



September 2024

Dear Sky View Families,

This November, you will see a proposed bond authorization on the ballot. Here are some frequently asked questions which provide facts on Peoria Unified's proposed bond:

What is a bond?

A bond is a line of credit, similar to a mortgage on a home. Arizona Revised Statute 15-491 allows a district's Governing Board to ask voters to approve the school district to issue bonds, which are purchased by investors, to fund projects that have a useful life longer than five years. The district borrows money through the bond sales and repays them sales over time with interest, to pay for things like buying or leasing school land, buildings and grounds, school furniture, equipment, technology, and transportation vehicles. Bonds cannot be spent on daily operational expenditures, such as teacher salaries. Examples of building improvements include (heating, air conditioning, roofing, and lighting), technology (computers), school buses and related equipment.

Will there be a tax increase if the bond passes?

No. The proposed \$120M bond authorization bond sales will be structured so that there will be no expected tax rate increase to the community. The combined tax rate of outstanding and proposed new bonds is projected to be at \$.57 per \$100 of limited assessed valuation. The impact

of the bond on taxes will depend on the assessed value of each taxpayer's property. The district encourages all taxpayers to enter the specifics from their individual property tax statement into the district's property tax calculator for an estimate of the tax amount for their home.

The bond, if approved by voters, would not increase the secondary tax rate and it would be used to fund safety and security upgrades, school and facility repairs like heating and air conditioning, parking lots, roofing and more, construction of a new elementary school, technology, and transportation. For a detailed list of items in the proposed bond, please visit www.peoriaunified.org/election.

If approved, how would the district spend the bond dollars?

Safety and Security	Improving the safety features on district campuses. Examples of safety and security upgrades at elementary and high schools include front office remodels, fencing, and cameras.
Priority repairs and upgrades to elementary and high schools	Upgrade and maintain all district elementary and high schools, including heating, air conditioning, roofing, electrical, plumbing, foundation repairs, parking lots and related projects.
New elementary school construction	Construction of a new elementary school on an existing parcel of land that is owned by the district to provide an additional learning environment to meet the needs of today's students.
District facility priority safety upgrades and security	Renovations and/or improvements to and for administrative facilities and grounds, including safety, technology, furniture and equipment.
Technology	Technology, equipment and infrastructure related to access and connectivity to equip district campuses with the most up-to-date technology through technology replacements, improvements and upgrades. This includes student and staff devices and computers.
Transportation	Student transportation and campus support vehicles including yellow school buses.

If approved, where would the new elementary school be built?

If the bond initiative is approved, a future elementary school will be built on one of four parcels of land owned by the district. The district will conduct an assessment and look at multiple data points prior to selecting which of the four parcels is the best location for a new school.

Why isn't the construction of a new high school included in the bond initiative?

A Peoria Unified high school in the northern portion of the district is not included in the proposed bond. During their review, the Citizens' Advisory Committee asked for data from a demographic study which was conducted to analyze the growth in the northern portion of the district. Although Liberty High School is currently at capacity, its enrollment is expected to remain flat for the next seven to 10 years. This is due to inflation, the increasing cost of homes, lower birth rates, and the recent announcement of a charter high school expected to break ground in Vistancia. Without an immediate need for a new high school, including this in the proposed bond authorization was not a top priority for the Citizens' Advisory Committee.

If you have additional questions about the proposed bond, please email us at pusdpr@pusd11.net or call 623-486-6100.

Thank you,

Tammy Maas, Principal

Sky View Elementary

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