



Press Release

August 14, 2012
For Immediate Release

Northwest ISD School Board Calls \$255 Million Bond Election

Following the recommendation of the Long-Range Planning Committee, the Northwest ISD Board of Trustees on August 13 praised the committee for their work and approved the recommendation, calling a \$255 million capital bond referendum. As developed by the committee, this bond is intended to address the district's continuing student population growth, which is projected to increase by an additional 5,800 students by the 2017-2018 school year. Northwest ISD currently operates 27 separate campuses, spanning three counties (Denton, Tarrant and Wise) and 14 municipalities across 234 square miles.

Election day for the Northwest ISD bond election is November 6, with early voting October 22 to November 2.

2012 NISD Bond At-A-Glance

The \$255 million bond referendum would provide:

- Facilities and programs for an additional 4,000 students.
 - This includes construction of a comprehensive high school and a middle school in the north Fort Worth/Haslet area on 137 acres which was purchased by Northwest ISD in 2008 in preparation for the growth.
 - Northwest ISD is expecting an additional 5,800 students in the next five years; however, some of the growth can be accommodated in existing schools.
- Updates to technology.
- Updates to safety and security.
- Program enhancements and classroom space for math, science and environmental studies.
- Major building component replacements like HVAC systems, flooring and roofing.
- Building additions at existing schools.

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Long-Range Planning in NISD

The Northwest ISD Long-Range Planning Committee is comprised of approximately 40 parents, business leaders, community volunteers and staff members who are dedicated to looking at the long-term facility needs of the district. With about 15 members of the committee in attendance at the August 13 school board meeting, committee member Dave Edstrom addressed the Board of Trustees and audience.

Edstrom, who has served on the committee for nearly 15 years and has watched Northwest ISD grow from a school district with 5,300 students in September 2000 to more than 17,000 today, said, “We really are on a path to be the best. As a board, you have been effective guardians of taxpayer money.

“Our facilities are second to none,” he said as he pointed out the number of large projects that have been successfully managed on time and under budget for the past 11 years. “History is a good predictor of the future,” he said. “You can feel comfortable that this recommendation from the Long-Range Planning Committee reflects the best demographic information available and the construction forecasting accuracy of district staff.”

District Enrollment Nearly Triples in 10 Years

The student population growth in Northwest ISD continues to climb. For the last 10 years, Northwest ISD has experienced rapid growth in all grade levels throughout the district’s boundaries. With more than 1,000 new students enrolling each August, Northwest ISD has experienced growth that has ranged from 8 to 19 percent over the last 10 years. The state defines a fast growth school district as one that grows 10 percent over the course of a five-year period, and the increases in Northwest ISD’s enrollment have far surpassed that. In the fall of 2002, Northwest ISD served approximately 6,200 students. Today, that number has nearly tripled to 17,600.

11-Year History of Bond Elections in NISD

With more than 70 percent voter approval in each election, Northwest ISD successfully passed bond referendums in 2001, 2005 and 2008. As one of the fastest growing school districts in the state, Northwest ISD has successfully managed its growth in student enrollment. The bond referendums in 2001, 2005 and 2008 have provided:

- Facilities, student seats, and programs for more than 12,000 students, including nine new elementary schools, two new middle schools, Byron Nelson High School and Steele Accelerated High School.
- The technology infrastructure and hardware necessary for today’s standards.

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- Strategic campus design and systems for safety and security.
- Essential replacements to all NISD campuses on major components like HVAC systems, flooring and roofing.
- Building additions and renovations to accommodate the growing student population.
- A number of other programs and facilities like the Northwest ISD Stadium, the Career Academies at the district's two comprehensive high schools and accelerated high school, the program space for orchestra and the re-designed classrooms for algebra.

A Look at the Tax Rates

During the elections in 2001, 2005 and 2008, the Northwest ISD I&S (Interest and Sinking) tax rate never exceeded \$0.335 during an era of rapid growth in property values. The district upheld its commitment to voters during those elections and was able to provide seats for thousands of new students without a tax increase, maintaining the I&S portion of the tax rate at \$0.335 or less for the past decade. However, the downturn in the economy in the past several years has significantly reduced the growth of the taxable value; therefore an increase of \$0.0775 is included in this referendum. This would bring the I&S portion of the tax rate to \$0.4125, while the M&O (Maintenance and Operations) portion of the tax rate will remain unchanged at the current rate of \$1.04.

Voter Registration

Northwest ISD encourages all residents to become registered voters and to stay informed about school district and community issues. The voter registration application can be found online at www.votexas.org/register_to_vote.html or is often available at many schools, post offices, libraries, and Texas Department of Public Safety offices. Voter registration must be processed at least 30 days prior to an election.

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