

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools November 5 Bond Proposal

Q&A No-Tax-Rate increase

For more information about the bond proposal call (586)783-6300, ext. 1206 or visit www.lc-ps.org and click *Bond Election Info*.

Letter to Residents

In May, L'Anse Creuse Public Schools voters turned down a request for a bond proposal to address aging facilities throughout the school district. The proposed project scope was extensive because the last LCPS bond proposal to address facility needs was 19 years ago.

Following the May election, community feedback we received echoed the need to update school facilities without requiring a tax rate increase. However, many residents questioned the size and scope of projects to be completed at one time.

We heard your concerns and have placed a revised, smaller-scale \$188.7 million bond proposal for your consideration on the November 5 ballot.

The revised bond proposal is designed to address priority updates and immediate facility needs without increasing the current tax rate.

The November 5 bond proposal is designed to:

- **Enhance safety and security measures at all schools**, including replacing exterior doors, windows, and lighting; upgrading existing secure entry vestibules; upgrading the security camera and phone systems; installing an emergency alert system; and replacing PA systems.
- **Improve instructional spaces and technology to support student learning and programming**, including updating classrooms and educational spaces; replacing student instructional technology; and replacing audio-visual systems (display, sound, and document cameras).
- **Improve building infrastructure and school sites**, including HVAC (heating and cooling) systems; replace parking lots and sidewalks; and replace aging roofs.
- **Enhance arts, athletics, and playgrounds**, including replacing playground surfaces and equipment; updating tennis/pickleball courts and playing fields; and purchasing band trailers and band equipment.

Please take a few minutes to learn more about the November 5 NO-TAX-RATE INCREASE bond proposal.

Thank you for your continued interest in L'Anse Creuse Public Schools and the educational program for our students.

Facts about LCPS

Student Enrollment

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools daily serves 9,414 Pre-K - 12th grade students.

School Facilities

L'Anse Creuse Public School operates 20 school facilities representing 2,003,208 sq. ft of building space.

Elementary Schools

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools operates nine elementary schools. The oldest elementary school opened in 1964 (60 years ago), and the newest opened in 2009 (15 years ago). South River Elementary School is the largest elementary school operated by LCPS, with 71,561 sq. ft.

- Atwood Elementary - opened in 2004 (69,296 sq. ft.)
- Carkenord Elementary - opened in 2001 (69,375 sq. ft.)
- Graham Elementary - opened in 1964 (60,614 sq. ft.)
- Green Elementary - opened in 2009 (71,473 sq. ft.)
- Higgins Elementary - opened in 1995 (66,129 sq. ft.)
- Lobbestael Elementary - opened in 1972 (52,630 sq. ft.)
- South River Elementary - opened in 2007 (71,561 sq. ft.)
- Tenniswood Elementary - opened in 1973 (52,620 sq. ft.)
- Yacks Elementary - opened in 1976 (56,567 sq. ft.)

Middle Schools

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools operates four middle schools. The oldest middle school opened in 1957 (67 years ago), and the newest opened in 2000 (24 years ago). Middle School - East is the largest middle school operated by L'Anse Creuse Public Schools, with 132,974 sq. ft.

- Middle School -Central - opened in 1957 (101,828 sq. ft.)
- Middle School -East - opened in 2000 (132,974 sq. ft.)
- Middle School -North - opened in 1965 (78,388 sq. ft.)
- Middle School -South - opened in 1973 (91,747 sq. ft.)

High Schools

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools operates two high schools.

- L'Anse Creuse High School - opened in 1956 (213,591 sq. ft.)
- L'Anse Creuse High School - North - opened in 1975 (238,187 sq. ft.)

Support Facilities

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools operates four additional facilities. These facilities support the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools educational program, students, and community.

- To serve our youngest learners, L'Anse Creuse Public Schools operates the **Burdi Early Childhood Center**. Built in 1995, the facility covers 17,102 sq. ft. and features 10 classrooms and educational support spaces.
- **The Pankow Center** opened in 1976 and covers 140,891 sq. ft. It provides career/vocational training and advanced math and science programs to high school students. The John Armstrong Performing Arts Center (JAPAC) opened in 2001 and supports the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools performing arts program. This facility is also used by community groups and area businesses.
- **The Pellerin Center** was built in 2009 and covers 37,897 sq. ft. Programs offered at the Pellerin Center include Adult Education programs, GED classes and testing, a Credit Recovery Program, and a Hybrid and Distance Learning Program for students.
- **The Wheeler Community Center** was built in 2012 and covers 48,900 sq. ft. This facility houses the administrative offices and educational instructional support services for L'Anse Creuse Public Schools.
- **The Brender Support Services Center** was built in 1975 and covers 31,438 sq. ft. This facility supports the transportation fleet with bus repair and fleet parking; custodial, maintenance, and grounds services; district-wide technology infrastructure; and food service planning and storage.

Athletic Fields

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools has 41 indoor and outdoor athletic spaces, including 4 football, 4 soccer, 3 softball, and 4 baseball fields, 4 tracks, 16 tennis courts, and 6 competition indoor courts, along with 12 additional baseball fields at various buildings.

Staffing

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools employs approximately 1,458 staff members, including:

- 581 teachers
- 207 teacher assistants/paraprofessionals/aides
- 7 adult education paraprofessionals/security/safety officers/accompanists
- 57 bus drivers
- 61 central office administrators/supervisors/facilitators/administrative aides/Dean of Students/JAPAC Staff
- 27 school building administrators
- 57 food service staff

- 28 lifeguards/medical aides/technicians
- 83 clerical staff
- 74 custodians/maintenance/grounds/mechanics
- 122 coaches

Roof Square Footage

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools maintains 20 school facilities with roofs 1.6 million sq. ft. The total square footage of roof replacement included in the November 5 bond proposal is 640,000 sq. ft.

Technology Infrastructure

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools has 600 miles of cables which is equivalent to the distance from the Pankow Center to Philadelphia. The servers support 14,000 networked devices at 20 different buildings.

Miles of Pavement

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools has over 3 million sq. ft. of pavement spread throughout the school district. That's the equivalent of 23 miles of two-lane highway, or the same distance of 13 miles between Middle School—South and Middle School—East.

Transportation Fleet

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools maintains a fleet of 81 school buses, ranging in age from 1 to 14 years old. Twenty-seven buses are over 10 years old and will be replaced through the November 5 bond proposal.

Bond Proposal Information

When is the election?

The election will be held on November 5, 2024. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Absentee ballots will be available after September 26 and can be cast through Election Day. Early in-person voting starts October 26. Contact your local clerk for more information.

What is on the ballot?

On the ballot is a revised \$188.7 million bond proposal to update school facilities. (The amount of the bond proposal was reduced from \$330 million to \$188.7 million.)

What projects have been deferred from the November bond proposal to a future bond?

The November 5 bond proposal will only address priority items in current school facilities. Projects deferred to a future bond include the mid to long range needs. There is no construction of new facilities in the November 5 proposal.

Why is L'Anse Creuse Public Schools proposing a bond?

It has been 19 years (2005) since voters last approved a bond proposal to address facility needs. L'Anse Creuse Public Schools is now at a stage where large-scale updates are needed. Planned improvements include replacing multiple roofs, completing interior and exterior updates to improve the learning environment, replacing student instructional technology, and enhancing safety and security measures at all schools.

In short, facility projects that need to be completed exceed the scope of the operational budget. In Michigan, a bond proposal is necessary when schools need to complete large-scale facility improvements (as is the case in L'Anse Creuse Public Schools).

Why wasn't a bond proposal brought to the community sooner?

When the last bond proposal was approved by L'Anse Creuse Public Schools voters in 2005, school officials promised that once the proposed repairs and updates were completed, another bond proposal wouldn't be necessary for at least ten years. With L'Anse Creuse Public Schools commitment to fiscal responsibility, a bond proposal request to the community has not been required until now.

How will the bond proposal not increase the current tax rate?

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools will extend the current tax rate for the entirety of the bond, which is similar to what a homeowner does when refinancing their home.

What are the major projects the ballot proposal will address?

All proposed projects fall into four major categories:

- Enhance safety and security measures at all schools, including replacing exterior doors, windows, and lighting; upgrading existing secure entry vestibules; upgrading the security camera and phone systems; installing an emergency alert system; and replacing PA systems.

- Improve instructional spaces and technology to support student learning and programming, including updating classrooms and educational spaces; replacing student instructional technology; and replacing audio-visual systems (display, sound, and document cameras).
- Improve building infrastructure and school sites, including HVAC systems (heating and cooling); replace parking lots and sidewalks; and replace aging roofs.
- Enhance arts, athletics, and playgrounds, including replacing playground surfaces and equipment; updating tennis/pickleball courts and playing fields; and purchasing band trailers and band equipment.

What will happen if voters don't approve the bond proposal?

The bond projects cannot be completed as proposed. Any large-scale projects that need to be replaced or upgraded will have to come out of the school district's operating budget, which is used to support the educational program.

What requirements have been put in place to make sure bond proposal revenue will be properly spent?

Every project in the bond proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Michigan Department of Treasury.

All renovations and upgrades must comply with the

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Michigan building codes. Bond proposal funds must be used only for purposes specified in the ballot language, and as required by state law, they must be independently audited annually.

What is a bond?

A bond is a State-approved funding process for school districts to complete a set scope of projects.

When voters approve a bond proposal, the school district sells bonds in the authorized amount and uses the bond sale proceeds to pay for those projects in the bond proposal. Bonds are typically set up to be paid back in 20-30 years.

The repayment is typically funded through property taxes. School district voters usually need to approve bond measures through a ballot initiative.

The L'Anse Creuse Public Schools bond proposal is a no-tax-rate increase bond proposal. This means that the tax rate will NOT increase over the prior year's levy. The bond proposal is for 25 years.

Can any of the bond proposal funds be used for employee salaries or operating expenses?

No. Bond proposal funds cannot be used for employee salaries. They also cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs or other operating expenses. Bond proposal funds must be used only for purposes specified in the ballot language, and as required by state law, they must be independently audited.

What can bond proposal funds be used for?

Bonds can be used for:

- Constructing new school buildings
- Constructing additions to existing school buildings
- Remodeling existing school buildings
- Energy conservation improvements
- Land purchases
- Site development and improvements
- Athletic and physical education facility development and improvements
- Playground development and improvements
- Refunding debt (if new present value savings can be demonstrated)
- Direct bond program costs such as professional fees, election fees, issuance costs, qualification fees, insurance fees, final audit costs School bus purchases
- Purchasing loose furnishings and equipment (including administrative technology)
- Technology purchases are limited to hardware and communication devices that transmit, receive or compute information for pupil instructional purposes only. The initial purchase of operating systems and customized application software is allowed if purchased with the initial hardware.

Bonds cannot be used for:

- Salaries, service contracts, lease payments, installment contracts, and supplies
- Repairs, maintenance, or maintenance agreements
- Purchasing automobiles, trucks, or vans
- Portable classrooms purchased for temporary use
- Uniforms
- Textbooks
- Upgrades to an existing computer operating system or application software

- Computer training, computer consulting, or computer maintenance contracts

What safety and security updates will be completed?

The bond proposal will add an additional layer of security at all L'Anse Creuse Public Schools facilities. Projects include upgrading security cameras, entrance intercoms, key cards/fob access control; replacing select exterior doors; upgrading building exterior lighting; improving playgrounds and play surfaces; installing emergency alert systems; replacing PA systems; upgrading the phone system; and replacing fences and gates.

What technology updates are included with the bond proposal? The bond will support updates to the technology network and purchase instructional and non-instructional computers and audio/visual systems for all school sites. In addition, the bond proposal will refresh student devices in series 2 of the bond.

What fine arts improvements are included in the bond proposal?

Fine arts improvements include adding music practice studios; renovating the music rooms at L'Anse Creuse High School; purchasing band trailers and equipment, replacing the dance floor at The Pankow Center; and upgrading theater lighting at the JAPAC.

What athletic improvements are included in the bond proposal?

At Middle School-East and Middle School-South, exterior athletic spaces and furnishings will be replaced, and at Middle School-South, the gym telescoping bleachers will be replaced.

At LCHS, exterior athletic fields, exterior courts, and furnishings, and the pool system equipment will be replaced. The softball and baseball fields will be upgraded to synthetic turf, and the stadium sound system will be upgraded.

At LCHS-North, the pool system equipment and pool locker rooms will be replaced, and the tennis courts will be replaced. Synthetic turf will be added to the softball and baseball fields, and the stadium sound system will be upgraded.

If the bond proposal is approved by voters, how will home values be affected?

Research indicates that real estate values tend to be higher in communities with school districts that are perceived to offer a quality educational program and have up-to-date school facilities.

All L'Anse Creuse Public Schools bond proposal projects are designed to reflect positively on homeowner property values and the school district's commitment to effectiveness and efficiency.

How will information about the bond proposal be shared with the community?

Information about the bond proposal will be shared with the community through direct mailings, social media, the school district website, community and staff presentations, and the news media to ensure that the community is well-informed and that answers are provided to questions people have before voting.

Will all bond proposal revenue benefit L'Anse Creuse Public Schools?

Yes. All revenue from the bond proposal will benefit L'Anse Creuse Public Schools. None of the revenue will go to Lansing or any other school district or political entity.

How are Michigan Schools funded?

Michigan has a unique system for funding schools that is different from most other states. Each year, Michigan school districts are given a per-student allotment as part of the State of Michigan budget. Revenue for the student allotment is generated through numerous sources, including property taxes.

The school property tax L'Anse Creuse Public Schools residents pay does not go directly to LCPS but rather to the State of Michigan. This revenue is redistributed across all Michigan public school districts, which primarily use it to fund their educational programming and operational costs.

How will the proposals benefit residents who don't have students attending L'Anse Creuse Public Schools?

There are numerous benefits for residents without school-age children. School district facilities and sites are regularly used by community members who do not have school-age children.

The value and vitality of our community depend on the quality and marketability of our schools. Research shows that communities with great schools help to maintain local property values. It is in our community's best interest to protect its investments and to attract families and businesses to our area.

A YES vote typically means that a voter supports a ballot proposal. Is that the case in this election?

Yes. Voters who support the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools no-tax-rate increase bond proposal should vote YES; voters who oppose the bond proposal should vote NO.

Where can I get more information about ballot proposals?

Go to www.lc-ps.org and click on Bond Election Info.

How can I share my thoughts on the bond proposal?

Share your thoughts about the bond proposal by visiting www.research.net/r/LCPS_Bond.

Voting Information

When is Election Day?

Election Day is November 5, 2024 Polls are open from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Who can vote in this election?

Residents of L'Anse Creuse Public Schools who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day and are registered to vote can vote in this election.

How can I vote by absentee ballot?

Registered voters do not need a reason to vote by absentee ballot. You can request an absentee ballot application from your Clerk's Office or by going online to www.michigan.gov/vote and clicking on Vote at Home.

Absentee ballots will be available to voters after September 26 and can be cast through Election Day.

Early in-person voting is available for all federal and state-wide elections. Early voting starts October 26. Contact your local clerk for the early voting schedule and times.

Where can I get information about voting (such as how to register, where to vote, absentee voting, and early in-person voting)?

Go to the Michigan Voter Information website (www.michigan.gov/vote) or call your local clerk's office.

Do I need to update my voter registration to vote in this election?

You need to update your voter registration if you have changed your name or address since the last time you voted. You can do this at any Secretary of State Office or your local clerk's office.

Where can residents get more information and answers to their questions about the bond proposal?

Go to www.lc-ps.org and click on Bond Election Info.