Frequently Asked Questions | Bond 2026

November 3, 2026 Ballot Proposal

History and Features

1. What is on the November 3, 2026 ballot?

On November 3rd, voters in Grand Ledge Public Schools will be asked to consider a bond proposal that focuses on upgrades to our school buildings and sites, including additions and renovations, safety and security improvements, flexible/adaptable furniture, and instructional technology.

If voters approve the bond proposal, the District will be able to maintain the current school debt levy and issue bonds without any increase to the current debt millage rate. The proposal authorizes the issuance of up to $123,500,000 in bonds.

2. Will this ballot proposal increase the tax millage rate above the 2026 levy?

No, the School District's debt millage rate is expected to remain at the current level of 5.63 mills. The 2026 bond proposal is possible while keeping the rate at 5.63 mills, thus zero increase above the current debt millage rate is expected.

3. What are the goals of this bond proposal?

The District's goals for Bond 2026 include:

- Deliver smarter, stronger, and safer schools to support the district's vision to provide every student with high-quality education, critical thinking skills, and social development to reach their highest potential in a safe and inclusive environment.
- Enhance classroom and auxiliary spaces to support our growing student population now and for the future.
- Preserve and improve district facilities by addressing program and infrastructure needs with zero impact to the current debt millage rate.
- Continue the vision laid out in the 2018 bond program to meet the growing needs of Comet Country.

4. What are the highlights of this bond proposal?

Smarter

- Expanded and improved learning spaces at Delta Mills ECC, Delta Center, Holbrook, and Willow Ridge Elementaries with classroom additions and renovations
- Dedicated cafeteria at Wacousta Elementary for improved functionality, efficiency, and scheduling flexibility
- New cafeteria, classroom addition, and transformation of current cafeteria to flexible learning environment at Hayes Intermediate while Beagle Middle School will feature a four-classroom addition
- Strategic renovations for High School including science labs and media center
- Updated instructional technology

Stronger

- Improved sites, playgrounds, and parking lots
- Upgraded infrastructure and HVAC district-wide
- Upgrade auditorium to improve accessibility and amenities
- New competition gym at GLHS
- Transformation of our current gym into a flexible year-round, indoor multi-use space to support health, wellness, athletics, and arts
- Updated flexible/adaptable furniture to support our current programs

Safer

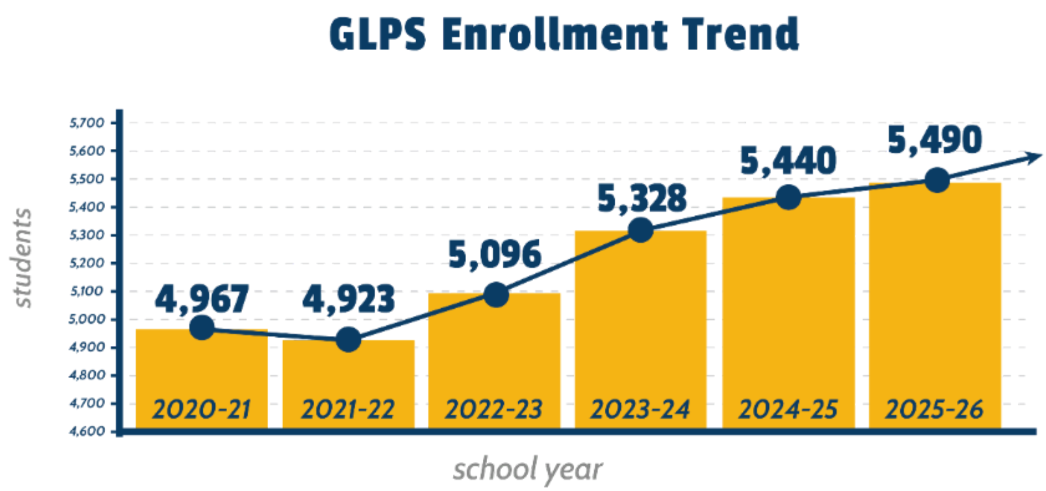
- Enhanced safety through installation of security film on windows and doors while maintaining visibility and natural light
- District-wide re-keying, card readers, and fobs

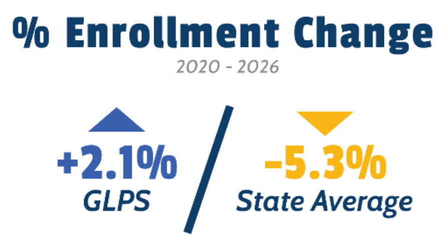
5. Why are the improvements necessary?

The District believes that continued care in addressing identified infrastructure upgrades is necessary to serve students and staff for many years to come. If additional bond dollars are not available, the District would likely have to redirect general fund dollars toward these replacements and upgrades. This shift would take dollars from classrooms and programs. GLPS is committed to delivering high-quality instruction and maintaining the essential programs and personnel our students rely on. Bond 2026 would support that goal.

6. What is the status of GLPS enrollment?

Enrollment at GLPS has grown over the last several years, and Comet Country continues to see more residential development. For example, Avenue Apartments in Grand Ledge is a planned 326-unit residential community, and several subdivision expansions and a new apartment complex are planned within the Delta Township portion of the district. As enrollment has increased, GLPS has also shifted away from offering schools of choice broadly to a more limited, targeted approach based on enrollment projections, historical trends, and available space in individual buildings and grades. Together, these enrollment trends, residential growth, and capacity considerations are important factors in the district's long-term facilities planning.





7. How will the 2026 Bond address safety?

The protection of our students, staff, and visitors is of paramount importance to the District, and we will always look to meet and exceed the standards for security in school design and operations. The installation of security film on windows and door glass will increase protection and privacy for students and staff while maintaining natural light. Targeted improvements to exit signs, parking lot lighting, fire suppression systems, and district-wide re-keying and card reader / fob upgrades will also strengthen safety measures.

8. What technological upgrades are proposed in the 2026 Bond scope?

Technology planned in Bond 2026 includes instructional technology enhancements, as well as district-wide re-keying and card reader / fob upgrades, and infrastructure to support those upgrades.

9. How will the new competition gym benefit the students of GLPS?

Grand Ledge High School’s small, aging gym no longer meets the demands of a Division I athletics program. Transforming it into a multi-purpose space for cheer, band, camps, clinics, and other student activities maximizes year-round use, expands programming opportunities, and increases scheduling flexibility. Adding a new competition gym helps facilitate health, wellness, and athletics for high school students and increases opportunities for tournaments and events within the community.

The new competition gym will provide:

- Upgraded, higher efficiency lighting, mechanical, and electrical systems
- Enhanced sound and noise control
- Improved spectator access and circulation, allowing people to enter, exit, and move through the facility with less disruption to competition

10. What are the notable projects in the 2026 bond proposal?

Delta Mills Early Childhood Center

- Two-Classroom Addition
- New Classroom Furniture
- Instructional Technology Enhancements
- Add Septic Tank for New Classroom Addition
- New Well
- Boiler and Water Heater Replacements
- Building Control System Upgrades
- Security Film on Windows and Door Glass

Neff Early Childhood Center

- New Classroom and Media Center Furniture
- Classrooms and Offices Partial Carpet Replacement
- Instructional Technology Enhancements
- Asphalt
- Water Heater and Water Softener Replacements
- Security Film on Windows and Door Glass

Delta Center Elementary

- Two-Classroom Addition
- Classroom and Hallway Renovation
- Classroom, Media Center, and Cafeteria Furniture
- Instructional Technology Enhancement
- Playground Improvements
- Kitchen/Servery Remodeling
- Cafeteria HVAC Upgrades
- Temperature Control Upgrades
- Partial Fire Suppression System Replacement
- Water Heater and New Chiller
- Indoor and Outdoor LED Lighting Replacement
- Security Film on Windows and Door Glass
- Parking Lot Paving

Holbrook Elementary

- Three-Classroom Addition
- Classroom Addition, Media Center, and Cafeteria Furniture
- Instructional Technology Enhancements
- Classroom and Hallway Renovation
- Playground Improvements
- Water Heater and Boiler Replacements
- South Side Bus Loop Reconfiguration
- Security Film on Windows and Door Glass

Wacousta Elementary

- Cafeteria Addition
- Security Film on Windows and Door Glass

Willow Ridge Elementary

- Two-Classroom Addition
- Classroom and Hallway Renovations
- Gymnasium Addition and New Equipment
- Media Center Renovation
- Instructional Technology Enhancements
- Classroom, Media Center, and Cafeteria Furniture
- Playground Replacement
- Cafeteria/Stage Renovation
- Kitchen/Servery Remodeling
- Four-Office Addition for Support Staff
- Electrical Switch Gear Upgrade
- Water Heater Replacement
- Indoor LED Lighting Replacement
- Security Film on Windows and Door Glass
- Roof Replacement

Hayes Intermediate School

- Two-Classroom Addition
- Cafeteria Addition
- Cafeteria Remodeling for Flexible Education Use
- Classroom, Media Center, Cafeteria, and Flex Education Space Furniture
- Instructional Technology Enhancements
- Classroom Carpet Partial Replacement
- Kitchen/Servery Remodeling
- Bathroom Remodeling
- Underground Sanitary Replacement
- Water Softener Replacement
- Roof Replacement
- Parking Lot LED Lighting Upgrades
- Security Film on Windows and Door Glass

Beagle Middle School

- Four-Classroom Addition
- Classroom and Media Center Furniture
- Instructional Technology Enhancements
- New Kitchen Water Heater
- Partial Roof Replacement
- Pool Boiler and Chiller Replacement
- Security Film on Windows and Door Glass
- Sewer Line Replacement

Grand Ledge High School

- Science Lab Remodeling
- Media Center Renovation
- Classroom, Media Center, and Cafeteria Furniture
- Instructional Technology Enhancements
- Restroom Remodeling
- Auditorium Renovations (New Seating, Carpet, ADA Compliance)
- Gym Addition including Parking Lot / Driveway Modifications
- Existing Gym Conversion into Multi-Purpose Facility
- Equipment for Gym and Multi-Purpose Facility
- Auxiliary Gym Floor Replacement
- New Tennis Courts
- Gorman Baseball Field Irrigation
- Track Facility Enhancements (Parking Lot, Sidewalks, East Bleachers)
- Roof Replacement
- Underground Piping Partial Replacements
- Interior and Exterior LED Upgrades
- Stadium LED Lighting and Fencing Upgrades
- Security Film on Windows and Door Glass
- Renovation of 1958 Locker Rooms

Sawdon Administration Building

- Full Replacement of 1934 Fan
- Unit Ventilators on 2nd and 3rd Floors
- Data Center Power Replacement
- Technology Upgrades
- Security Film on Windows and Door Glass
- Roof Replacement

Operations/Transportation

- Parking Lot Lighting and Paving
- Technology Upgrades
- Security Film on Windows and Door Glass

Wacousta Commons

- HVAC Upgrades
- Security Film on Windows and Door Glass
- Technology Enhancements
- Complete Roof Replacement
- Furniture

11. What is the timeline for the upgrades to take place?

If the bond proposal is successfully passed on November 3, 2026, design would commence on various projects beginning January 2027, with construction on final projects completing in approximately 2032.

12. How was Bond 2026 developed?

To advance the District's strategic goals, the District assessed existing facilities to develop a long-term facilities management plan and engaged professional consultants to validate proposed facility and program improvements. The District also analyzed its outstanding debt to determine the optimal timing for a future bond election, maximizing available funding without increasing the levy above the current debt tax rate. Multiple staff and community engagement sessions were held before the final bond recommendation was presented to and approved by the Board of Education.

13. Why should this Bond Program be presented to the voters at this time?

Two key factors influenced the timing of this bond program.

First, the District has experienced growing enrollment—a positive situation that also brings increased demands on its facilities. As our student population grows, the District must address capacity needs while also investing in aging infrastructure to ensure safe, functional, and effective learning environments for students and staff. These infrastructure needs will not diminish over time; they are likely to become more extensive and more costly, meaning that delaying these improvements could significantly increase their future costs.

Second, the District has a unique opportunity to complete these projects without increasing the levy above the current debt tax rate. Taking advantage of this window of opportunity allows the District to address critical facility upgrades while maintaining the existing tax rate.

14. What has been completed in the 2018 bond program?

- District Restructuring
- Classroom Additions
- Safety Improvements
- Infrastructure Improvements
- Additional Instructional Spaces
- Additional Arts and Athletics Spaces
- Delta Center Gym
- New Wacousta, including additional classrooms
- Districtwide HVAC
- Safety and Security Upgrades, including Neff
- GLHS, Hayes, and Neff Roof replacements
- Hayes and WR Road/Parking lot improvements
- Technology Infrastructure (in progress)
- WR Classrooms

15. Does the Board of Education support this proposal?

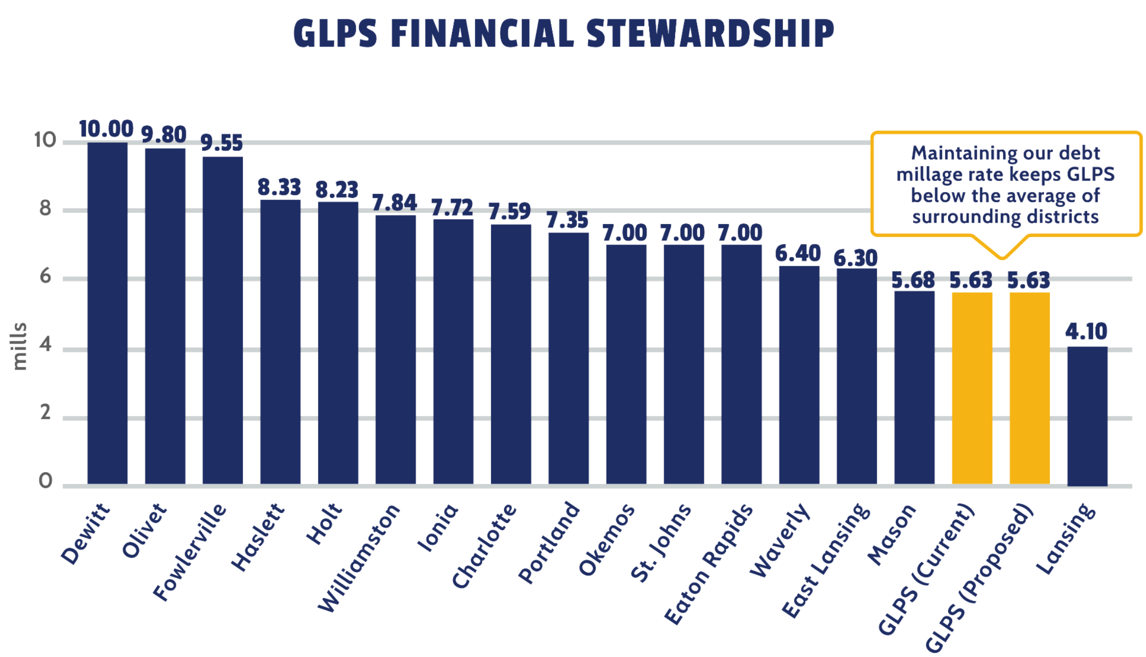
The Board unanimously approved the authorization for the Bond Proposal. As always, the Board of Education has expressed its commitment to quality educational programs and facilities for our students and entire community.

Financial Information

16. How much would the bond proposal cost the average taxpayer?

If voters approve the bond proposal, it is projected that there will be no increase above our current debt tax rate. The 2026 bond proposal is expected to maintain the current debt millage rate of 5.63 mills, meaning no increase to the current debt tax rate is expected.

17. How do Grand Ledge Public Schools' taxes compare to those of the surrounding districts? (Chart shows the debt millage rates of some local school districts.)



18. Why doesn't the District use the general fund to pay for all of this?

In Michigan, the ideal funding mechanism to fund large capital investments is bonds. It is the priority of the district to allocate as much general funding as possible towards teaching and learning. Not passing this bond will require the district to use general funds for much of the infrastructure needs and therefore provide fewer opportunities to enhance student learning.

19. What is a school bond?

A voter-approved bond proposal is a funding mechanism a public school district may use to borrow money to pay for major capital expenditures. Voter-approved bond funds can be spent on various capital expenditures, including new construction, additions, remodeling, site improvements, infrastructure improvements, safety, and security enhancements, athletic and performing arts facilities, playgrounds, furnishings, equipment, buses, and technology.

20. What is a mill?

A mill represents $1.00 for every $1,000 of taxable value of your property. The taxable value of your property is the same or lower than the state-equalized value and substantially lower (50% or more) than the market value. Also, it is important to remember that property taxes, including any increases, may be deductible on your federal income tax returns and may count as a credit on your state returns.

21. How will approval of the Bond Proposal not raise the debt tax above 2026 levels?

As the District continues to pay off past and current bond obligations with debt millages, the total debt millage is estimated to stay at 5.63 mills even as new debt is added to the debt structure. Districts can do this by issuing the total authorized bonds in multiple series and extending the bond millage rate into the future.

22. Can I deduct these property taxes on my income tax return?

Property taxes may be deductible as itemized deductions on your federal income tax return if you itemize. You may also be eligible for the Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit on your Michigan Income Tax Return. Please consult with your tax preparer.

23. What exactly is the Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit?

The Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit is a method through which some taxpayers can receive a tax credit for an amount of their property tax that exceeds a certain percentage of their household income. This program establishes categories under which homeowners or renters are eligible for a homestead property tax credit. Please consult with your tax preparer to determine if you are eligible for this important and valuable tax credit.

24. Could money from the bond program be used to pay for salaries and benefits?

No, that is against State law. Bond dollars cannot be used for operational expenses such as employee salaries, facility maintenance, or utility costs. Bond program funds must be accounted for separately from general operating funds. Bond funds are also subject to audit.

25. Please explain what bond program money can cover and what it cannot.

Bond proceeds cannot be used for the following items:

- Salaries and wages
- General operating expenses and maintenance
- Classroom supplies and textbooks
- Administrative costs

Bond proceeds can be used for the following items:

- Construction and remodeling of facilities
- Purchase of instructional technology equipment
- Equipment and furniture
- Site improvements
- Purchase of buses

26. Does all bond proposal revenue stay within Grand Ledge Public Schools?

Yes. Bond proceeds can only be used on projects/buildings owned by the District.

Election Information

27. What are the key dates leading up to the November 3, 2026 election?

Sept. 24, 2026	Absentee ballots available
Oct. 19, 2026	Deadline to register to vote by mail or online and be eligible to vote in November election
Oct. 20, 2026	Starting 10/20/26 through Election Day a voter can register in person with their local clerk with proof of residency
Nov. 2, 2026 by 4 p.m.	Deadline to apply for an absentee ballot in person, at your city or township clerk's office
Nov. 3, 2026	Deadline to vote is 8pm on Election Day

28. Where do I vote?

Polling locations for Grand Ledge Public Schools can be found using the Michigan Voter Information Center: Michigan.gov/Vote

29. If I cannot make it to the polls on November 3, 2026, what are my options for absentee voting?

The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail is Friday, October 30, at 5 p.m. Voters may also obtain an absentee voter ballot in person up to 4 p.m., Monday November 2, 2026. The deadline to return a completed absentee ballot is Tuesday, November 3 at 8 p.m. at your clerk's office, your designated polling location, or drop box, if available.

If you have not received your absentee ballot application, it is available:

- Online at Michigan.gov/Vote
- At your local clerk's office

Note: Once election ballots are available in the clerk's office, you can walk in, receive an absentee application, fill it out, and immediately be given your ballot to cast your vote. Please check with your clerk's office hours and if drop boxes are available.

30. Can I vote in person early?

Michigan voters have the right to cast a ballot early and in person at an early voting site before Election Day. The early voting period takes place for a minimum of nine consecutive days, ending on the Sunday before an election.

Early voting site locations, dates, and hours are available 60 days prior to Election Day at Michigan.gov/Vote

31. Who can I contact if I have additional questions?

Visit GLcomets.net/Bond2026

Please email Bond2026@GLcomets.net or call the Superintendent's Office at 517-925-5401. We will respond with additional information or connect you with the appropriate district staff member.

32. How will the bond proposal request appear on the ballot?

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOND PROPOSAL

Shall Grand Ledge Public Schools, Eaton, Clinton and Ionia Counties, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed One Hundred Twenty-Three Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars ($123,500,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

erecting additions to, remodeling, including safety and security improvements to, furnishing and refurnishing, and equipping and reequipping school buildings; acquiring and installing instructional technology and instructional technology equipment for school buildings; purchasing school buses; and equipping, developing and improving playgrounds, athletic fields and facilities, parking areas, driveways and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2027 is 0.19 mill ($0.19 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation) for a -0- mill net increase over the prior year's levy. The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is twenty-five (25) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 2.03 mills ($2.03 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district does not expect to borrow from the State to pay debt service on the bonds. The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is $131,765,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is $0.00. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)