

Wantagh UFSD

Bond Proposition

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Frequently Asked Questions



1. If the bond fails, will the district put another referendum out to the community?

The district does not intend to do another bond referendum if the bond fails.

2. Why was the bond referendum broken into three propositions?

The referendum was broken into three propositions to give the community choice over the projects to be completed and present a budget neutral option to the community.

3. Why is Proposition No. 1 budget neutral and Proposition No. 2 and Proposition No. 3 are not?

The district has two bonds from previous fifteen years ago that are expiring over the next two years. The associated debt service payments that will be retired this year and next will offset the costs of Proposition No. 1. In addition, New York State aid will help offset over \$40 million of the total cost of all three bond propositions.

4. Why does Proposition No. 1 need to pass in order for No. 2 or No. 3 to pass?

Proposition No. 1 contains the most critical infrastructure projects that need to be completed. Propositions No. 2 and No. 3 are not in a priority order and not contingent upon each other to pass.

5. How come the bathroom work was not included in Proposition No. 1 with the other critical infrastructure work?

To maintain Proposition No. 1 as budget neutral, the bathroom work could not be included.

6. Can you please explain the field lighting proposal and the community concerns surrounding field lights?

To provide enough field time for Wantagh School District athletic teams, the new field proposals include the lights at Wantagh High School and Forest Lake Elementary School. This will allow for extended practice times for our current Wantagh High School and Middle School teams. Practices and games will not commence after 7 PM.

7. Is the district planning to rent out the proposed new athletic fields to sports teams, which will increase traffic and nuisance related to the fields in the area?

The district is not planning to rent out the facilities beyond the current Board policy which allows the use of facilities for Wantagh-based organizations. The majority of the members of a group using the facility must be Wantagh residents. Examples of teams that currently use the fields are Wantagh Little League, Wantagh PAL, etc. The district will still schedule the same amount of school games as it does at this time. Practices will be able to be staggered with greater flexibility.

8. If the bond fails, will the community receive a significant tax savings?

The average homeowner in Wantagh would not incur the costs of approximately \$20 per month if the bond passed.

9. How was the community involved in the planning of this bond referendum?

Community feedback began with the development of the five-year strategic plan in 2017. Community members were surveyed about facilities concerns and that feedback was considered when the bond referendum was developed. The Capital Improvements Committee had various constituent groups as members. The final report submitted to the Board by this committee can be found [here](#).

10. Why didn't the district include more safety initiatives within the bond?

Safety is something that is regularly addressed through the district budget.

11. Are the architect renderings available on the website final or is there still time for community input?

The current renderings are not final. There is still time for input, as the architect will not begin to draft final plans until the bond is successfully passed.

