

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**.

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