



2008 Bond Election
Devine Independent School District
Bond Briefing Summary



DISD Bond: Propositions

March 10, 2008

Who decided to propose a school bond?

The Devine Board of Trustees reviewed the facility report included in the DISD Facilities Master Plan and the increased enrollment in K-8; based on these factors, the Board discussed state funding options to pay for this bond project. Once the Board found that state funds are potentially available to finance part of the bond costs, the trustees voted 6-0 to call for a bond election to be held on May 10, 2008.

What is in the proposed bond package?

The bond package includes one proposition for \$6.5 million with expected projects to include the renovation of classrooms at Ciavarra Elementary, construction of 12 new classrooms at Devine Middle School, and restroom renovation at the elementary, middle school and high school. This bond package supports the current student population as well as accommodates for future growth.

How is the bond proposition divided?

Ciavarra Elementary classroom/restroom renovation/DHS restroom renovation-\$2,943,000
Devine Middle School 12 classrooms/restroom renovation - \$3,557,000
Aggregate Total \$6.5 million

The bond will provide for the renovation of the Ciavarra Elementary's 1st and 2nd Grade classrooms. Additionally, we currently expect that the proposition will provide for the renovation of the elementary restrooms as well as renovation of Devine High School restrooms in the multi-purpose room, near the stage area, and the gym restrooms under the bleachers, used by P.E. classes.

The Ciavarra Elementary renovation will eliminate old windows and window unit air conditioners, provide repair in all classrooms and halls that have not been renovated since the 1980s, and renovate all restrooms to make them wheel chair accessible as required by the American with Disabilities Act.

The DHS restrooms have not been renovated since they were built in 1971. The stage restrooms are currently inoperable, are locked, and cannot be used by students during the day or by the community at functions in the gym. The restrooms under the bleachers are used by P.E. classes and home/visitors at games. These restrooms have some fixtures that no longer function; thus, students have fewer restrooms available although the high school has more students each year. The bond will provide for the construction of 12 instructional classrooms/labs to alleviate overcrowding at Devine Middle School and to eliminate the continued purchase of portable buildings to provide classroom space. The 12 new classrooms will be approximately 1,000 sq. ft. each. These classrooms will include at least one technology lab and one science lab to provide required state curriculum as the enrollment continues to increase. The DMS project would include restroom renovations of the two old restrooms and provides for restrooms, a

teachers' workroom, and a janitor's closet in the new wing to accommodate the additional students.

Why is this bond being presented now?

Increased student enrollment in grades K-5 as well as moderate growth in grades 6-8 has burdened the district's facilities. This growth will impact Devine Middle School over the next few years, requiring additional classrooms. DMS was built for 335 students and currently has 418 enrollment with 8 classrooms meeting in portable buildings. This year the district purchased 4 new portable buildings to house the increased number of students at DMS. Without this bond, accommodating this growth will require acquisition of more portable buildings. Some restrooms no longer function, are locked, and cannot serve the increased number of students; others require renovation to remain functional and/or meet Americans with Disability Act requirements.

Additionally, the potential availability of state funds to help pay for the cost of this bond is time-sensitive. If this bond election is successful, then DISD can apply for state funds called Instructional Facilities Allotment or IFA State Funds. If received, IFA State Funds will cover approximately 62.1% of the repayment of this bond with local taxpayers paying for 37.9% of the cost. This state money is only provided to schools that pass a bond issue first and then apply for the IFA funds.

What if DISD does not receive the IFA funds to pay for 62.1% of the bond?

The Board of Trustees has pledged to NOT issue the bonds unless we receive the IFA State Funds to assist with the bond repayment. DISD's application for IFA funds will remain in line with the State of Texas for possible funding in the future, and the bonds will NOT be issued until the district receives the state funding.

Does the bond proposition include furniture and equipment for the facilities?

Yes, but only if there is any funding left after all building priorities are fulfilled. Furniture and equipment are allowed since the bond proposition is for "construction, renovation, and equipping" these classrooms. However, some additional furniture and equipment will be purchased with the school district's general funds.

Does the bond proposition include administrative or athletic facilities?

No, there is no money in the bond proposal designated for offices. The athletic facilities have been repaired during the 2005-08 renovations. The DHS gym restrooms under the bleachers are part of this bond package, but these dressing rooms/restrooms are used by P.E. classes; thus, they serve students who are taking a required P.E. class as well as athletes.

For more information, contact Devine ISD Board members or the Board Facility Committee composed of: Carl Brown, Dwayne Gardner, and Tommy Ramirez.