

Upcoming November election: On the ballot for Ida

We will have a proposal on the ballot at the November 7, 2023 election.

Since our last few attempts have failed to pass a bond to make upgrades and additions to building infrastructure that included safety and curriculum upgrades we have researched other options in an effort to propose a tax levy on this November's ballot. As many are aware the boilers are at the end of their life. It is not if they will fail but when. The district is unable to fully fund the project and this is why we have opted the Sinking Fund option. This will not only allow the upgrades to our district heating and cooling but complete some additional needed projects. All we ask you, as a voter, to do is to become informed before you vote. Thank you!

The language that will be on the ballot:

Millage Proposal

Building and Site Sinking Fund Tax Levy

Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be levied against all property in Ida Public Schools, County of Monroe, State of Michigan, be increased by and the board of education be authorized to levy not to exceed 2.6500 mills (\$2.6500 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of eight (8) years, 2023 to 2030, inclusive, to create a sinking fund for the purpose of construction or repair of school buildings and the improvement and development of sites and for any other purpose which may be authorized by law? It is estimated that the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in the 2023 calendar year shall be approximately \$1,053,292; revenues from this millage will be disbursed to Ida Public Schools.



You ask, "What is a Sinking Fund?"

A sinking fund is a cash-based savings account, so it does not accrue interest like debt would. By setting aside money in the sinking fund regularly, the Ida community can avoid sudden financial burdens or the need to take out large, interest-bearing loans when these significant projects or expenses arise. These funds are used to finance critical, planned expenses that support daily operations such as building repairs, renovations, or purchasing new equipment.

You ask, "Why a sinking Fund?"

- Improve Schools and community
- Transparency and Accountability
- Leverage Available Federal Funding

You ask, "What are the tentative projects?"

High Priority Improvements

- Replace Failing HVAC Equipment
- Add A/C in the HS/MS
- Build a new road to the Elementary
- Implement Safety upgrades
- Weatherize and repair exterior of buildings



Our building's HVAC equipment is beyond its life expectancy and could fail anytime, forcing emergency school closings and costly repairs. In response to these concerns, this summer, we began the initial drilling of a well to investigate the efficiency of geothermal. Geothermal HVAC systems pump water through underground loops that either cool or heat the circulating water that will be used to control the climate of the buildings efficiently. This process eliminates boilers, univents, domestic hot water heaters, and all respective piping. This lower maintenance solution is also eligible for a 40% credit and will provide high and middle-school air conditioning.

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!