

## **Alvin ISD Board of Trustees Calls for November School Bond Election and Tax Ratification Election with No Increase to the Current School Tax Rate**

During the August 14 Alvin ISD School Board Meeting, the Alvin ISD Board of Trustees unanimously voted to call for two propositions to appear on the November 6 ballot. Proposition A calls for a \$480.5 million school bond package, largely focused on constructing new schools, and Proposition B calls for a Tax Ratification Election (TRE), or penny swap authorization. With voter approval of both propositions, there would be no increase to the current Alvin ISD tax rate.

“Alvin ISD is growing by approximately 1,200 students a year and our student population is projected to climb above 30,000 students in the next five years,” Superintendent Buck Gilcrease said. “Knowing this, the Board of Trustees tasked a Citizens’ Advisory Committee with analyzing student enrollment and campus capacity data and developing a fiscally responsible plan to address our rapidly growing student population.”

The District’s Citizens’ Advisory Committee, comprised of Alvin ISD taxpayers, including parents and community leaders, recommended the Bond package and TRE “Penny Swap” to the Trustees during the June Board Meeting.

Committee Co-Chair Travis McGuire commented, “This bond is focused on adding classroom seats, and our recommendation includes two new elementary schools, two new junior high schools and high school No. 4.”

After extensive consideration at both the Board’s August workshop and regular monthly meeting, the Trustees unanimously moved to adopt the CAC’s recommendations and called for the two propositions to appear on the November 6 ballot.

The election is broken into two separate propositions.

### **Proposition A:**

Proposition A, or the \$480.5 million bond, addresses the District’s current growth both by constructing new schools and purchasing land for future school sites. The package also provides funding to improve safety and security measures. Finally, the package includes rebuilding Alvin Primary and EC Mason Elementary (Manvel), along with a complete renovation of Harby Junior High (Alvin).

A complete list of the Bond projects is provided below.

#### **New Construction:**

- New Elementary Schools #21 and #22
- New Junior High Schools #8 and #9
- New High School #4

Safety, Security:

- Upgrade to Police Department Equipment
- Security Cameras
- Campus Fencing, Access Control, and Emergency Response Systems

Land:

- Acquiring Future School Sites

Aging Campuses & Equity:

- EC Mason Elementary School Replacement
- Alvin Primary School Replacement
- Harby Junior High School Expansion & Renovation

**Proposition B:**

If approved by voters, Proposition B, the TRE “penny swap,” would provide increased state funding, which would cover the payment for the proposed bond projects, with no tax rate increase for our local community.

When asked how this works, Alvin ISD Superintendent Buck Gilcrease shared, “This is one of the limited provisions in school finance to ensure equity for school districts across the state. If a school district has a Maintenance and Operations (M&O) tax rate above \$1.04, the state ensures the district will receive a guaranteed amount of money per student. For Alvin ISD, that means the District would receive additional state revenue, approximately \$8.4M annually. By maintaining the same overall Alvin ISD tax rate of \$1.45 per \$100 of valuation, but shifting 13 cents from the I&S rate to the M&O rate, the state contributes the additional funding, but our local tax payers do not experience an increase in their overall tax rate.”

For this provision to be applied, even when a tax rate increase does not occur, state law requires voter approval of a tax ratification election anytime the M&O portion of the tax rate is set above \$1.04.

Citizen’s Advisory Committee member and local real estate investor Richard Keck shared, “I feel that our committee developed a recommendation that provides Alvin ISD with a way to address the rapidly growing student enrollment growth. We also felt that providing voters with the option to consider funding bond projects with a TRE ‘penny swap’, as opposed to a traditional tax rate increase, was something our voters would appreciate.

The proposed Bond and TRE election will be conducted on Tuesday, November 6. Early voting begins on October 22 and will conclude on November 2.

Please visit [www.alvinisd.net/BondTRE](http://www.alvinisd.net/BondTRE), where you can find more detailed information about the propositions.