

# ECSD Just the Facts

## VOTE November 6, 2018

- The community will have an opportunity to vote during the general election November 6, 2018 on a \$54 Million Bond Referendum to address facility needs across the entire school district.
  - Safety Upgrades and Renovations at all schools
  - Additions and Expansions for:
    - Merriwether Elementary
    - Merriwether Middle
    - Strom Thurmond Career and Technology Center
  - New Construction at Strom Thurmond High School
    - High School Auditorium
    - Gymnasium
    - Practice Track
- The bond, if approved by voters, would result in an increase in property taxes to homeowners of \$128/year/\$100K home value (4% tax base) and \$192/year/\$100K value (6% tax base). The proposed tax, if approved, would be a tax on all property (homes, vehicles, etc.). If the school board bond is approved, construction for all projects would begin in 2019 and are estimated to be completed by 2022.

## The Projects

- Proposed projects will address the following needs across the district:
  - Security upgrades to entrances and door at all schools across the district
  - General renovations to meet the specific needs of each school in areas such as roofing, floors, HVAC, electrical upgrades, etc.
  - Increased classroom space needed in the Merriwether area to accommodate growth
  - Additions to meet the demands of current programs

These projects meet the identified facility improvement needs across the district and will appear before voters for their consideration on November 6. The \$54 million bond, if approved by voters, would be used for the following projects.

1. **Douglas Elementary** opened in 1993 with the most recent additions/renovations in 2001. (Classrooms). In the current proposal renovations would include:

### **Safety Items Include:**

- Secure front entrance
- Card Reader Lock System
- Security Cameras
- Secure egress for 4k playground
- Exterior Lighting

### **General Items Include:**

- Playground Equipment
- Restroom upgrades (ADA compliance)
- Media Center upgrades
- Art room upgrades
- Floor Replacement
- Additional Parking Spaces
- Canopy Replacement

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2. **Johnston Elementary School** Opened in 1952 and the gym opened in 1932. Additions/Renovations where made in 1992 & 2002 to expand the cafeteria and add

classrooms. The following is a list of recommended safety upgrades and general renovation items:

**Safety Items Include:**

- Secure Front Entrance
- Card Reader System
- 4K Playground Egress

**General Items Include:**

- 100% HVAC Replacement
  - Group Restroom (ADA Compliant)
  - Playground Equipment and Grading
  - Art Room & Media Center Upgrades
  - Canopy for Car Riders
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3. **Merriwether Elementary School** opened in 1993 and received Additions/Renovations in 2001 to increase the number of classrooms. The following is a list of recommended safety upgrades and general renovation items:

**Safety Items Include:**

- Secure Front Entrance
- Card Reader System
- 4K Playground Egress

**General Items Include:**

- 100% HVAC Replacement
  - Group Restroom (ADA Compliant)
  - Playground Equipment and Grading
  - Art Room & Media Center Upgrades
  - Canopy for Car Riders
  - Explore Kitchen Expansion
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4. **WE Parker Elementary School** opened in 1955 and received Additions/Renovations 1994 & 2002 (Classrooms, Connected Hallways). Recommended upgrades include:

**Safety Items include:**

- Secure Front Entrance
- Card Reader Key System

**General Items include:**

- 100% HVAC Replacement
  - Group Restroom Upgrades (ADA Compliant)
  - Media Center Upgrades
  - Art Room Upgrades
  - Music Room Upgrades
  - Extend Sidewalk (2<sup>nd</sup> grade area)
  - Soffit Repair
  - Bus Zone Driveway and Sidewalk Repair
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5. **JET Middle School** opened in 1993 and received Additions/Renovations in 2002 (Classrooms, Alternative School). Recommended upgrades include:

**Safety Items Include:**

- Secure Front Entrance
- Card Reader System
- Explore car stacking options

**General Items Include:**

- Canopy for Car Rider Line
- Group Restroom Upgrades (ADA Compliant)
- Lockers (Boys' and Girls' Locker Rooms)

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6. **Merriwether Middle School** opened in 1972 and received Additions/Renovations in 1994 & 2003 (Classrooms). Recommended upgrades include:

**Safety Items Include:**

- Secure Front Entrance
- Card Reader Key System

**Expansion:**

Additional Classrooms

**General Items Include:**

- Roof Replacement
- Group Restroom Upgrades (ADA)
- Gym Ceiling Replacement
- Media Center Upgrades
- Doors and Hardware Replacement
- Drainage Issues (Gym Area)
- Parking Lot Repairs

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7. **Strom Thurmond Career and Technology Center** opened in 1972 and received Additions / Renovations in 2013 (Entrance Area / Foyer). Recommended upgrades include:

**Safety Items Include:**

- Secure Front Entrance
- Repair Canopies
- Improve Handicap Accessibility

**New Construction:**

- Classroom Space
- Lab Updates

**Renovation Needs:**

- Health Science/Sports Medicine,
- Business, PLTW, Construction,
- Agriculture Science, Welding, Automotive Labs, and Classrooms
- Group Restrooms (ADA)
- Roof Repairs
- Electrical Needs

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8. **Strom Thurmond High School** opened in 1962 and received Additions/Renovations in 1993 & 2004. Recommended upgrades include:

**Safety Items Include:**

- Secure Entrance
- Fire Alarm System

**New Construction Options Include:**

- Auditorium
  - Gymnasium
- Practice Track

**General Items Include:**

- Science Labs
- Group Restrooms Upgrades (ADA Compliance)
- More Office Space (Including Guidance, Conference Space, and Storage)
- Cover for Courtyard Area
- Explore Bus Zone Options

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## The Ballot Question

Shall the Board of Trustees of the School District of Edgefield County, South Carolina (the "School District") be empowered to issue, at one time or from time to time, general obligation bonds of the School District, in a principal amount of not exceeding \$54,670,000, the proceeds of which shall be used to finance the costs (including architectural, engineering, legal and

related fees) of acquiring, constructing, improving, equipping, expanding, renovating, and repairing school facilities, within the School District, as follows:

- **Security Upgrades and Renovations**  
Douglas Elementary School  
Johnston Elementary School  
W. E. Parker Elementary School  
JET Middle School  
Strom Thurmond High School
- **Security Upgrades, Renovations and Expansion**  
Merriwether Elementary School  
Merriwether Middle School  
Strom Thurmond Career and Technology Center
- New Construction  
Auditorium, Gymnasium, and Practice Track at Strom Thurmond High School

If the voter wishes to vote in favor of the question, fill in the oval next to “In favor of the question/yes;” if the voter wishes to vote against the question, fill in the oval next to the words, “Opposed to the question/no.”

In favor of the question /yes

Opposed to the question /no

Interested In More Info?

- School and district leaders and board members are presenting factual information to the community related to the scope of projects, facility needs, and school renovation and construction financing.

The informational presentations are located to your left, in both a full or condensed format.

To schedule an informational session or to find out more information, please contact District Communications Director Arthur Northrop at (803) 275-1767 or via email at [anorthrop@edgefield.k12.sc.us](mailto:anorthrop@edgefield.k12.sc.us).

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## Interest

- The ballot question states the request of a principal amount not exceeding \$54,670,000. The District will not be borrowing the money interest-free but will be paying interest just as someone does with their own mortgage. Interest has been projected and was included in the cost to taxpayers of the \$54,670,000 bond referendum, if the bond is approved. **The cost to taxpayers, with interest, is \$128/year/\$100,000 home on a primary residence (4% tax base); \$192/year/\$100K property (6% tax base).** The bond, if approved, is a tax on all property (homes, cars, etc.).

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## Funding Sources for School Facilities, Construction & Renovation

- Edgefield County School District, like all school districts in South Carolina (except districts connected with the Abbeville decision), receives no funding from the state or federal government for capital improvements, additions, or renovations. **Construction funding are a “local” responsibility.**

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### BOND REFERENDUM

Another option for school facility funding is through a Bond Referendum. The last successful bond referendum benefiting school facilities in Edgefield County was in the year 1991, when Merriwether Elementary, Douglas Elementary and JET Middle School were built. Edgefield County will have the opportunity to vote on a Bond Referendum on November 6, 2018.

If the community supported the use of a bond referendum as the funding mechanism for these facility project needs, construction could begin in 2019 and are estimated to complete by 2022.

### 8% FUNDS

The constitutional debt limit (8% money) for the District is \$6,248,243. 8% Debt Limit monies are typically used for building upkeep and repairs, minor purchases, and small capital projects not covered in the district's general fund. Our district's 6.2 million debt limit restricts our ability to undertake major building renovations and construction to address infrastructure needs. Currently, \$5,290,000 is borrowed against our 8% capacity. With the proceeds, the district has made improvements districtwide to its technology infrastructure, purchased security cameras, AEDs, backup generators, food service equipment, activity buses, updated phone systems and PA equipment, and made stadium upgrades,. 8% debt has also been used for asphaltic, HVAC, electrical, bathroom, roofing and gutter repairs in some critical areas not covered in the district's general fund budget.

## Edgefield County Voter Registration Information

Voter Registration & Elections Voter Registration & Election Office  
210 Penn Street, Suite 1, Edgefield, SC 29824  
Telephone: 803-637-4072 or 803-637-7154  
Fax: 803-637-4134

<https://www.edgefieldcounty.sc.gov/departments/departments/documents/voter%20registration.pdf>

## Voter Registration Form

You can download the voter registration form at  
[https://www.scvotes.org/files/VR\\_Blank\\_Form.pdf](https://www.scvotes.org/files/VR_Blank_Form.pdf)