

Proposition S

No-Tax-Rate-Increase Bond Issue

Fact Book

Prop S Stands For:
Students
Schools
Safety

Learn More



[SLPS.org/PropS](https://slps.org/PropS)



VOTE AUG 2nd

This material is for informational and educational purposes only and is not intended to advocate, support or oppose The Saint Louis Public Schools' Proposition S on August 2, 2022.

Paid for by the Saint Louis Public Schools, 801 N 11th Street, Saint Louis, MO 63101

The Saint Louis Public Schools
TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2022
Proposition S
NO-TAX-RATE-INCREASE BOND ISSUE

VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

In order to vote in Missouri, you must be registered with the election authority in the county in which you are a resident.

If you moved within St. Louis City, or moved to the city from another part of the state, you'll have to re-register.

1. Confirm you meet the requirements:

- You are a U.S. citizen and a Missouri resident.
- You are at least 17 ½ years of age to register.
- You must be 18 years of age to vote.
- You have an acceptable form of identification. (www.sos.mo.gov)

2. Verify your current voter registration status:

- Visit the Missouri Secretary of State website and verify that you are a registered voter in Missouri, (s1.sos.mo.gov) or Call the Board of Election Commissioners at (314) 622-4336 Monday through Friday and staff will help you confirm your voter registration status.
- Search the Inactive Voter List Database and see if you are listed. If listed, you'll have to re-register with your current address.

If you are not registered to vote and would like to know more, please visit the site listed below or contact:

Board of Election Commissioners for the City of St. Louis

300 N. Tucker Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63101
(314) 622-4336

<http://www.stlouis-mo-gov/government/departments/board-election-commissioners/index.cfm>



IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for Voter Registration: **July 6th, 2022**

General Municipal Election Date: **August 2nd, 2022**

Absentee Voting Begins: **June 21st, 2022**

Last day to request an absentee ballot: **June 20th, 2022**

Last day to cast an absentee ballot in person: **August 1st, 2022**

ACCREDITATION

The Saint Louis Public School (SLPS) district is accredited by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). SLPS maintains a healthy fund balance and consistently receives national recognition for financial excellence.

DISTRICT MISSION

SLPS SERVES THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITIES

Saint Louis Public Schools serve students and families who reside in the City of St. Louis.

Please visit www.slps.org for more information.



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The Saint Louis Public Schools
TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2022 - PROPOSITION S
NO-TAX-RATE-INCREASE BOND ISSUE

Frequently Asked Questions

Q Will the District have a measure on the August 2, 2022 ballot?

A Yes. The District's **Proposition S, a NO-TAX-RATE INCREASE bond issue**, is on the August 2, 2022 election ballot.

Q Who determined that there should be a bond issue, the specific items to be included and the amount?

A On Tuesday, May 10, the Board of Education of the City of St. Louis approved a resolution to place a \$160 million, no tax increase bond issue, Proposition S, on the August 2, 2022 election ballot. Funds will support facilities acquisition, construction, improvements, renovations, and upgrades across all 60 District schools and six facilities.

If passed, PROP S would generate an estimated \$160 million that will be applied to renovations and repairs in District schools and facilities.

If passed there would be no increase to the debt service tax rate, currently at \$0.6211 per \$100 assessed valuation of real and personal property.

Prop S requires a 57.14% majority vote for passage.



Q How will the bond issue read on the ballot?

A Proposition S official ballot language is as follows:

Shall The Board of Education of the City of St. Louis borrow money in the amount of One Hundred Sixty Million Dollars (\$160,000,000) for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, renovating, repairing, improving, furnishing and equipping school sites, buildings and related facilities in the District, including but not limited to (1) removing lead paint, fencing and other hazardous materials at affected schools, (2) upgrading mechanical systems to include replacement of outdated or obsolete equipment, temperature controls, and duct cleaning to increase ventilation, (3) upgrading building infrastructure by replacing roofs, tuck-pointing, waterproofing and window replacements, (4) improving security systems to increase student safety by installing fire alarm systems and replacing interior and exterior doors, (5) upgrading technology to modernize classrooms and improve academic performance, (6) improving building conditions by renovating restrooms and other ADA improvements, and (7) increasing learning opportunities by creating outdoor learning spaces and making improvements to playgrounds and athletic fields and facilities, and issue general obligation bonds for the payment thereof?

Q What is the difference between a bond issue and a tax levy?

A **A BOND ISSUE** is used to generate funds for maintaining or improving district facilities, or for equipment/technology. The sale of bonds by the District is a long-term obligation that is paid by a debt service tax levy for a period of time (generally 20 years, much like a home mortgage). Bond issue funds cannot be used for operating purposes.

A TAX LEVY is a tax rate on property and is primarily used to generate operating funds for day-to-day expenses. Unless otherwise designated, a tax levy is permanent.



Q How will bond issue funds be used?

A Prop S bond issue funds will be used only for the purposes stated in the bond issue, i.e.,

PROP SAFE SCHOOLS – Facility and Environmental Restoration/Modernization:

Acquiring, constructing, renovating, repairing, improving, furnishing, and equipping school sites, buildings, and related District facilities. Removal of lead paint, lead-based fencing, and other hazardous materials at affected schools. Upgrading air conditioning mechanical systems, replacing outdated or obsolete equipment and temperature controls; and duct cleaning to increase ventilation.

Prop SECURE SCHOOLS - Infrastructure Improvements/Safety and Security:

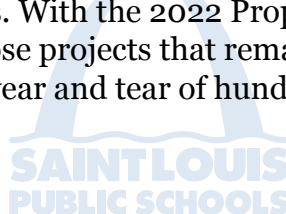
Replacing roofs, tuck-pointing, waterproofing and window replacements, improving security systems by installing fire alarm systems, and replacing interior and exterior doors and completing district wide technology upgrades.

Prop STRUCTURALLY SOUND SCHOOLS - Common Area Renovations:

Renovating restrooms and other ADA improvements; creating outdoor learning spaces and making improvements to playgrounds and athletic fields and facilities.

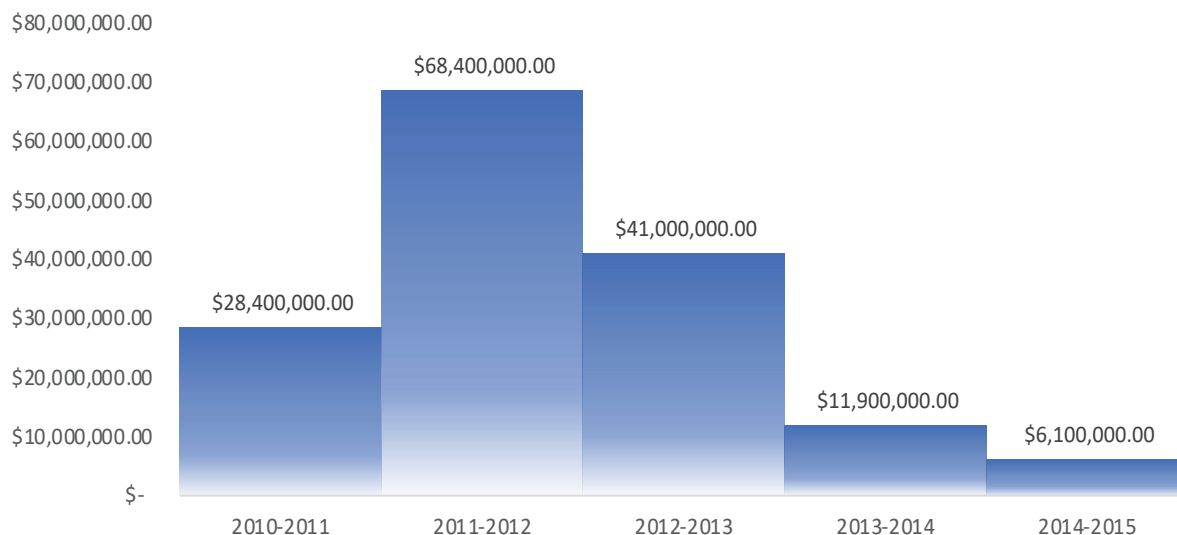
Q Did the District complete all the projects requested in 2010?

A Yes, all 362 projects were completed in a timely manner and under budget. Over five years, the District completed improvements and upgrades at all schools. The projects included, but were not limited to: state-of-the art technology; new cafeterias, kitchens and science labs; library improvements; HazMat (lead remediation); safety and security upgrades, outdoor classroom installations, new pre-k classrooms, new playscapes, CVPA auditorium update, roof replacements; window glass and shade replacements, waterproofing and tuck-pointing; Health clinics were installed in two high schools; ADA compliance measures updated and upgrades in lighting, mechanical systems. With the 2022 Prop S, the District hopes to build onto some of those projects that remain in dire need of a refresh given the daily wear and tear of hundreds of students over time.



The chart below shows how the funds were spent in accordance with the bond issue promise:

PROP S 2010 ALLOCATIONS- \$155.8M



Over five years, Prop S projects were completed at every SLPS school, totaling \$155.8 million. This included 97 contracts - all of which were completed under budget.

Another great outcome of the 2010 bond issue was the creation of 3000 construction jobs, 39% of which went to minorities or women. Of the 97 contracts awarded, 42% were contracts to minority-owned businesses and 8% were awarded to women-owned businesses.



Q What happened to the funds that were saved with the close of schools in 2021?

A The District reallocated savings realized from closed schools to new support positions and services as promised. The District hired more nurses, counselors, tutors, social workers, custodians and created new academic opportunities through electives and Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

Q What is the difference between operating funds and capital funds?

A **OPERATING FUNDS** are unrestricted and may be used for, as examples, employee salaries and benefits, supplies and materials and routine custodial and utilities costs.

CAPITAL FUNDS (PROP S) are used for the purchase of buildings and equipment, erection of buildings, renovation of existing buildings and the purchase of capital equipment items such as computers (and other technology items).

Q When was the last time the District passed a bond issue?

A The District's last bond issue was August 3, 2010. Also called Proposition S, the \$155 million bond measure passed by nearly 75 percent. Funds were used to renovate schools, nearly half of which are 100 or more years old. Recognizing that school buildings require regular repair and maintenance, many districts build regular bond issues into their programs. Because of our size, SLPS has taken a different approach, taking more time to evaluate and consolidate buildings and calling for the measure when we have the capacity to run the projects smoothly and efficiently.



Q Why is the Saint Louis Public Schools submitting a bond issue to voters?

A Thanks to a successful bond issue in 2010, a great many improvements and upgrades were made district wide. However, given the age of our schools and all major systems in each, it is important that we move forward with a new plan and a more expansive list of projects.

Q What exactly is the school district asking voters to consider?

A This chart below represents a general scope of work and features the most pressing projects at this time. Additional details upon request.



Q What more can you tell me about the projects included in the Bond Issue?

A Prop S will provide funding for many district-wide projects. For the most part these renovations mirror the same type of renovations that all of the district's homeowners have experienced.

For example, schools will receive upgrades to their heating and air conditioning systems with an emphasis on installing system controls that allow for the early warning of overly hot or cold classrooms and provide for the most efficient management of costly energy.

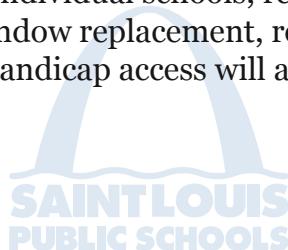
Security improvements will take the form of more and better cameras, some exterior and interior door replacements, better lighting, and some schools' fire alarm systems will be replaced.

In addition, the plan calls for the resurfacing of most playground and parking lot surfaces. The plan also addresses the replacement of the telephone system. Repair parts are no longer available from the manufacturer, and improvements such as the ability for first responders to identify the caller's location are not available.

Technology by its nature requires periodic upgrades. Prop S will upgrade the wireless network which is the technology backbone for all the schools in the district. Classrooms throughout the nation have gone from blackboards to smart boards. Prop S will allow the district to accomplish this transition.

Exterior landscaping improvements will occur at all schools to compliment the pride felt by our community. In some classrooms floors are worn out and other updates would provide safer surfaces and more welcoming presentation.

The elementary and early childhood schools will install playground equipment safety surfaces, and the high school band room will be renovated. At individual schools, repairs including painting, tuck-pointing, window replacement, restrooms, renovations, plumbing repairs, and handicap access will also be completed.



Q Will every school benefit from Prop S?

A Yes, every student, all staff and all schools will benefit from Prop S funds! (See chart)

Q Are Magnet schools included in Prop S?

A Yes, all schools, offices and facilities will receive improvements, upgrades and more, specific to the needs in those buildings and on those grounds.

Q If Prop S passes, will the District lose their ESSER funds?

A No, the two are not connected. ESSER funds are one-time funds from the American Rescue Plan and they are to be used for pandemic recovery. We need to significantly improve our facilities and that is why a bond issue is needed. Bond issues are how school districts raise money for renovations, repairs and construction.

Q Will there be community meetings to learn more about Prop S?

A We will have open informational forums for questions this summer which will be key to moving forward with this project on the August 2 ballot.

Q How can I help/support Prop S?

A Please help spread the word about Prop S. Encourage your peers to vote on August 2nd, 2022.



Q What percentage of votes is needed to pass the bond issue?

A Prop S requires a four-sevenths (or 57.14%) “YES” vote in order to pass on August 2, 2022.

In 1988, Missouri voters approved an amendment to Article XI, 26(b) of the Missouri Constitution stating that “...the vote required shall be four-sevenths at the general municipal election day, primary or general elections and two-thirds at all other elections.” The August 2022 election is a general municipal election.

Q What will happen if the bond issue does not pass?

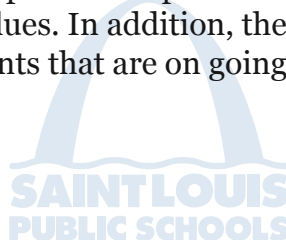
A We firmly believe that this bond issue is directly connected to the District’s success. Our students and teachers have spent the past two years challenged by a global pandemic that literally changed the way students learn and the way teachers teach. It has not been easy and we still are working through some of the on-going challenges around the pandemic. Our children and staff deserve to have comfortable, safe classrooms and schools. Studies show that academic achievement is higher when conditions are conducive to learning. The bond issue would allow us to continue to maintain our facilities in ways that will complement our neighborhoods. Our communities are only as strong as our school district.

Q How much will my taxes increase if this measure passes?

A Proposition S is a NO-TAX-RATE increase bond issue, which means residents will not pay more in taxes due to this measure. A NO-TAX-RATE increase bond issue is an agreement to keep taxes at or below the current rate.

Q What if I do not have children in the Saint Louis Public Schools?

A If passed, the scope of work provided by PROP S would help support property values. In addition, the completed projects are in line with improvements that are on going across our communities.



Saint Louis Public Schools

District Statistics

Ratings: The Saint Louis Public School District is are accredited by the State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Saint Louis City Population- 300,756

Saint Louis Public School District Area - 66.07 mi²

Total District Enrollment (as of September 30, 2021) - 19,600

Student Population

Male 50.9%
Female 49.1%
ELL Students 2,160
Gifted Students - 1,176
IEP Students - 2,596
Homeless Students ~ 3600

Staff

Teachers - 1625
Guidance Counselors - 78
Other Pupil Personnel - 126
Administrators - 108
Student to Staff Ratio - 15:1

Total number of active buildings- 68 Schools, 6 Administration

Average age of buildings - 87 years

Facility Capital Needs - Estimated Costs* \$330,545,504.62

*Note: Estimates are subject to change and should be refined as the specific project developed (scope). The cost estimates are an initial projection of costs based on prior projects, general construction methods and scope of work. The estimated cost budget is based on known conditions and general scope of work. The estimate may vary within 25%-35% of the estimated cost due to inflation rates, prevailing wage, professional services, such as architectural/engineering, hazmat services and other soft costs.



Saint Louis Public Schools

August 2, 2022 Bond Issue Team



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