

Q: Does the school district have a capital plan?

A: Yes, Laveen has a detailed capital plan which is reviewed each year in a public meeting. The district's capital plan is detailed down to the life expectancy of each major building component including air conditioning units, water heaters, and pumps, etc. The plan also includes new school construction based on estimated student enrollment projections. Because of the many unknown factors impacting future residential development, plans for future school construction and site acquisition are tentative in terms of both timing and the number of schools that will be needed in the future. In the best interest of taxpayers, the school district does not commit to build schools or acquire school sites that may not be needed, but does work to plan, prepare, and ensure that the resources are there when the schools are required.

Q: Can school bond funds be used to increase teacher salaries or to hire additional teachers?

A: No, the state defines and strictly controls the use of school district funds. Per state statute, school bonds may only be used for capital purchases including the construction of new schools, capital improvements to existing schools, acquisition of school sites, and purchase of capital equipment such as computers and school buses.

Q: How can voters know whether or not the school district is managed efficiently and effectively?

A: Each year, the Arizona State Auditor General provides an analysis and report of school district funding across the state. This report shows that Laveen consistently spends less than the state average. A recent Arizona State Auditor General performance audit of Laveen Schools indicated that Laveen, "... operated efficiently overall with lower per pupil costs than peer districts, on average, in all operational areas. In fact, the District had nearly the lowest overall per pupil spending amount in the State." These reports are available to the public on the Auditor General's website.



Bond Election Q&A

The Laveen Elementary School District Governing Board has called for an election to be held Tuesday, November 3, 2015 to request voter authorization to issue a maximum of \$42 million of school capital bonds over the next 10 years.

Q: Why did the Laveen Governing Board call for the bond election?

A: Existing Laveen Schools are at or very near capacity and still growing. The Arizona School Facilities Board estimates that Laveen will grow by an additional 3,000 students over the next 10 years. To balance its budget, the state cut capital funding to schools by 85-percent and eliminated the Building Renewal fund for school districts. The Governing Board feels that the state cannot be relied on for new school construction funding. In the past, the state placed moratoriums on new school construction funding and will no longer consider any funding for new schools until after existing schools have exceeded their student capacity, which could result in severe overcrowding.

Q: If approved by voters, what will the school bonds be used for?

A: The school district will use the bond funds for capital improvements including construction of new schools to accommodate growing student enrollments, acquisition of school sites for future schools, repair and renovation of existing schools, improvements to athletic fields and playgrounds, student computers and other classroom technologies, enhanced school safety and security systems, and replacement of aging school buses.

Q: What is the cost breakdown on these items?

Project	Cost
Enhance School Safety	\$ 500,000
Tech Refresh & Improvement	\$4,810,000
Construct School #8	\$7,440,000
Construct School #9	\$14,000,000
School Site Acquisition	\$2,000,000
R&R School Infrastructure	\$11,500,000
Bus Fleet Replacement	\$1,750,000
Total	\$42,000,000



Q: How is the school district held accountable for the use of the bond funds?

A: The district provides complete transparency. By state statute, the bond funds can only be used for the purposes outlined in the voter information pamphlet published by the county elections office and mailed to the homes of all registered voters. All of the school district's financial records are open to the public and the budget can be accessed through a link on the district's website. The governing board holds public hearings on the budget and on the capital plan, which include a detailed report by staff of past as well as planned future use of bond funds.

Q: When was Laveen's last school bond election?

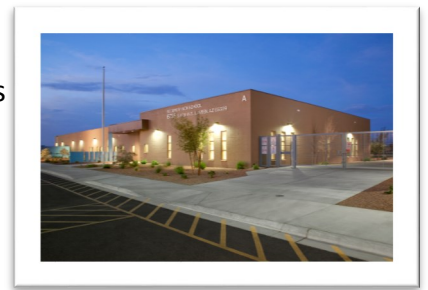
A: The most recent bond election, in the amount of \$49 million, was approved by 72-percent of voters in 2008.

Q: Did the school district use the bond funds from the 2008 bond election as promised to voters?

A: Yes, combined with other capital funding resources, Laveen was able to rebuild Laveen School and M. C. Cash School, make additions to Cheatham School, renovate Vista del Sur, and complete the support facilities at the Laveen Education Center.

Q: When did the last new school open in Laveen?

A: The most recent new school in Laveen, Rogers Ranch School, opened three years ago in 2012. Since then the school district has grown by about 900 students.



Q: Since voters approved a \$49 million bond in 2008, why is the school district asking voters to approve \$42 million seven years later?

A: Due to the recession in 2009 and the resulting drop in assessed property values, the district was only able to issue \$18 million of the \$49 million approved by voters. The voter authorization of the 2008 bond expired in 2014.

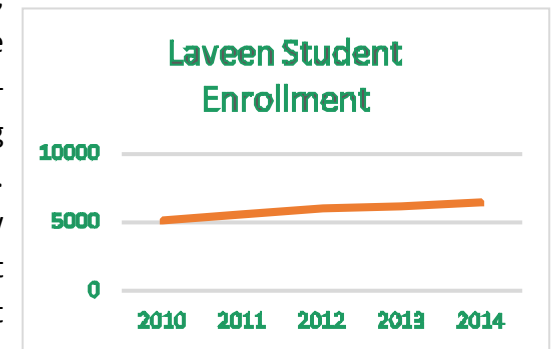


Q: Most of Laveen's schools are new. What maintenance/ replacement is necessary?

A: Laveen is very fortunate that each of our schools are less than 20 years old, the majority being constructed within the last 10 years. However, with hundreds of students walking through our schools each day, even our newest buildings will require some level of upkeep over the next few years as well. This includes: carpet replacement, painting, roofing and HVAC replacements, concrete repairs, etc.

Q: I thought the State paid for new school construction?

A: Laveen Elementary School District has applied for, and put to good use, all state funds for which it qualifies. However, recent changes to the State's funding formula for new school construction do not take into account adequate construction time and prevent the District from qualifying for construction dollars until our schools are significantly over capacity. Even then, the state does not have the resources in its budget for new school construction. Arizona's minimum school facilities standards do not support the additional educational programs and opportunities the District provides its students and the community.



Because State funds were never intended to meet all school facility needs, school districts are permitted to issue voter-approved bonds to fund construction, renovation, and student transportation projects locally.

Q: How are School Bonds paid for?

A: School bonds are paid through property taxes assessed by the county assessor on the property located within the geographical boundaries of the school district.

Q: If approved by voters, what will be the cost of the school bonds to Laveen homeowners?

A: The estimated cost of the school bonds, based on an assessed value of \$100,000, will be \$9.11 per month. This will represent an addition to the tax rate of \$1.0929 per \$100 of net assessed value.