



**HAMILTON R-II**  
**NO TAX INCREASE**  
**BOND ISSUE**

*Proposition K.I.D.S.*

*Keep Improving District Schools*

**APRIL 7, 2026**

# 2026 NO TAX INCREASE BOND

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The quality of our schools at Hamilton R-II is a major reason why people want to live in our district, and why our students are prepared to be successful adults.

This community of Hamilton R-II takes pride in its schools; that was evident when a \$5,800,000 bond issue was overwhelmingly passed in 2022 to build a new high school and an all-weather, eight-lane track.

Thank YOU for your continued support!  
**Vote April 7, 2026**



# PRIORITIES

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Continuing to improve the quality of our schools is a priority.

On April 7, 2026, the District will ask voters to consider a \$4,250,000 no tax increase bond issue ballot that would:

- Prepay the existing 2023 lease financing to increase funds for operating needs and save the district money
- Update & Improve the heating and cooling systems in the elementary school
- Add additional safety upgrades such as electronic access-controlled entry at the elementary school

**Vote April 7, 2026**

# BALLOT LANGUAGE

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## Proposition K.I.D.S ~ Keep Improving District Schools

Shall the Board of Education of the Hamilton R-II School District, Missouri, without an estimated increase in the current debt service property tax levy, borrow money in the amount of Four Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$4,250,000) for the purpose of providing funds to complete the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) improvements at the Elementary School; to pay off the existing lease financing; to the extent funds are available, complete other repairs and improvements to the existing facilities of the District; and issue general obligation bonds for the payment thereof?

If this proposition is approved, the adjusted debt service levy of the School District is estimated to remain unchanged at \$1.3800 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation of real and personal property.

# ELEMENTARY HVAC

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Q. Why the need for HVAC improvements at Hamilton Elementary School?

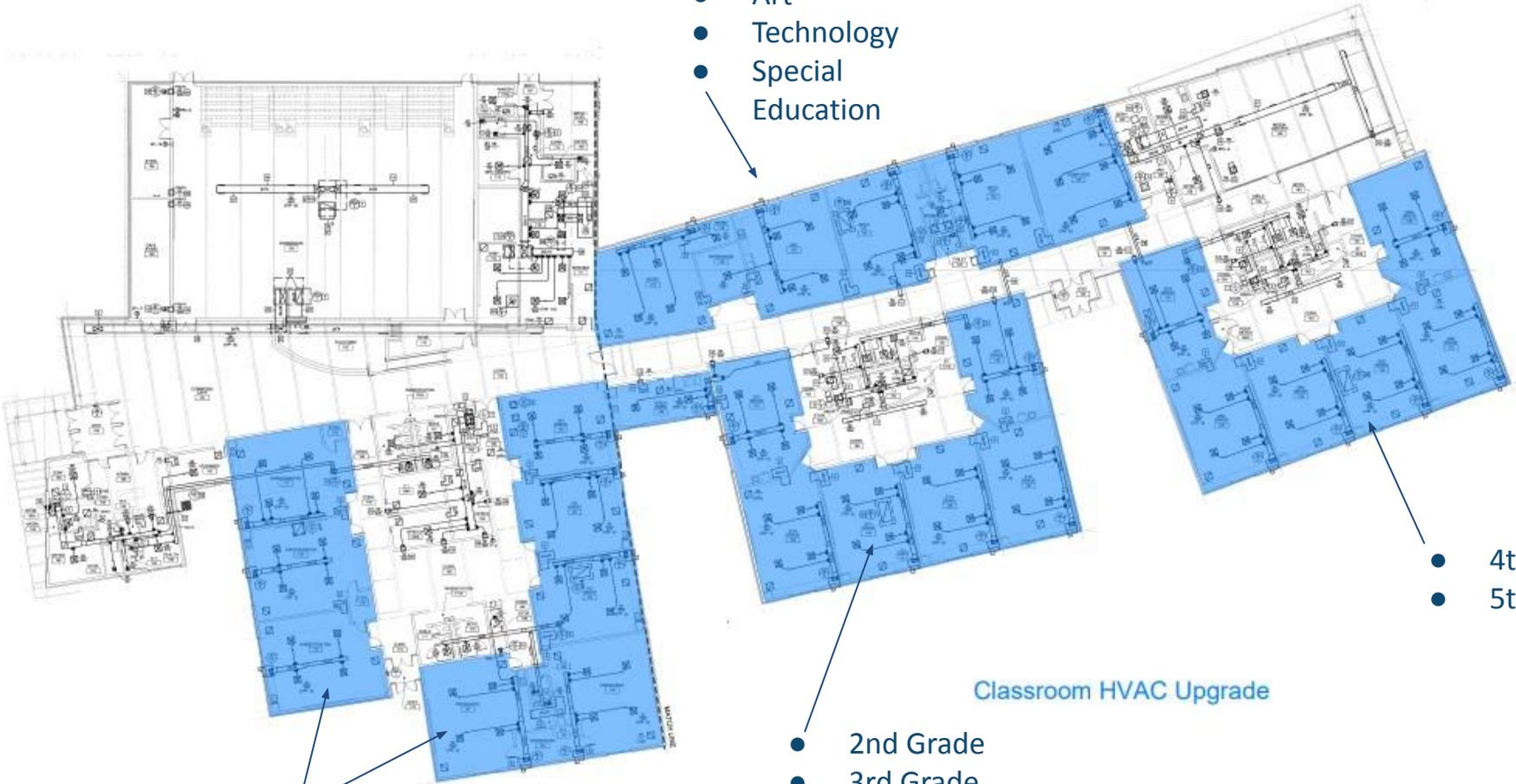
A. District staff, students, families and community members provide input on the district's Facilities Improvement Plan. Over the past few years, we have heard from elementary students and staff that HVAC issues have had a negative impact on education. There have been instances when classroom units were down for multiple weeks due to difficulty of obtaining parts. These units were installed at the elementary 18 years ago. In the past 4.5 years, the district has spent over \$47,000 on maintenance for elementary HVAC.

**Vote April 7, 2026**

# ELEMENTARY HVAC

Project Timeline: May to August 2026

- Kitchen
- Music
- Art
- Technology
- Special Education



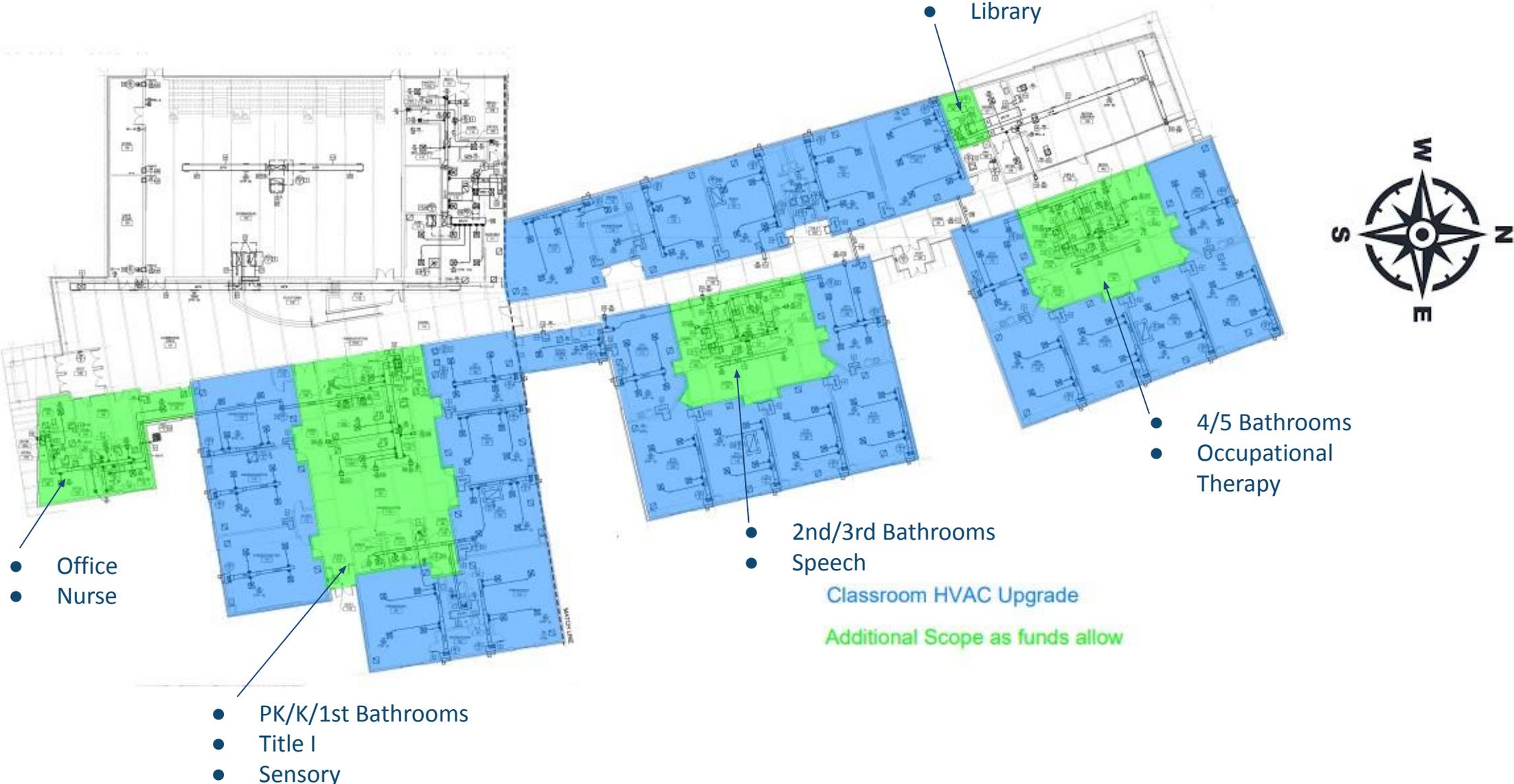
- Preschool
- Kindergarten
- 1st Grade

- 2nd Grade
- 3rd Grade

Classroom HVAC Upgrade

- 4th Grade
- 5th Grade

# ELEMENTARY HVAC



# PAYING OFF THE 2023 LEASE

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**Q. Why use bond proceeds to payoff the existing lease?**

**A.** To fully fund construction of the new high school and the new track, the district entered into a lease agreement for \$3,475,000 in 2023 due to having met bonding capacity with the 2022 Series Bond.

While this lease funding allowed the district to complete the construction projects in a timely manner, the lease funds incur a higher interest expense than bonds. By using 2026 Series bond proceeds to pay off the lease in June 2026, the district will shorten the original payoff period by eleven years, saving the district \$1,255,807 in net operating expenses.

**Vote April 7, 2026**

# BOND FACTS

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## **Q. What is a bond issue?**

**A.** A bond is an authorization for a school district to borrow money and to establish a tax rate to pay off the debt over time.

The bond proceeds pay for capital projects, such as facilities and equipment, and may not be used for regular operational costs like salaries or supplies. This bond would NOT increase the current tax levy but would extend the current debt service levy of \$1.3800 by three years from 2037 to 2040.

## **Q. What is required to pass the bond issue?**

**A.** A 4/7 majority, or 57.1% plus one vote is needed in order to pass a bond issue.

## **Q. What will the cost be for individual taxpayers if the issue is passed?**

**A.** Thanks to good financial management, Hamilton R-2 is able to ask for a bond without raising taxes. This is a result of refinancing for better rates and of making early pre-payments on principal. We will continue to carefully monitor our debt and interest rates in order to save taxpayer dollars.

# BOND FACTS

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**Q. Did the District solicit community input when deciding to put forth a ballot measure to voters?**

**A.** Yes. As part of the District's Long-Range Facility Planning process, the district has sought input from stakeholders including students, staff, and families. This data was then distributed to the Board of Education and provided valuable information for continued facilities planning.

**Q. What would happen if the no tax increase bond does not pass?**

**A.** Some maintenance and repair work to the elementary HVAC system would be deferred until funds are available. The purchase of new HVAC systems for the individual classrooms would be postponed indefinitely. Security updates to the elementary entrances would need to be postponed until funds are available. For elementary HVAC issues and safety issues that need addressed immediately, money would have to be spent from the day-to-day operating budget (this budget normally pays for classroom instruction, teachers, staff and supplies.) Additionally, the district would continue to spend capital improvement funds to pay off the existing lease which would significantly reduce funds for facility and grounds upgrades.

# BOND FACTS

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**Q. Explain what a general obligation bond is and how it relates to the financing for this project?**

**A.** Under Missouri law the only way a School District can legally borrow money for school facilities' improvements or construction on a full faith and credit basis is to seek voter approval of a general obligation bond issue. A "general obligation" means that the School District can and must levy sufficient taxes to repay the principal and interest associated with the bonds. With voter approval of at least a four-sevenths majority at the April 7, 2026 election, the District can then sell the \$4,250,000 of bonds in increments of \$5,000. This financing process gains access to numerous investors at favorable terms compared to what would happen if the District was dependent upon a single lender to supply the funding. The interest earned by the investors is exempt from federal and state of Missouri income taxes. With the interest being tax-exempt, the actual rate the District has to pay is much lower than would otherwise be the case for a typical loan. Based upon current interest rates in the municipal bond market the average interest rate is expected to be less than 5.00%. This assumption is based on a AA+ bond rating.

# BOND FACTS

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**Q. How can the \$4,250,000 general obligation bond issue be referred to as a no tax increase program?**

**A.** The current \$1.3800 debt service fund levy is adequate to repay the existing bonds plus the \$4,250,000 of new bonds by extending the levy three years (from Fiscal Year ending 2037 to 2040). This is feasible due to growth in assessed valuation, interest savings from previous bond refinancing and prepayments of principal, and low interest rates in the current municipal bond market.

**Q. Can the District pay the bonds and lease certificates off early to save interest expense?**

**A.** Yes, the bonds and lease certificates will contain optional redemption (call) features that enable the District to prepay them at no penalty in the event fund balances become large enough for that to occur. The call feature also provides the District with the opportunity to refund the bonds to take advantage of lower interest rates in the future, if the overall economic conditions create that set of circumstances.

# **BOND FACTS**

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**Q. Will local investors have an opportunity to purchase the Bonds and Lease Certificates?**

**A.** Yes, they will be available to local investors. If you are interested in purchasing some of the bonds, let the District offices know and they will insure you are contacted after the election.

**Q. What type of rating will the General Obligation Bonds and Lease Certificates have?**

**A.** The District can expect to receive an AA+ rating by S&P Global on the general obligation bonds. Missouri school districts issuing general obligation bonds for construction purposes are eligible in most cases to participate in the State of Missouri Direct Deposit Program. Participation in this program generally results in an AA+ rating.

**Q. Will the district's NO TAX INCREASE bond issue change the tax rate?**

**A.** NO, whether it passes or fails the tax rate will remain the same. If it passes, the tax will be extended from its current end date of 2037 to 2040.

# Area School District Levies

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- Breckenridge R-I = \$5.41
- Hamilton R-II School District = \$4.98 (Would remain unchanged)
- Polo R-III = \$4.78
- New York R-IV = \$4.74
- Kingston 42 = \$4.70
- Chillicothe R-II = \$4.61
- Cameron R-I = \$4.26
- Gallatin R-V = \$4.28 (Asking for \$0.70 increase on April 7, 2026)

# KCI School District Levies

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- East Buchanan = \$5.87
- Mid-Buchanan = \$5.50
- Lathrop = \$5.27
- Hamilton R-II School District = \$4.98 (Would remain unchanged)
- North Platte = \$4.74
- Clinton Co. R-III = \$4.68
- Lawson = \$4.76
- West Platte = \$4.00

# VOTER REGISTRATION

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If you are a Missouri resident, you can register to vote on or before the fourth Wednesday prior to the election. To vote in the April 7, 2026, election, you must be registered to vote by Wednesday, March 11, 2026.

## Eligibility

A person may vote in any election who:

- Is a citizen of the United States and is 18 years of age or older
- Has been a resident of the state and of the election district, in which the person seeks to vote, for at least 28 days prior to the election
- Has registered before the election registration deadline
- Is not registered to vote in another jurisdiction

## Registering Age

You can register at 17 1/2 years old, but you must be 18 on or before election day in order to vote.

# VOTER REGISTRATION

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## Where to Register

Please check with your County Clerk if you need to verify your polling place and registration. Caldwell County:

816-586-1111, ext 4, Daviess County: 660-663-3300

## Deadline to Register

The deadline to register for the April 7, 2026 election is March 11, 2026.

## Precinct & Polling Place Location

Your precinct number and polling location are shown on your Voter Notification Card. You may also call the Caldwell County

Local Election Authority at 816-586-1111, ext 4, or the Daviess County Missouri Board of Election Commissioners at

660-663-3300.

## Absentee Voting

The first day of absentee voting is February 24th. The last day for an absentee ballot to be mailed to the voter is March 25th.

# VOTING LOCATIONS

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Breckenridge Township = Breckenridge Community Center and Library

Gomer Township = Hamilton Methodist Church

Hamilton Township = Hamilton Methodist Church

Kidder Township = Kidder City Hall

Kingston Township = Kingston Baptist Church

Altamont Township and Winston Township = Altamont K.A.W. Fire Station

Gallatin Township = Old Lions Club Building (Bingo Hall)

**Vote April 7, 2026**





# **SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOLS**

# **SUPPORTING OUR**

# **COMMUNITY**

For more information, please call Dr. Billie McGraw, Superintendent,  
at 816-583-2134 or email [mcgraw@hamilton.k12.mo.us](mailto:mcgraw@hamilton.k12.mo.us)

## **VOTE APRIL 7, 2026**