

Board Argument for Bond

The Millard School District Board of Education is asking voters to approve the issuance of \$47,500,000 in General Obligation Bonds on November 21, 2023.

Millard County is a great place to live, and people continue to choose to move here. Between 2018 and 2023, the Millard School District grew by 9 percent, making it the sixth fastest growing school district in Utah. As the student population increases, the demand for facilities also increases.

Fillmore Elementary School is nearing capacity. Millard High School has also run out of space to accommodate future growth. Additionally, its main administrative and classroom space has far exceeded its useful life and creates a difficult learning environment for students. The electrical wiring and plumbing are outdated, the hallways are narrow, the building does not have sufficient administrative or faculty space, and some programs are occupying space not designed for modern needs.

We have carefully considered how to meet the needs of students within the District. Through a collaborative review and approval process, including negotiated adjustments to bring projected costs to acceptable levels, the Board voted unanimously to approve this bond initiative. With voter approval the bond will pay for the following:

- **Millard High School** - The oldest portion of Millard High School will be replaced with a state-of-the-art academic facility. The gymnasium, auditorium, technical building, and newer classrooms will be retained, with the technical building and lunchroom undergoing renovations to better accommodate future needs.
- **Fillmore Elementary School** – Particularly rapid growth at this school – an increase of 73 students from 2020 to 2023 – has necessitated the proposal of a multi-classroom addition that will alleviate current crowding and allow for significant growth in the future.
- **Delta Technical Center** – A small addition for an automotive shop is planned.

Inflation is driving up construction costs, which have increased by 47 percent since 2019. Given current needs and inflation levels, the District has neither the time nor the ability to save money quickly enough to pay cash for these projects. The District believes financing these projects using general obligation bonds is the most cost-effective method, which is projected to save the District \$4.5 million versus lease revenue bonds.

The District continues to balance the demands of growth with the need to minimize the impact on our residents. Given the expectations for valuation growth over the next several years, and legacy bonds that have matured, the District expects to meet new bond payment obligations using the resulting increase in available capital revenue, rather than through an increase in tax levy.

The Millard School District is focused on its constitutional, supporting role, to assist and to be accountable to parents and families who bear the primary responsibility for educating their children. We ask for your help in providing adequate facilities for our District to fulfill our appropriate educational obligations, by voting in favor of this General Obligation Bond on November 21, 2023.