



2025 School Ballot Propositions

Non-Homestead Operating Millage Renewal &
Net-Tax-Rate-Decrease Bond from the prior levy

Clarenceville School District Ballot Propositions FAQ

General Information about the Ballot Propositions

Q: What propositions are on the November 4, 2025, ballot?

A: Clarenceville School District's (CSD's) Board of Education is proposing two ballot propositions on the November 4 ballot:

1. **A non-homestead operating millage renewal** to renew the taxes assessed against properties that are not primary residences. This is a 10-year renewal requirement. The current operating millage runs from 2015 to 2025.
2. **A net-tax-rate-decrease bond proposition** to issue up to \$29.25 million in bonds to support major capital improvements at all schools.

Q: What is the difference between a non-homestead operating millage renewal and a bond proposition?

A: A non-homestead operating renewal applies only to businesses, rental properties, and second homes—not primary residences. These funds support efforts to maintain general operating expenses, including teacher and staff salaries, instructional and extracurricular programs, and maintenance and operational costs.

Bond propositions are used to support major capital projects. The district is able to borrow money up front and pay back the bond amount over time.

Q: How can the school district implement these ballot propositions without raising the current millage rate?

A: In 2025, the school district levied a sinking fund millage of 4.1278 to support capital improvements. This sinking fund levy expired and is not part of the current ballot propositions. Because the proposed bond would fund similar capital improvements, the school district is not seeking a renewal of the sinking fund. If the bond is approved, the tax-rate for the first year of the bond would be 3.68 mills—a net decrease of 0.4478 mills compared to the 2025 levy.

Additionally, the district is asking voters to renew the non-homestead operating millage, which applies only to businesses, rental properties, and second homes—not to primary residences. This renewal allows the district to continue receiving its full per-pupil funding from the State, with an estimated 18.0000 mills to be levied in 2026, generating approximately \$3.2 million for operating expenses. Thus, the school district can implement these ballot propositions while lowering the tax rate for homeowners and maintaining essential funding for school operations.



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Q: How are Michigan schools funded?

A: In Michigan, school districts receive funding from the State School Aid Fund based on the number of students enrolled. This per-pupil funding helps cover everyday expenses such as teacher salaries, classroom materials, and transportation. The state **does not directly provide** funding for building renovations, updates, or new construction. To pay for those needs, districts must ask voters to approve local funding through bond proposals.

The non-homestead millage is paid by owners of businesses, rental properties, and second homes, and it helps maintain general operations. Bond proposals allow districts to borrow money for major capital improvements and repay it over time using property taxes.

Both types of funding will appear on the November 2025 ballot to support school services and infrastructure.

Q: Why is the district proposing these ballot propositions?

A: CSD is proposing two important ballot measures in 2025: a non-homestead operating millage renewal and a Net-tax-rate-decrease bond proposition from the prior levy.

The district is seeking to renew its existing non-homestead operating millage, which has been in place since 1996. This is not a new tax and does not impact homesteads financially; it applies only to businesses, rental properties, and other non-primary residences. The millage generates approximately \$3.2 million annually, representing a critical portion of CSD's operating budget. If this renewal is not approved, the State of Michigan will not replace this funding. The loss of these dollars would force the district to make immediate and significant cuts to classroom programs, staffing, and essential student services.

The bond proposition is significant, as it would be the district's first-time asking voters to consider a bond in over 30 years. CSD's Bond Committee conducted a thorough assessment of facilities, focusing on the age and condition of buildings as well as essential components such as furniture, fixtures, equipment, infrastructure improvements, and technology. This process helped identify and prioritize critical needs, especially those related to safety, security, and deferred maintenance—while also addressing enhancements aligned with CSD's mission and educational goals.

CSD remains committed to providing students with high-quality educational opportunities and modern learning environments, and if approved by voters, these propositions will allow Clarenceville to protect its operational funding while making long-overdue investments in its facilities, giving students safe, modern spaces to learn and grow for years to come.

Q: How would our students and community benefit from these ballot propositions?

A: These ballot propositions are about strengthening both the daily operations and the long-term future of our schools. The non-homestead operating millage, which brings in \$3.2 million



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annually, supports essential services like teachers, transportation, and classroom programs. It's a renewal—not a new tax—and doesn't impact homeowners.

The bond proposition focuses on supporting major capital improvements such as upgrading aging facilities, improving safety, and modernizing learning environments across the district.

Together, these measures help keep our schools strong, our students supported, and our community proud.

Information about the Non-Homestead Operating Millage

Q: What is “non-homestead”?

A: “Non-homestead” refers to all property **except** a homeowner's primary residence. This includes:

- Local businesses
- Commercial and industrial properties
- Rental homes
- Any other non-primary residences

Q: Why do I see both 18 mills and 19 mills on the ballot?

A: The district is asking to increase the limit on the amount of taxes that can be levied by 19 mills to provide for a 1 mill cushion to protect against Headlee rollbacks. By statute, the district cannot levy more than 18 mills on non-homestead property but must levy 18 mills in order to receive its full per-pupil foundation allowance.

Q: Is the non-homestead operating millage a new tax?

A: No. This is not a new tax. The non-homestead operating millage has been in place since 1996 and was last renewed by voters in 2015. The upcoming vote is simply to renew this existing millage for another 10 years.

Q: What happens if the non-homestead operating millage is not renewed?

A: If the proposition does not pass, the CSD stands to lose approximately **\$3.2 million annually**. This funding **will not be replaced** by the State of Michigan. As a result, the district would be forced to make significant cuts to programs and services to balance the budget.

Q: What does this cost homeowners?

A: This millage does not apply to your primary residence. If you own and live in your home as your primary residence, this millage will not impact you financially. The millage only affects:

- Local businesses
- Commercial and industrial properties



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- Rental homes
- Any other non-primary residences

Information about the Bond Proposition

Q: How would the bond result in a net-tax-rate-decrease from the prior levy?

A: In 2025, the school district levied a sinking fund millage of 4.1278 mills. This levy is set to expire, and the sinking fund is not part of the current ballot propositions.

If the proposed bond is approved, the first-year levy would be 3.68 mills—representing a net decrease of 0.4478 mills compared to the 2025 levy. As a result, residents would experience a lower tax-rate in 2026 than the previous year.

Q: What are the major features of the bond?

A: The bond would provide:

1. District-Wide Improvements
 - a. Technology, furniture, & equipment upgrades
 - b. Interior & exterior secured entrances
 - c. Site & building lighting
2. Elementary School Modernization
 - a. Upgrades to Botsford and Grandview
 - b. Sitework
 - c. Heating/cooling upgrades
 - d. Electrical enhancements
 - e. Playground improvements
 - f. Interior & exterior improvements, including STEM labs
3. Secondary Campus Enhancements
 - a. Gymnasium addition
 - b. Sitework
 - c. Heating/cooling upgrades
 - d. Electrical enhancements
 - e. Interior & exterior improvements
 - f. Auditorium upgrades

Q: What if the bond proposition does not pass?

A: If the bond proposition isn't approved, CSD will continue to rely on existing resources like the general fund and capital project dollars to address immediate facility needs. However, larger-scale improvements—such as building upgrades, safety enhancements, and modernization efforts—would likely be delayed. These projects are not covered by current



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funding sources and would require future planning and prioritization, which could impact the pace of progress across the district.

Q: What can proceeds generated by the bond program be used for? And what can they not be used for?

A: Bond proceeds **CAN** be used for construction and remodeling of facilities, purchase of technology equipment and infrastructure, purchase of equipment and furniture, and site improvements.

Bond proceeds **CANNOT** be used for staff salaries and wages, general operating expenses, repairs and maintenance, classroom supplies and textbooks, and administrative costs.

Voting Information

Q: When is Election Day?

A: November 4 is Election Day, and polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. You can find your voting location on the Secretary of State website: www.michigan.gov/sos. Absentee ballots will be available beginning September 25.

Q: If I am unable to vote on November 4, what are my options for absentee voting?

A: All registered voters in Michigan can vote before Election Day by using an absentee ballot. You can vote by absentee ballot through the mail without having to leave your home. You can apply for an absentee ballot online, through the mail, or in person at your local clerk's office. After voting, you can then return your absentee ballot at your local clerk's office, your city or township's secure drop box, or your Election Day polling place. Visit michigan.gov/vote for additional information on absentee voting.

Q: Where do I register to vote?

A: The last day to register by mail or online is 15 days before the election (October 20). For in-person voting, you can register to vote at your city clerk's office up to 8 p.m. on Election Day. To find your polling location, visit <https://www.michigan.gov/vote>.

Additional Information

Q: Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

A: For more information, please visit <https://www.clarenceville.k12.mi.us/district/2025-bond-information/>

You are also welcome to contact Superintendent Melissa Carruth at melissa.carruth@clarencevilleschools.org for more information.