



## **Argument for the Issuance of \$69.5M in School Improvement Bonds**

The Iron County School Board is asking voters to approve the issuance \$69,500,000 in General Obligation Bonds at the November 2, 2021 election.

The population in Iron County grew by more than 24% between 2010 and 2020. The number of students attending Iron County Schools increased from 8,749 in 2011 to 10,274 in 2021. We have seen more accelerated growth over the past 2 years, with many families choosing to locate in Iron County to become part of the wholesome, family friendly culture here.

Currently, increased capacity can only be achieved by utilizing additional temporary classrooms. The permanent, more secure classrooms included in this bond proposal are badly needed.

The Board has carefully considered each proposed project according to the needs of each school and facility as listed below. Through a collaborative review and approval process, including negotiated adjustments to bring projected costs to acceptable levels, the Board voted unanimously to approve this bond initiative. With voter approval the bond will pay for the following:

- The seventy-year-old East Elementary building will be replaced with a new building on the same property. In addition to foundation settling issues, the current building has antiquated HVAC, mechanical, and electrical systems that are inefficient, inaccessible, and often require rerouting and costly maintenance.
- Cedar Middle School will be expanded with new performing arts classrooms, science labs, and general classrooms. Additional rooms will be reclaimed for general and severe special education use.
- Canyon View Middle School will be expanded with new performing arts classrooms, science labs and a remodel of the science wing, providing improved instructional facilities and additional classrooms for general use.
- Cedar High School's science wing will be remodeled to streamline the use of existing space for needed science classrooms, and to modernize aging science lab facilities.
- A new Shared/Multi-Use facility will be built between Parowan High School and Parowan Elementary to accommodate needed lunchroom, physical education, and extra-curricular space for Parowan High School and to provide improved physical education instruction space at Parowan Elementary.
- A new District Transportation Facility will be constructed to improve bus security, and to increase capacity to maintain a growing number of school busses, fleet vehicles, and facilities maintenance equipment.

Over the past three years ICSD has paid off debt and lowered the bond levy by nearly 62%. As the District prepares for the upcoming projects, it will need to raise the bond levy to pay for the new debt. Even with this projected increase, the bond levy will still be approximately 42% lower than it was in 2019. This bond is structured to allow for future bond proposals to provide for additional needed projects with minimal tax impact.

The Iron County School District is focusing on its constitutional responsibility to support, assist, and be accountable to parents and families who bear the primary responsibility for the education of their children. We ask for your help in providing adequate facilities for our District to fulfill its appropriate educational obligations, by voting in favor of this General Obligation Bond.