



DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

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Voters approve \$183.7 million bond proposal

Bastrop ISD voters approved the District's bond referendum consisting of two separate ballot propositions totalling \$183.7 million. Proposition A received the support of 67 percent of voters, while Proposition B received 60.92 percent.

Voters in the Bastrop Independent School District passed the \$183.7 million bond referendum held on May 1, 2021. Over the next five years, Bastrop ISD is projected to grow by more than 3,000 students in the next five years, which will increase the district's enrollment to 15,000 students. Nearly 80% percent of the funding from Bond 2021 will be used for projects that directly address this growth, including the construction of two new schools and the expansion/renovation of existing schools.

"It's very rewarding to see the community show their support, not only for our schools but also for the work of the Citizens Advisory Task Force who were incredibly committed to this effort," said Bastrop ISD Superintendent Barry Edwards. "We are grateful to have the trust of our community, and we appreciate their investment in the future of our district."

The unofficial canvass report showed a total of 2,713 voters were in favor of Proposition A and 1,336 were against. A total of 2,463 voters supported Proposition B, while 1,580 opposed the measure. A total of 4,091 ballots were cast.

Bond 2021 will provide new district facilities and renovations at existing campuses to address anticipated growth. Proposition A of Bond 2021 will provide:

- Two new elementary schools, one each in Bastrop and Cedar Creek, including the acquisition of land for the Bastrop site
- A classroom expansion project at Cedar Creek High School
- New academic wing at Bastrop High School, plus expansion of Career & Technical Education facilities and renovations to fine arts
- Construction of dressing facilities and restrooms at Bastrop High School baseball and softball complexes, including renovation of concession facilities
- Reconfiguration of both intermediate schools into comprehensive middle schools
- Major renovation of Mina Elementary and relocation to one side of Hill Street
- Parking and driveway improvements to all elementary schools
- Technology infrastructure upgrades

- Safety and security upgrades throughout the district

Proposition B of Bond 2021 will provide:

- Artificial surface for Erhard Field
- Renovation of Erhard Field sports center including weight room, locker rooms, and restrooms

The bond proposal was crafted by a group of community members that comprised BISD's Citizens Advisory Task Force (CATF), which met for several months beginning in the fall of 2019. The original recommendation of the CATF resulted in a bond proposal for a May 2020 election, which was cancelled due to the pandemic. The CATF reconvened in the fall of 2020 to craft the Bond 2021 proposal. Despite the breadth of projects, Bastrop ISD taxpayers will not see an increase in the school district tax rate as a result of this election.

“On behalf of the school board, I want to thank the members of the task force who put together a comprehensive bond proposal, as well as the district staff who worked tirelessly to make sure that our community understood what we were trying to accomplish through this bond,” said BISD Board President Ashley Mutschink. “This is an exciting time to be in Bastrop, and we appreciate everyone’s support!”

Design work on the projects is set to begin in the coming weeks. Follow all of the progress on Bond 2021 at bisdtx.org/bond2021.

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