



EAST SAC COUNTY CSD – HOME OF THE RAIDERS



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Jeff Kruse, Superintendent

TO: ESC REGISTERED VOTERS
FROM: ESC BOARD OF EDUCATION
DATE: AUGUST 5, 2020
RE: PROPOSED FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND VOTER PPEL FORUM

How can I learn more about the proposed facility improvements and the Voter PPEL election on September 8? To help you make an informed decision, factual information is being provided to voters in the East Sac County Community School District. Information attached with this mailing provides an update of the proposed project and information about the Voter PPEL vote on September 8, 2020. In addition, four Public Forums have been set for August 24-25 as options to learn more about the project: 1) Forum #1 at Auburn from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 24 at the shelter house in the park; 2) Forum #2 at Sac City from 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Monday, August 24 at the SES elementary gym; 3) Forum #3 at Wall Lake from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25 at the WLES gym; and 4) Forum #4 at Lake View from 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25 at the HS small gym. Information is also available on the school web-page.

What information will be presented during the public forums? Information to be reviewed during the forums will include: 1) the process used to make a decision as to the scope of the project; 2) the Voter Physical Plant and Equipment Levy, VPPEL; 3) rationale for the improvements at the elementary and high school; AND 4) time for questions and answers. Information included with this letter are: a summary tax impact report and VPPEL brochure with proposed ballot. ***Please bring the attachments with this letter to the public forums to help with the information being presented.***

So what is the rationale for the project? Improved services and programming needs are the driving forces for the proposed project. To allow the district to continue forward with the board's plan to move to two building sites, an instrumental classroom, 5-6 grade classrooms, and support services are needed at the elementary building. With improvements, the district likely will need to meet ADA requirements for restrooms. At the high school, a new kitchen/commons area and an option for seven classrooms are being proposed. This will allow the 7-8 graders to be moved to the LV building and allow for better utilization of staff with the long-range plan of demolishing the old part of the building. An elevator will be included in the project.

What was the process used to determine the scope of the project? The process began as the district worked with a consulting firm to explore long-range facility options for the district. Community meetings were held during the summer of 2018. The administrative team was given the task of making a recommendation to the ESC Board of Education to provide a better learning structure and long-range financial feasibility for the district. In the fall of 2019, the ESC Board of Education approved a resolution to move toward a two-building configuration in the district with an elementary building at Sac City and a JH/HS in Lake View.

What funding options does a school district have for facility improvements? The district can use sales tax revenues, Physical Plant and Equipment Levy, or a bond referendum to fund facility improvements. The district is exploring the use of sales tax revenues and PPEL funds. The use of sales tax funds can be approved by the Board of Education, but require a public hearing and are subject to abiding by the legislation on the use of sales tax funds. PPEL funds have two parts: a regular PPEL and a voter PPEL component. The board has the authority to approve the regular PPEL, and a simple majority is needed to approve a Voter PPEL.

Why was the VPPEL selected as the funding option? Using the Voter PPEL as an option to help fund the project was chosen for multiple reasons: 1) the Board did not feel comfortable going to a bond referendum because the dynamics of the district could change drastically. 2) Annually the Board has the ability to set the PPEL levy based on other infrastructure needs.

What is a Voter Approved PPEL? The VPPEL is a tax levy used by nearly 82% of school districts in the state; ESC is one of the 18% of school districts not currently using this funding option. The Board has chosen to make the VPPEL levy question a property tax only question for the simple reason the district can only borrow against monies that are generated through a property tax. If approved, the VPPEL would be in place for 10 years at \$1.00 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation set annually by the Board. To be approved, the VPPEL requires a simple majority to pass.

What is the difference between sales value, assessed value, and taxable value of property? Sales value is what your property will sell for on the open market. Assessed value is the value the county places on your property. Taxable value is the value you pay taxes on after the rollback. Currently the rollback is 55.07% of the assessed value on residential property. To calculate the taxable value, you would use the following formula: $((\text{assessed value} \times \text{residential rollback}) / 1,000) \times \text{levy rate}$. So once you know your assessed value multiply that number by 55.07% for the rollback then divide by 1000 and finally multiply by \$1.00.

What are some examples of how this would impact a residential, commercial, or agricultural owner? For residential property owners, a person with an assessed valued home of \$100,000 would pay an additional \$50.22 per year, \$4.19 per month, or \$0.14 cents per day. For commercial property owners, a person with an assessed value of \$100,000 would pay an additional \$90 per year, \$7.50 per month, or \$0.25 cents per day. For an agricultural property owner using the average assessable valuation for Sac County of \$1,445 an acre would pay an additional \$0.10 cents more per acre per month or \$1.20 more per acre per year. If a person owns 1000 acres, the cost would be \$1,177.43 more in school taxes per year for 10 years.

What are my options for voting? Registered voters who reside in the East Sac County School District can vote on September 8 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the 4-H Building at the Sac County Fairgrounds in Sac City or the Legion Hall in Lake View. As an alternate option, voters can vote by absentee ballot. Absentee ballot requests by mail must be made by August 28 and must be postmarked back to the Auditor's office on or before September 7. After August 10, a person can vote absentee in person in the Auditor's office. Voter registration forms and absentee ballot requests are available on the Sac County website: www.saccounty.org.

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