

SEP 07 2023

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR PRINTING IN THE
MARION COUNTY VOTER PAMPHLET

Measure No. 24-494

Election Date: November 7, 2023

Please see attached.

Total Words 472 (NOTE: This statement must not exceed 500 words.)

Authorized Signature Signature redacted Title Superintendent

Printed Name Joe Wehli

Local Government Unit St. Paul School District No. 45

SEP 07 2023

St. Paul School District serves approximately 240 students in north Marion County. The District has two schools, an elementary school (59 years old), and a middle/high school (71 years old), which were remodeled between 2008 and 2017 using local bond dollars braided with seismic grant funds that were awarded to the district. The Agricultural Sciences program is housed in a 71-year-old building. It was not included in earlier renovation projects and is not eligible for seismic funding because it is past its useful life as an instructional facility and has no air quality system in place.

The School Board refers bond measure, seeks community support:

The school board seeks voter approval of a \$3 million general obligation bond. The District will receive \$3 million matching OSCIM Grant funds from the State if bonds are approved.

Long-Range Facility Planning:

In 2015, community meetings were held to identify future priority capital projects. In addition, a facilities study was completed in 2020 which identified areas of need. These areas of need are aligned with the community priorities. This Long-Range Facility Plan was approved by the board that same year.

Community Priorities:

Based on community feedback and the Long-Range Facility Plan, two projects were identified: update the career and technical education (CTE) building which houses the Agricultural Sciences and CTE program and the renovation of the food services facility which is housed in the elementary school.

The CTE Program is accessed annually by more than 70% of the student population. Students earn college credit for several classes, such as horticulture and animal science. Other classes offered are Agriculture, Power and Technology, Ag Leadership, Ag Mechanics, and Woodworking.

Concerns with the current educational facility:

- Safety - building is not seismically sound
- Outdated electrical
- Poor air quality
- Lack of space to keep program activities separate

Bonds would finance capital costs to fund the following improvements:

- Construct a replacement 6,400 square foot CTE/Agricultural science building designed based on current and future program needs
- Demolish and/or repurpose existing agricultural science facility
- Renovate the existing food service facility and replace aging equipment
- Replace grounds maintenance equipment
- Make safety and security improvements to District facilities
- Additional capital costs, including site improvements, demolition, furnishings, equipment, bond issuance costs

The District has identified a team of 16 community members, board members, and staff to serve on a local bond oversight committee. The committee will monitor progress and ensure proceeds are used for purposes indicated.

Bonds may be issued in multiple series; each maturing within 21 years from issuance. The estimated average increase over the current fiscal year 2023 bond tax rate is \$0.94 per \$1,000 assessed property value, with a combined tax rate of \$3.90 per \$1,000 assessed property value. Actual levy rates may differ due to changes in interest rates and assessed value.