

Greece schools vote is Tuesday

Here's what voters should know about proposed capital projects

Meaghan M. McDermott

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle USA TODAY NETWORK

Voters in the Greece Central School District will weigh in Tuesday on a sweeping package of capital projects that would see renovations and repairs at all 17 district schools, as well as significant upgrades to the athletic fields at all four district high schools.

If approved, the \$107 million project would be the third and final phase of a capital improvement initiative that started back in 2011.

Here's what voters need to know before heading to the polls:

The project calls for \$107 million in renovations and upgrades; won't my taxes go up?

The short answer is no, according to the district.

This is why: If voters approve the project, the district would borrow the money via a 15-year bond.

Over that time, the state

Department of Education would reimburse the district for approximately 80 percent of project costs, plus interest.

Additionally, the district would offset costs not covered by building aid with capital reserve funds — essentially money socked away over time in savings accounts earmarked specifically for renovation work. The district anticipates using about \$15.7 million in reserves for the project.

And, the district is on the verge of paying off bonds related to a massive capital project from the early 2000s. As those bonds are paid off, the district would use the money previously used for debt service to fill in any gaps between the capital reserves and state aid.

What does the work entail?

District officials say the project is “designed to reshape the future of the Greece Central School District.”

There's no question that the three-component project's scope is substantial. Renovation projects are proposed at all schools, including numerous building upgrades such as parking lot repairs, boilers, flooring, heating and ventilation systems, roofing and new windows. Under the plan, each school would also get enhanced security systems, including a double-entry vestibule and interior building notification systems.

Much of the work ticks off items identified as problematic in the district's state-mandated Building Condition Surveys. Those are a review of all facilities undertaken every five years to assess the remaining useful life of building components and help prioritize maintenance and replacement efforts.

As well, synthetic turf fields for football/lacrosse/soccer are on tap for Arcadia, Athena and Olympia. Odyssey would get a synthetic infield and outfield added to the softball field, while the remaining three schools would get synthetic infields on their softball/baseball fields. Schools would also get concession stands, ticket booths and some new sound systems and scoreboards.

Who can vote?

To vote in Greece school elections, voters must be at least 18 years of age, U.S. citizens, residents of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote and registered voters.

People are automatically eligible to vote in the school elections if they are registered at a current address with

Another significant component of the project's work would be the construction of a new Transportation and Security Services facility on district-owned land on Latta Road. The new building would house various support departments including technology, buildings and grounds and facility planning and would serve as the Professional Learning Center.

What about the athletic facilities?

Greece Central is currently the only school district in Monroe County that lacks a lighted field and one of two districts that lack synthetic turf fields. The capital project proposal would change that.

Under the plan, playing field lights would be installed at all four high schools: Olympia, Arcadia and Athena high schools and Odyssey Academy.

the Monroe County Board of Elections or have personally registered with the school district.

Where can I vote?

There are six polling locations in the district: Edna Tina Wilson Living Center; Hope Lutheran Church; Aldersgate United Methodist Church; New Testament Christian Church; Barnard Fire House; and the Ridge Road Fire District.

Polling locations are assigned by home address and are the same spots where voters would have cast ballots in the previous school budget vote in May.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

To check on your poll location, go to vic.ntsdata.com/greecesd/pollingplacelookup.aspx
MCDERMOT@Gannett.com