

## **Armada Area Schools places two proposals on the May ballot**

The Armada Area Schools' Board of Education has approved placing a no tax rate increase bond proposal and a sinking fund proposal on the May 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot. Voter approval of both ballot proposals will not increase residents' current tax rate.

The first proposal, a \$26.5 million no tax-rate increase bond proposal, is designed to improve security and update school facilities.

School Superintendent Mike Musary said the bond proposal would allow the school district to make security improvements at all school facilities. "Student safety is a priority in Armada Area Schools. In 2015, we added secure entrances at Krause Elementary School and at Armada Middle School. This bond will allow us to create secure entrances at Armada High School and the Macomb Academy of Arts & Science," he said. "In addition, through the bond, we will be able to update and renovate school facilities by providing schools that support the learning needs of students today and in the future. We also will be replacing school buses as they wear out."

Board of Education President, Cheryl Murray, said the intent of the bond proposal is to add another layer of security at all schools and to update all school facilities. "Voter approval of the bond proposal will help protect the community's investment in its school district," she said. "For example, Armada High School was built in 1977 and still has the same HVAC system in place. It has reached the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced."

Superintendent Musary said the second ballot proposal is to keep a sinking fund in place so the school district can make ongoing repairs and updates to school facilities. "Armada voters first approved a sinking fund in 2004. "Since the sinking fund was originally approved by voters, the eligible work projects have expanded to include security and technology updates," he said. "To be able to include security and technology updates, we are asking voters to approve a sinking fund that includes the new expenditure areas. Even though the sinking fund ballot language calls for a .85 mill increase, it is the same amount that residents now pay."

Mr. Musary said that the school district is preparing a number of informational materials to help assure that the community is well-informed and that their questions are answered. Information will be included on the school district website, through the news media, social media, the school district communications, and printed materials and information mailed directly to the community.

Information about the proposals is available now on the school district's website and will be updated continually through Election Day. Mr. Musary invites all residents to visit [www.armadaschools.org](http://www.armadaschools.org) and click on *School Election Info*, to call any Armada Area Schools' principal, or to contact him directly at [mmusary@armadaschools.org](mailto:mmusary@armadaschools.org) with any questions.

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