

**Frequently Asked Questions**  
Facility Projects Bond Referendum  
Roland-Story Community School District

**When is the election?**

On February 6, 2018, voters will be asked to consider funding for two major facility projects for the Roland-Story Community School District.

**Where are the polling locations and what time are they open?**

Voting locations will be at Story City Community Center (503 Elm Street) and at the Roland Community Center (208 North Main Street). Polls will be open from 12:00 pm (noon) until 8:00 pm.

**Is absentee voting available?**

Yes. Absentee ballots are available at the County Auditor's Office (900 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Nevada). Absentee ballots must be postmarked the day before the election. You can request an absentee ballot at the auditor's website: <http://www.storycountyiowa.gov/index.aspx?NID=1023>

**Who is allowed to vote on this bond referendum?**

Anyone who lives within the Roland-Story Community School District, is 18 years of age, and is registered to vote. A resident who is not yet registered to vote can register at the polling place on the day of the election by providing proof of age and residence.

**How many votes are needed to successfully approve funding for these projects?**

The ballot requires a 60% "yes" vote to pass.

**What is being proposed in these facility projects?**

The Roland-Story Board of Education has called an election for the bonding of \$5.3 million to provide funds to complete two specific facility projects. These projects include:

- High School Auditorium Renovation
- New Athletic Facility

A more detailed overview of these projects can be found at the following link:

<http://rolandstory.school/FACILITY-PROJECTS-AND-BOND-INFORMATION>

**Why does the school district need these facility projects?**

We believe that our district's athletic facilities should be easily accessible, provide adequate parking, ample restrooms, and sufficient seating for our students and community members. Our current facility does not sufficiently provide these things. We also believe that our high school auditorium, which is 25 years old, should be equipped with the safest, most up-to-date-technology. Renovating this space will provide for a better learning and performing environment for our students, and an overall better experience for audience members. If you would like to review the full list of specific reasons for these projects, please visit the district website at: <http://rolandstory.school/FACILITY-PROJECTS-AND-BOND-INFORMATION> or plan to attend one of the scheduled public meetings (details below).

**Why should we support these facility improvements?**

Roland-Story has a long-standing tradition of excellent schools and outstanding facilities. Investment in our school facilities, and our children, is important if we are to maintain the first-class communities and schools we have come to expect.

**What is the cost for these facility projects?**

The bonding needed to complete these projects is \$5.3 million. An additional \$2.4 million will be allocated from existing funding sources. The total cost of these projects is \$7.7 million.

### **Why not bond against the Physical Plant Equipment Levy or the One-Cent Sales Tax?**

While some funds will be allocated from these sources for these projects, a majority of the PPEL/SAVE funds are already committed to the repayment of the major facility projects completed in 2015 at the elementary school and the middle school. PPEL and Sales Tax funds not currently allocated for that purpose are being used to purchase school buses, student and staff computers, and to repair existing equipment.

### **How does the Roland-Story tax rate compare to surrounding districts?**

Below are the overall tax rates for several area schools for the 2017-2018 school year.

Gilbert - \$18.91

Boone - \$18.42

South Hamilton - \$16.98

Nevada - \$16.88

Ames - \$14.34

**Roland-Story - \$14.27**

Hubbard-Radcliffe - \$14.13

Colo-Nesco - \$13.47

### **If the bond issue passes, how will it affect my property taxes?**

If the bond passes the district's overall tax rate will increase by \$1.18. Individual property owners will be impacted based on the assessed valuation of the property they own.

<u>Residential Assessed Value</u>	<u>Monthly Increase in Taxes</u>
\$100,000	\$5.13
\$150,000	\$7.94
\$200,000	\$10.74
\$250,000	\$13.55
\$300,000	\$16.36
\$350,000	\$19.16

<u>Ag Assessed Value Per Acre</u>	<u>Monthly Increase in Taxes Per Acre</u>
\$1,500	\$0.07
\$1,700	\$0.08
\$1,900	\$0.09

### **What happens if the referendum does not pass?**

Because the district does not have the funds available to pay for these projects, the school board would most likely consider another bond vote at some point in the near future to renovate the existing football/track/marching band complex. It is estimated that renovating the high school auditorium and current football/track/marching band facility could cost nearly \$4 million.

### **How can I learn more about these projects and the bond vote?**

Visit the district's facility projects and bond information website at:

<http://rolandstory.school/FACILITY-PROJECTS-AND-BOND-INFORMATION>

Attend one of the public informational meetings:

November 14, 2017 at 7:00 pm - High School Library (Story City)

November 16, 2017 at 7:00 pm - Middle School Library (Roland)

February 4, 2018 at 2:00 pm - High School Library (Story City)

February 4, 2018 at 4:00 pm - Middle School Library (Roland)

Please direct questions or comments to Roland-Story Superintendent Matt Patton at:

[mpatton@roland-story.k12.ia.us](mailto:mpatton@roland-story.k12.ia.us) or 515-733-4301.