

# PEQUOT LAKES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## April 2025 Bond Referendum and Capital Projects Levy

On Tuesday, April 8, Pequot Lakes Public Schools will ask district residents to consider two ballot questions: A \$55 million bond referendum and a 10-year, \$600,000 annual capital projects levy.

### Our Challenges

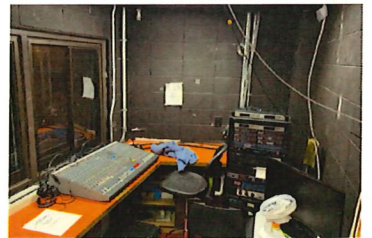
#### Why is the district proposing these investments?

- We have **reached capacity in instructional spaces** as our destination district has grown and thrived. Without optimal space and updates to classrooms, our district will not be able to meet the evolving needs of our students.
- Our schools can **enhance student, parent, and visitor safety** with secure building entrances, more parking, and safer drop-off loops.
- Our buildings need **routine repairs and maintenance to ensure efficiency and accessibility**.
- Textbooks, curriculum materials, and technology require regular updates over time to provide students with the **best tools to support their learning**.

### Our Plan

The proposed plan aims to invest in the long-term quality of our schools, classrooms, and infrastructure. If approved by voters, the funds would:

- **Enhance Safety & Security:** Adding a secure, centrally-located entryway at the high school and improving traffic safety with more parking and better traffic flow at all schools.
- **Address Deferred Maintenance:** Fixing overdue maintenance across all facilities to ensure healthy, safe, and energy-efficient learning environments. Includes replacing roofs, plumbing and accessibility features in restrooms, mechanical system upgrades, LED lighting, and repairs and updates to auditorium equipment.
- **Add space for career, technology and trades education:** A new addition dedicated to woods, metals, robotics and other trades education would provide more opportunities for students to explore career options in high-demand fields. Culinary spaces will also be added and updated.
- **Expand Instructional Spaces:** Current spaces would be remodeled to create classrooms and a new multi-purpose space would be added to the middle school. An early childhood addition would be added at Eagle View elementary, including classrooms and a large motor room.



Above: Overcrowded lunch lines, ceiling leaks from worn out roofing, and obsolete auditorium technology.



## How does this plan differ from the 2023 referendum?

After voters rejected a previous referendum plan in November 2023, we held over 20 meetings with members of our school community and randomly surveyed 500 district residents to create a new plan that better focuses on students' top needs. **The new plan, which residents will vote on April 8, differs from the 2023 referendum in several key ways:**

- The new plan will cost the average homeowner 36% less than the 2023 plan, if both questions are approved.
- The new plan omits investments in athletics facilities like ball fields and the track.
- Instead of building a brand new auditorium, the new plan calls for targeted investments in the existing auditorium to get the most out of our existing space.
- The new plan aims to maximize and reconfigure the use of existing classroom space to address overcrowding, rather than rely exclusively on new construction.



Above: A rendering of proposed playground improvements at Eagle View Elementary and an example of a large motor space for early childhood education.

## The Tax Impact

If voters approve both referendum questions, the tax impact on an average home in our district (approximate value of \$400,000) would be \$16.25 per month – \$13.42 per month for Question One and \$2.83 per month for Question Two – starting with taxes payable in 2026. To determine the tax impact on your property, use our tax calculator at [Patriot-Vision.org/tax-impact](https://Patriot-Vision.org/tax-impact).

## What happens if voters reject the referendum?

- Completion of deferred maintenance items will happen at a much slower pace, and come at higher costs due to inflation.
- Select classrooms in all three schools will remain undersized or inadequate. Career, technology, and trades classes will continue to be taught in spaces not designed to teach skills for today's modern workforce.
- Other spaces for early childhood education, art, and culinary science will remain at capacity or not fully equipped to serve students' needs.
- Traffic safety improvements related to the dropoff loop and parking lots will be postponed for the foreseeable future, and the high school entrance and office will not receive the security enhancements.
- Our district will have less flexibility and resources to fund textbooks, curriculum materials and technology each year.

## How to Vote

There are two ways to make your voice heard in this important community decision.

- Vote early starting Friday, February 21 via absentee ballot.
- Vote at your combined polling place on Tuesday, April 8 between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.



**For more information on voting, visit [Patriot-Vision.org/vote](https://Patriot-Vision.org/vote)**



# QUESTION ONE BREAKDOWN



Visit [Patriot-Vision.org](http://Patriot-Vision.org)  
to learn more



## SAFETY AND SECURITY - \$9.5 MILLION

HS OFFICE & ENTRANCE ADDITION, \$5.5M  
NEW SCIENCE ROOM, SECURITY  
ZONING

TRAFFIC FLOW/PARKING UPGRADES \$4M

## MAINTENANCE - \$19 MILLION

ROOF REPLACEMENTS \$3M  
MECHANICAL/HVAC \$3.6M  
LED LIGHTING/EFFICIENCY \$3M  
AUDITORIUM REPAIRS/EQUIPMENT \$2M  
RESTROOMS/LOCKER ROOMS \$1.1M  
BOILER @ EAGLE VIEW \$500K  
KITCHEN UPDATES \$500K  
EAGLE VIEW PLAYGROUND \$350K  
OTHER ITEMS (SIDEWALKS, DOORS,  
FENCING, ELECTRICAL, PUMPS,  
CARPETING, ETC.) \$5M

## CAREER, TECHNOLOGY, AND TRADES EDUCATION - \$16 MILLION

NEW TRADES LABS FOR WOODS, \$14.5M  
METALS, MACHINGING, ROBOTICS,  
GRAPHIC ARTS  
NEW CULINARY LAB + REMODEL \$1.5M

## INSTRUCTIONAL SPACES - \$10 MILLION

NEW MS MULTI-PURPOSE SPACE \$5M  
NEW EARLY CHILDHOOD SPACE \$3.7M  
CLASSROOM REMODELS \$1.3M

## Estimated Annual Tax Impact

		Q1: School Building Bond	Q2: Capital Projects Levy		
Bond Amount		\$55,000,000	\$600,000/year		
Term of Bond		21-year term	10-year term		
		Estimated Tax Increase		Combined Tax Impact	
Property Type	Est. Market Value	Annual	Annual	Annual	Monthly
Residential Homestead	\$250,000	\$93	\$20	\$113	\$9
	\$300,000	\$116	\$25	\$141	\$12
	\$400,000	\$161	\$34	\$195	\$16
	\$500,000	\$206	\$44	\$250	\$21
	\$600,000	\$258	\$55	\$313	\$26
	\$800,000	\$361	\$77	\$439	\$37
Commercial & Industrial	\$250,000	\$175	\$38	\$213	\$18
	\$500,000	\$382	\$82	\$464	\$39
	\$1,000,000	\$795	\$170	\$965	\$80
Seasonal Recreation (Cabins)	\$250,000	\$103	\$22	\$125	\$10
	\$500,000	\$206	\$44	\$251	\$21
	\$1,000,000	\$464	\$99	\$564	\$47



Prepared and paid for by Pequot Lakes Public Schools, 30805 Olson Street, Pequot Lakes, MN 56472. This publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot question.



# Examples: Spaces for career, technology, and trades education

Current

Future



**NOTE:** Future images are examples from different schools that architects determined are similar to the spaces included in Question One. They are for demonstrative purposes only and should not be considered exact representations of the proposed spaces.

# 2025 Minnesota Absentee Ballot Application

Complete lines 1 through 7 below. Please print clearly.

Return this application as soon as possible. Ballots must be returned by election day to be counted.

**Important:** Active duty military and overseas voters should not use this application. See the other side for more information.

1. absentee ballots requested for the following election(s) *(if no election is marked, a ballot will be mailed for the next election only)*

2/11 Special Election   
  4/8 Special Election   
  8/12 Primary Election   
  **Both** 8/12 & 11/4 Elections  
 3/11 Township Election   
  5/13 Special Election   
  11/4 General Election   
  Other (specify date):

2. last name or surname    first name    middle name    suffix

3. date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy)    county where you live    phone number - -

email address

4. mark all boxes that apply:

I have a MN-issued driver's license or MN ID card. The number is:

I have a social security number. The last four digits are: XXX-XX-

I do not have a MN-issued driver's license, MN-issued ID card or a social security number.

Your identification number will be compared to the one on your absentee ballot envelope.

5. address where you live (residence)    apt.    city    **MN**    zip code

6. address where your absentee ballot should be sent    apt.    city    state    zip code

7. I certify that I:

- am completing this application on my own behalf;
- will be at least 18 years old on election day;
- am a citizen of the United States;
- will have maintained residence in Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding election day;
- maintain residence at the address given on this application form;
- am not under court-ordered guardianship in which the court order revokes my right to vote;
- have not been found by a court to be legally incompetent to vote;
- am not currently incarcerated for a conviction of a felony offense; and
- have read and understand this statement: The above information is accurate, and I sign this application form under penalty of perjury, a felony punishable by not more than 5 years imprisonment, a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

sign here: **X** \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

See other side for special instructions for voters with disabilities or power of attorney.

official use only

Primary → <input type="checkbox"/> reg <input type="checkbox"/> non-reg	received date	ballot issued date	initials	type M C HCF	reason replaced <input type="checkbox"/> rejected <input type="checkbox"/> lost <input type="checkbox"/> spoiled <input type="checkbox"/> never received	repl. date:	precinct
General → <input type="checkbox"/> reg <input type="checkbox"/> non-reg	received date	ballot issued date	initials	type M C HCF	reason replaced <input type="checkbox"/> rejected <input type="checkbox"/> lost <input type="checkbox"/> spoiled <input type="checkbox"/> never received	repl. date:	school district

**Return this application as soon as possible to:**

Crow Wing County Elections  
326 Laurel Street  
Brainerd, MN 56401

Elections@crowwing.gov

**Where to return your application**

You should return this to your local election office. If not provided above, contact information for your local election official can be found under "Find County Election Office" at <https://mnvotes.gov/counties>.

**Options for returning absentee ballot applications**

For federal, state or county elections, submit an absentee ballot application online at <https://mnvotes.gov/absentee>. -OR- Paper absentee ballot applications may be returned by mail, fax or as a scanned attachment to an email.

**When your ballot will be sent**

Your absentee ballot materials will be sent to you at least 46 days before the election, (excluding town elections held in March where materials will be sent 30 days before the election). If you applied after this date, your ballot will be sent when the application is received. Contact your local election official if you have not received your ballot. To check the status of your absentee ballot, visit <https://mnvotes.gov/ballottracker>.

**Privacy Notice**

Your exact date of birth, email address, and any ID number you give (Minnesota driver's license, state ID or last four digits of social security number) are private. Only election officials may access it.

Election officials ask for your exact date of birth so they can match your application to your voter record. If you refuse to give your date of birth, you won't get an absentee ballot.

Election officials ask for your email so they can contact you about your application. Also, the Office of the Secretary of State may email you (or contact you another way) about voting and elections, or ask for public input. If you refuse to give an email address, you cannot apply for an absentee ballot online and you will need to apply with a paper application.

Election officials ask for an ID number to check that the person who is casting the ballot is the same person who applied for it. If you have an ID number but refuse to give it, your absentee ballot might get rejected, and you won't be able to check your absentee ballot status online.

The rest of the data on your application is public when used for elections, political or law enforcement purposes. If you need to keep your contact data private because of personal safety concerns, call 1-877-600-8683 to learn what you can do.

**Who may apply for a ballot**

Each person must apply for themselves. It is a felony to make a false statement in an application for an absentee ballot, to attempt to cast an illegal ballot, or to help anyone to cast an illegal ballot.

**If you think you may not be registered to vote**

If you are not registered at the legal residence address provided, you will be sent a voter registration application with your ballot materials.

**Information for active-duty military and overseas voters**

If you are applying for an absentee ballot because you or your family are active-duty military or because you will be overseas and/or outside of the territorial limits of the United States, do not use this application. You are entitled to special protections if you apply using the Federal Postcard Application. For more information and to apply online, go to <https://mnvotes.gov/uocava>.

**Options available to you if you have a disability**

You may:

- sign the application yourself,
- make your mark, or
- ask another person to sign for you in your presence (have the person sign their own name as well.)
- If you have adopted the use of a signature stamp for all purposes of signature, you may use your signature stamp or ask another person to use your signature stamp in your presence. (See *Minnesota Statutes*, section 645.44, subdivision 14. )

**Information regarding Power of Attorney**

Voting is not covered by power of attorney. A power of attorney pertains only to affairs affecting property. A person with power of attorney may only sign for you in your presence, as outlined above. (See *Minnesota Statutes*, section 523.24, subdivision 14.)