



PLEASE SUPPORT SF 2530/HF 2655 - SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT



BOND PROJECT SALES TAX EXEMPTION SUPPORT IS NEEDED TO HELP WITH UNPRECEDENT CONSTRUCTION INFLATION

INFLATION'S IMPACT ON SPRINGFIELD'S VOTER APPROVED SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

In May 2021, the estimate for our February 2021 voter approved school improvement project came in \$4.3 million over budget (20% more than the estimate that reflected more than a 5% inflationary increase).

The Springfield School District was forced to simplify its investment plan to respond to this incredible inflationary increase, resulting in square footage reductions and the deferral of the needed high school band room, junior high locker room, and pick-up & drop-off zone improvements. Even after cuts to the original design, bids in November 2021 still came in \$2.8 million over original budget.

The district estimates that \$1.3 million in improvements cannot be addressed at this time due to the unprecedented inflation.

THE SCHOOL FACILITIES PROJECT VOTERS APPROVED FOCUS ON BASIC SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

The Springfield School District voter-approved facilities project has been greatly impacted by unprecedented construction inflation of more than 20%.

In February 2021, voters in Springfield School District approved two bond questions totaling \$19.8 million for renovations to address the following school safety and 21st Century Programming needs:

- Our school lacks secure entrances and has Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility issues.
- The HVAC system is outdated and not compliant with today's air exchange and energy standards. Repairs are frequent, expensive, and with long wait times to find parts. Space heaters used frequently in classrooms.
- State of MN Tornado shelter 2020 school requirement
- Parent pick-up and drop-off zones have unsafe conditions.
- There is no auto or construction CTE trades shop.
- Ongoing and growing demand for youth programs have outgrown gym capacity.
- Cafeteria/kitchen is undersized. Daily kindergartners start lunch at 10:45 a.m.
- 9th-12th grade choir and band can exceed 60 students, stressing the capacity of these rooms.
- Locker rooms are outdated and not accessible to meet ADA.

THE NEED: ONE-TIME LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT TO HELP DELIVER THIS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

*The Springfield and Red Rock Central School District's are **requesting legislative support for SF 2530 and HF 2655** that would allow for a state sales tax exemption and refund on materials and supplies used to help complete our voter approved school improvement project.*

The Legislature has approved this request by school districts in the past and has stepped in when other unforeseen disasters have impacted the usability of our local school buildings – special funding has helped address the damage from floods, tornadoes, and fires. Today, school districts that passed bond referenda in the years of 2021 and 2022 are faced with a new and serious challenge in their efforts to improve the quality and durability of their local schools: unprecedented construction inflation.