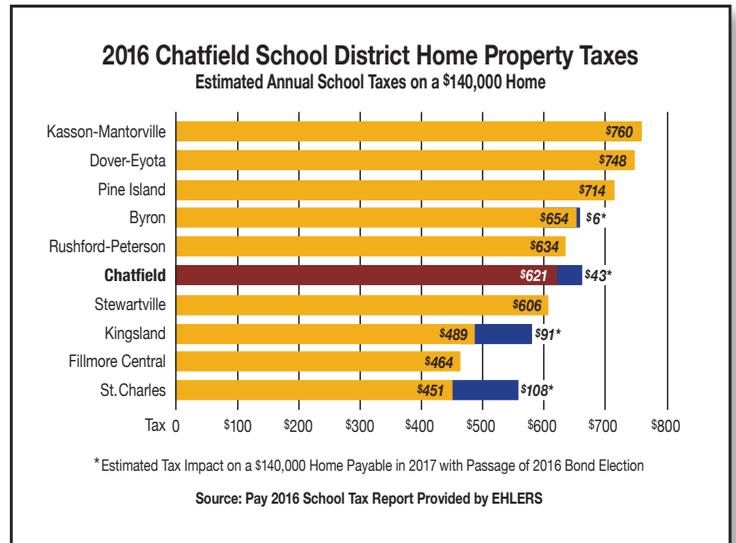
78% support long-term building maintenance funding for our aging high school.

When Schools are Strong, Communities Thrive

When they are not, the community - including businesses, real estate values, neighborhoods, etc. - is negatively impacted. Competition for good schools is fierce in areas of growth and Chatfield's location to Rochester makes it a prime area for prospective new families (and businesses) if its schools and other amenities are comparable to the surrounding area.

WHAT IS THE PLAN? Focused on Community

The community asked for an affordable building plan. We heard you loud and clear. We retooled our plans for a facilities investment the community would support: reduced from \$19.7 million in 2015 to a \$10.8 million bond. The total request is less than \$4 per month on an average \$140,000 home, significantly less than the 2015 referendum.



Visit <http://www.ehlers-inc.com/custom/taxinformation/Chatfield/> to find taxes for your property. For taxes on agricultural property call Ehlers at 1-800-552-1171 or email to: mnschools@ehlers-inc.com

\$4 PER MONTH
ON AN AVERAGE \$140,000 HOME

What's Different and Why?

- **Elimination of new gym (\$4 million less)**
- **New funding from the state (\$2.7 million*)**
*Long-term Facilities Maintenance Revenue (LTFMR) with no new taxpayer money
- **Other project reductions (\$1 million less)**
- **Even better interest rates – 52-year low**
- **Refinanced elementary bond; decreased high school project tax impact**

Focused on Academics

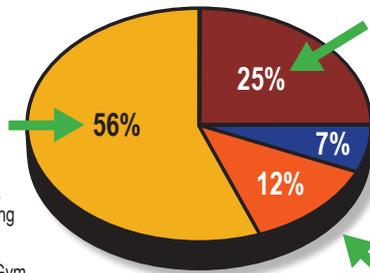
The community resoundingly requested that we make academic needs our main priority. This bond includes updates to general classrooms including Science, Library/Media Center, and Large Group room to create 21st Century, academic learning spaces. Technology, Engineering, Ag Science, and Math (STEM) classrooms will be revitalized with new spaces to accommodate current learning needs.



HOW WILL THE MONEY BE SPENT?

Classrooms:

- New Tech Ed, Ag, STEM classrooms
- Remodel/Update all classrooms including existing Science, Flex, Adaptive Phy Ed, Occupational Therapy, Health/Fitness/Wrestling classrooms
- Remodel/Repurpose Gym, Library/Media Center, and Large Group room



Interior:

- Remodel Kitchen, Commons/Cafeteria, Corridors, Storage area, Boys locker room, Entry vestibule
- Relocate Visitor locker room, Storage area

Exterior:

- Update Front entry, Signage, Electrical transformer screen
- Repair/Update Exterior wall surfaces

FF&E:

- Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment
- Finance and Legal costs

LEVIES ARE FOR LEARNING BONDS ARE FOR BUILDINGS

The state does not allow operating levy funds to be used for building maintenance or updates to classrooms. For these projects, school districts are required to hold an election to raise funds through building bond requests.

Thank You for Your Past Support

Last year, voters approved a much-needed operating levy increase. This levy helps pay for operational expenses such as utilities, transportation, teacher salaries, and successful academic programs that contribute to recent academic gains.

WHERE & WHEN DO I VOTE?

Vote Tuesday, November 8 during the general election. Polls are open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

To find your polling place visit:
www.chatfieldstrong.org

Early voting/absentee ballots are available beginning September 23. Call 507.867.3240 or visit the district website for ballot instructions.

Need More Information?

Visit: www.chatfieldstrong.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChatfieldPublicSchools

Open Houses & Tours

Learn more about the proposed facilities bond: Thursday, September 29 at 6 p.m. and Monday, October 17 at 6 p.m.

Who Can I Contact?

Call Edward Harris, Superintendent Chatfield School District at: 507.867.4210 x 5011 or email: eharris@chatfield.k12.mn.us.