



BUILDING OUR DISTRICT'S FUTURE TOGETHER

BOND VOTE • TWO PROPOSITIONS

On Tuesday, Feb. 25, residents of the Riverhead Central School District will have an opportunity to vote on two separate bond propositions totaling \$97,049,340, of which \$500,000 will be funded through the district's voter-approved capital reserve fund. **IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT PROPOSITION NO. 2, EVEN IF APPROVED BY VOTERS, WILL NOT MOVE FORWARD UNLESS PROPOSITION NO. 1 IS ALSO APPROVED.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

• HOW WAS THE SCOPE OF WORK DEVELOPED?

For several years, the Board of Education and administration have been discussing with the community the district's facilities needs and capacity issues. Various options were discussed, with associated costs ranging from \$106 million to \$130 million. The Board of Education, administration and the district's architect prioritized the scope of work and developed a fiscally responsible bond.

• WHAT IS INCLUDED IN PROPOSITION NO. 1 AND PROPOSITION NO. 2?

Proposition No. 1 totals \$88,249,340, of which \$500,000 will be funded through the district's capital reserve fund, and covers repairs and/or renovations to address districtwide spatial issues and equitable classroom instructional space issues for all students; safety and security upgrades, including work needed to be compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act; enrollment trends and projections; infrastructure repairs and renovations; improvements and efficiencies.

Proposition No. 2 totals \$8,800,000 and covers fairgrounds improvements, including the McKillop Field synthetic turf conversion; stadium track and field; varsity baseball field and softball field relocation; multiuse courts at Pulaski Street Elementary School and Riverhead Middle School; parking expansion and bus parking at Pulaski Elementary School; fairgrounds entrance; and Riverhead Middle School baseball field improvements.

• WHO USES THE DISTRICT'S ATHLETIC FIELDS?

The proposed work to the district's athletic fields are needed in response to an increase in students participating in sports. More than 1,600 student/athletes participate in sports during the school year. In addition, the Town of Riverhead youth athletic teams use district fields at no additional cost to taxpayers.

• WHY IS THIS WORK NEEDED NOW?

All students will benefit from this work, as the schools were never designed to accommodate the district's current and projected enrollment, and to support our rigorous curriculum into the future.

• IF THE BOND IS APPROVED, WILL THE DISTRICT RECEIVE NEW YORK STATE BUILDING AID?

Yes. The District's state aid ratio for building projects is less than 30%. The Board of Education and administration have made it their mission to increase this figure, as well as to increase the District's unacceptably low level of Foundation Aid.

• WHAT IS THE COST TO THE AVERAGE HOMEOWNER?

The average assessment on a home in Riverhead is \$43,000. On average, Proposition No. 1 will cost the owner of an average assessed home \$16.41/month. Proposition No. 2 will cost the owner of an average assessed home \$3/month. For more information, please call 631-369-6711.

• WHY SCHEDULE THE VOTE IN FEBRUARY INSTEAD OF LATER IN THE SCHOOL YEAR?

Student and staff security and safety are a priority. The goal is to start the site work in the summer of 2020 to avoid disrupting instruction. To complete the critical expansion work at Riverhead High School by September 2023, the scheduling of renovations is critical. If the vote was scheduled for May or June, the district would lose a whole summer's worth of work.

• WHAT IF PROPOSITION NO. 1 DOES NOT PASS?

The facilities spatial needs are real and will continue to get worse as the projected enrollment grows over the next several years. The Board of Education and administration will continue to analyze all options that are educationally sound and age appropriate at Pulaski Street Elementary School and will need to consider educating students at Riverhead High School using split sessions. It is important to note that Proposition No. 2, even if approved by voters, will not move forward unless Proposition No. 1 is also approved.

• HOW DOES THIS BOND IMPACT THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE CHILDREN ATTENDING DISTRICT SCHOOLS?

The district takes great pride in the rigorous education we provide to all students, the numerous enrichment opportunities and the success of our students upon graduation. Our schools are the core of our community, and the positive reputation of our school district plays a role in making Riverhead a desirable community in which to live and raise children.

• ARE ABSENTEE BALLOTS AVAILABLE?

Yes. To obtain an absentee ballot, please contact Lisa Rheume at 631-591-5985 or visit the district's website at www.riverhead.net.

**PLEASE PLAN TO BE PART OF THE
DISTRICT'S FUTURE.
VOTE ON TUESDAY, FEB. 25.**