



Frequently Asked Questions

May 8, 2018 Sinking Fund Election

When is the election?

Tuesday, May 8, 2018. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Absentee ballots will be available after March 24th.

What is on the ballot?

Registered voters residing within the boundaries of the Algonac Community School District will vote on a two-mill sinking fund proposal.

What is a sinking fund?

A sinking fund is a pay-as-you-go method of funding upgrades and repairs to schools and school facilities. Projects paid for through the sinking fund must be audited annually and reviewed by the Michigan Department of Treasury in accordance with State law.

Funds generated through a sinking fund can be used for construction, renovations and repairs of buildings, land purchases, facility security enhancements, and the acquisition or upgrading of technology.

Sinking funds cannot be used for operating expenses, salaries, benefits or routine maintenance.

What is the benefit of a sinking fund?

The benefit of a sinking fund is that the school district does not acquire debt and there are no interest charges.

How much revenue will the sinking fund generate?

Algonac's proposed sinking fund will generate approximately \$1.2 million per year for 10 years. Because the school district cannot spend more than \$1.2 million each year, all projects must be prioritized for completion during the 10-year period.

Why has the school district scheduled a sinking fund election?

There are three basic reasons the Board of Education scheduled the sinking fund election:

1. to enhance school security and student safety
2. to upgrade schools and school facilities (with emphasis on improving both the learning environment and energy efficiency)
3. to upgrade technology equipment and technology infrastructure

If approved by voters, projects funded through the sinking fund will affect every Algonac student and every Algonac school.

What projects that will be completed through the sinking fund?

Sinking fund projects have been prioritized based on the urgency of the repair or replacement. District-wide priority sinking fund projects include:

District-wide Priority Projects:

Facilities & Site Work

- HVAC system
- Roof systems
- Secure entryway

Technology Updates

- Classroom technology
- Computer labs
- Staff computers
- Printers/copiers

Additional Sinking Fund Projects under consideration include:

Facilities & Site Work

- Interior/exterior doors
- Interior/exterior paint
- Exterior building caulking
- Replace windows
- Replace window blinds
- Replace drinking fountains
- Replace ceiling tiles
- Replace classroom flooring
- Renovate restrooms
- Replace cafeteria PA system
- Replace faulty basketball hoops
- Replace PA system in main gym
- Install main gym divider

- Renovate girls' locker room
- Renovate boys' locker room
- Replace concession stand roof
- Expand football stadium sound systems
- Replace tennis court surface
- Repair softball field drainage
- Update exterior lighting and controls
- Repair/replace parking lot/sidewalk areas
- Repair/replace landscaping
- Replace playground
- Replace fueling station/monitoring system

Technology updates

- Upgrade wireless systems
- Upgrade surveillance systems
- Upgrade network systems
- Upgrade district server systems

Projects to be completed at Algonac Junior/Senior High School

Priority Projects

Facilities & Site Work

- HVAC system
- Roof systems

Technology Updates

- Classroom technology
- Computer labs
- Staff computers
- Printers/copiers

Additional Sinking Fund Projects under consideration include:

Facilities & Site Work

- Interior/exterior doors
- Interior/exterior paint
- Exterior building caulking
- Replace windows
- Replace window blinds
- Replace drinking fountains
- Replace ceiling tiles
- Replace classroom flooring
- Renovate restrooms
- Replace cafeteria PA system
- Replace faulty basketball hoops
- Replace PA system in main gym
- Install main gym divider
- Renovate girls' locker room

- Renovate boys' locker room
- Replace concession stand roof
- Expand football stadium sound systems
- Replace tennis court surface
- Repair softball field drainage
- Update exterior lighting and controls
- Repair/replace parking lot/sidewalk areas
- Repair/replace landscaping

Technology updates

- Upgrade wireless systems
- Upgrade surveillance systems
- Upgrade network systems
- Upgrade district serve systems

Projects to be completed at Algonquin Elementary

Priority Projects

Facilities & Site Work

- HVAC system
- Roof systems

Technology Updates

- Classroom technology
- Computer labs
- Staff computers
- Printers/copiers

Additional Sinking Fund Projects under consideration include:

Facilities & Site Work

- Interior/exterior doors
- Interior/exterior paint
- Exterior building caulking
- Replace windows
- Replace window blinds
- Replace drinking fountains
- Replace ceiling tiles
- Replace classroom flooring
- Renovate restrooms
- Replace faulty basketball hoops
- Replace PA system in main gym
- Renovate girls' locker room
- Renovate boys' locker room
- Update exterior lighting and controls
- Repair/replace parking lot/sidewalk areas
- Repair/replace landscaping

Technology updates

Upgrade wireless systems
Upgrade surveillance systems
Upgrade network systems
Upgrade district serve systems

Projects to be completed at Millside Elementary

Priority Projects

Facilities & Site Work

HVAC system
Roof systems
Secure entryway

Technology Updates

Classroom technology
Computer labs
Staff computers
Printers/copiers

Additional Sinking Fund Projects under consideration include:

Facilities & Site Work

Interior/exterior doors
Interior/exterior paint
Exterior building caulking
Replace windows
Replace window blinds
Replace drinking fountains
Replace ceiling tiles
Replace classroom flooring
Renovate restrooms
Replace faulty basketball hoops
Replace PA system in main gym
Update exterior lighting and controls
Repair/replace parking lot/sidewalk areas
Repair/replace landscaping
Replace playground

Technology updates

Upgrade wireless systems
Upgrade surveillance systems
Upgrade network systems
Upgrade district serve systems

Projects to be completed at Point Tremble

Priority Projects

Facilities & Site Work

HVAC system
Roof systems
Secure entryway

Technology Updates

Computer labs
Staff computers
Printers/copiers

Additional Sinking Fund Projects under consideration include:

Facilities & Site Work

Interior/exterior doors
Interior/exterior paint
Exterior building caulking
Replace windows
Replace window blinds
Replace drinking fountains
Replace ceiling tiles
Replace classroom flooring
Renovate restrooms
Update exterior lighting and controls
Repair/replace parking lot/sidewalk areas
Repair/replace landscaping
Replace playground

Technology updates

Upgrade wireless systems
Upgrade surveillance systems
Upgrade network systems
Upgrade district serve systems

Projects to be completed at the Algonac Community Schools Operations Facility

Priority Projects

Technology Updates

Staff computers
Printers/copiers

Additional Sinking Fund Projects under consideration include:

Facilities & Site Work

Update exterior lighting and controls
Replace fueling station/monitoring system

Technology updates

Upgrade surveillance systems

Upgrade network systems

Upgrade district serve systems

How will the sinking fund projects affect students and the community?

Over the 10-year life of the sinking fund, completed projects were designed to affect students and the community in several ways, including...

1. Enhancing the safety and security for students
2. Providing upgraded technology for student instruction and the infrastructure to support it
3. Providing a learning environment with functional HVAC systems, repaired/replaced roofs and windows, and renovated restrooms, locker rooms, various athletic facilities, and playgrounds
4. Making Algonac's educational program and facilities competitive with neighboring school districts
5. Completing projects that reflect positively on homeowner property values and protect the community's investment in its schools

What will the sinking fund proposal cost?

If voters approve the two-mill sinking fund proposal, a person living in a home with a \$100,000 market value will pay \$1.92 more per week in taxes... or 27¢ more per day. Some people will pay more but most people living in the Algonac Community School District will pay less.

What technology upgrades are included in the sinking fund proposal?

All technology upgrades included in the sinking fund proposal are designed to support classroom instruction and enhance the learning environment. A primary focus of the sinking fund proposal is to provide current technology to students. To address this focus, the school district plans to replace instructional technology equipment as needed.

Will taxpayers be still paying for computers when they are obsolete?

No. With a sinking fund, computers are paid for when they are purchased. If the sinking fund is approved, taxpayers will not be paying for computers that are out-of-date and obsolete.

In 2013, iPads were purchased for student use. Are the iPads still in use?

Yes, the iPads are still in use. Now 5 years old, iPad carts have been created using all working iPads. The iPad carts are in use in all buildings. Staff and students continue to have access to, and regularly use, the iPads.

Algonac Community Schools was one of the first school districts to implement a geothermal heating system to heat and cool buildings. The system was selected based on its energy efficiency and lower operating cost. With a priority of addressing HVAC systems, will geothermal technology still be used at Algonquin Elementary and Algonac Junior/Senior High School?

Yes. The geothermal systems will continue to be used at both sites. Functionally issues will be addressed through the sinking fund.

What is the schedule for sinking fund projects?

Priority projects will be the first to be completed using sinking fund revenue. Following the completion of priority projects, additional sinking fund projects will be prioritized yearly during the 10-year life of the sinking fund.

Will all sinking fund revenue benefit the Algonac School District?

Yes. All revenue from the sinking fund proposal will benefit the Algonac Community Schools. None of the revenue will go to Lansing or to any other school district or political entity.

If the sinking fund is approved by voters, will property values be affected?

Research indicates that real estate values tend to be higher in communities with school districts that are perceived to offer a quality educational program and have up-to-date school facilities.

All Algonac sinking fund projects are designed to reflect positively on homeowner property values and the school district's reputation for effectiveness and efficiency.

What will appear on the May 8th ballot?

Here is the exact ballot wording:

ALGONAC COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

**COUNTY OF ST.
CLAIR, MICHIGAN**

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Algonac Community Schools, St. Clair County, Michigan be increased by and the board of education be authorized to levy not to exceed 2 mills (\$2.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 years 2018 to 2027, inclusive, to create a sinking fund for the construction or repair of school buildings, for school security improvements, for the acquisition or upgrading of technology and all other purposes authorized by law; the estimate of the revenue of the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2018 is approximately \$1,206,505?

YES
NO

A YES vote typically means that you support a proposal. Is that the case in this election?

Yes. Voters who support the Algonac Community Schools' sinking fund proposal should vote YES; voters who oppose the sinking fund proposal should vote NO.

What will happen if voters do not approve the sinking fund proposal?

The projects cannot be addressed as proposed.

Who can vote in this sinking fund election?

Residents of the Algonac Community School District who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, and are registered to vote by April 9, 2018.

Where can I get information about voting (such as how to register, where to vote, and absentee voting)?

Go to the Michigan Voter Information website (webapps.sos.state.mi.us) or call the Clerk's Office where you reside.

Do I need to update my voter registration?

You need to update your voter registration if you have changed your name or address since the last time you voted. You can do this at any Secretary of State Office or at the Clerk's Office where you reside.

Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Registered voters can vote by absentee ballot if they meet one of the following:

1. They expect to be out of town on Election Day;
2. They are 60 years of age or older;

3. They are unable to vote without assistance at the polls; or,
4. They cannot attend the polls due to religious reasons.

Absentee ballots will be available to voters after March 24th. The Clerk will mail absentee ballot applications to residents on the permanent absentee voter list shortly before or shortly after that date.

After March 24th, voters can complete their absentee ballot application and vote in one stop at their Clerk's Office. The whole process takes about five minutes.

**To get more information about the sinking fund election
and answers to your questions...**

- Go to www.acsk12.us and click on *School Election Information*
- Call any Algonac school principal
- Call Superintendent of Schools Alan Latosz at 810/794-9364 or email him at alatosz@acsk12.us