



School Bond Addresses Priority Needs

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Enrollment growth in Enid Public Schools is good news for our city. It means Enid is growing. EPS enrollment is currently about 8,100. That is 1,200 more students than in the 2009-10 school year. Three out of four EPS secondary schools will be over capacity by 2019. EPS is expected to grow by another 1,500 students by the year 2023.

Enid has a bright future and we must plan for it. Providing school facilities to accommodate a growing student population is a fundamental and essential part of community planning. EPS officials have done a very good job developing a plan to address the priority needs. The planning process has involved broad public input from key stakeholders including parents, teachers and students. The EPS board and administration have gone to great lengths to facilitate input and feedback from the public at large. They have listened. As a result of your input, multiple modifications in the plan have been made along the way.

I believe there are compelling reasons to support the school bond proposal. Having outstanding school facilities is a cornerstone for progress in any community. It's an investment in our young people, future workforce, and developing city leaders. Children deserve to be in schools that are not at or beyond capacity. The school bond will provide additional early childhood, elementary, middle school and high school classrooms. It addresses transportation needs and provides critical safety and security improvements in our schools. The plan will improve technology and help students maximize academic achievement. The proposal will give our 6A school district athletic and fine arts facilities that meet 6A standards. It's time to make that investment like every other 6A district in the state!

Quality school facilities reflect community commitment. They are a key asset for retaining and attracting young families, enhancing quality of life, and promoting economic growth.

This important issue will be decided by the voters as it should be. Review the proposal. Evaluate the cost. Compare the investment to that of Enid's peer cities. I am hopeful and optimistic that on February 9th Enid voters will again demonstrate vision, commitment to excellence, and a desire for growth and prosperity.