

Apache Junction Unified School District
Frequently Asked Questions

1. How much is it going to cost AJUSD to place a bond/override on the 2019 ballot?

The Pinal County election cost will be approximately \$85,000.

2. Where has AJUSD come up with the money to place the item on the ballot?

Election costs will be paid from a non Maintenance and Operation auxiliary fund.

3. Are the current/ past bonds paid for in full? Are taxpayers still paying those down?

Taxpayers are still paying on past bonds.

4. How long will it take for us to pay off current bond/ override funding if approved?

Current outstanding bonds - pay off date July 1, 2026

Projected combined bonds - pay off date July 1, 2039

Override is for 7 years. 2020-21 - 2026-27

5. Why hold the election in 2019 vs 2020?

First of all, our campuses need repairs. We are in need of carpet for classrooms - it is turning into a safety issue. Interior and exterior paint is worn and peeling. We need adequate lighting for bus drop off for AJHS and CCJH. It is very dark in the winter months. We have a lot of safety issues in our parking lots and sidewalks. We have some very old HV/AC units that need to be replaced. There are more safety and security issues in our offices and classrooms. The pros and cons of a 2019/2020 election were outlined by the Superintendent's Advisory Committee and they recommended to go with the 2019 option.

Secondly, AJUSD has not had the funding to update core learning materials in over a decade. A Capital override will allow our teachers to have core learning materials aligned to current Arizona State Standards.

6. What is the direct plan to educate voters for a 2019 ballot in 4 months time?

Fact sheets about what a bond and override is, the cost to homeowners etc. are being worked on now and will be available soon. Flyers that outline what will be done at each school will also be distributed.

7. Why a mail-in only ballot? Is this AJUSD's choice or Pinal County?

In 2019, Pinal County determined that the election will be a mail-in only election.

8. Will all registered voters get a ballot?

Yes, all registered voters will receive a ballot.

9. How does AJUSD plan to sway the senior citizen community (Mountain Brook, Montessa, etc.)

Due to election law, AJUSD can only provide factual data and we cannot use any resources to "sway" voters one way or another. It is the intent of AJUSD to provide clear written information that is factual to voters on what the funds for both the Bond and District Additional Assistance would provide for our students, schools and school district. The information will also outline what the impact

would have on taxes within the AJUSD community. In addition, scheduled fact-based presentations and school tours will be offered to the community. Educating the community will be a top priority.

10. According to the demographic report, AJUSD educates 55% of the district school-age population. (Slide 17 - March 12th, 2019 Meeting). This number is projected to decline to as low as 50.2% by 2028/2029. How does AJUSD plan to deal with this if enrollment continues to decline?

Declining enrollment has been a challenge in AJUSD for several years. There are a number of factors that played a role in the reduction of school-age children attending our schools. Factors include the school academic calendar, academic results, lack of diverse programs, and school closures resulting in boundary changes. AJUSD is working on stabilizing the district to address the identified factors influencing student enrollment.

- *School academic calendar*
 - *Adopted a 5 day modified year round calendar beginning 2018-2019 school year.*
- *Academic results*
 - *Hire effective teachers*
 - *Ongoing professional development focused on meeting the needs of individual students*
 - *Adopted a Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum (Marzano)*
 - *Core instructional materials aligned the current academic state standards*
 - *Utilize assessments to guide Tier I instructional practices*
- *Lack of diverse programs*
 - *Due to the decreasing student population the number of program offerings has also been reduced*
 - *Interest surveys and student focus groups identified those programs that our students want and we began taking steps to bring them to the schools*
- *School closures*
 - *As schools closed, boundary lines changed, which resulted in students transitioning to schools that were not necessarily convenient for families*
 - *We need to continue to examine where our students are located and find ways to retain current students and recapture those that left and bring them back to AJUSD.*

11. Is there a site-specific cost breakdown of needs? (IE: PTES needs xx dollars for xx items)

The Fact Sheet pamphlet and the individual school fact sheets have a breakdown of needs/costs/percentages etc. It is important that we let parents understand how Bond and District Additional Assistance monies will impact their children’s education.

We will add the Fact Sheet pamphlet and the individual school fact sheets to this document once it is finalized in the coming weeks.

12. Based off of the below chart, how can AJUSD/ Committee justify the poll done as a valid poll? The highest percentage is off of the 2014 (Bond Election) mail-in only ballot results and that is .031% of the total voting base.

| | Total Votes | % based off 308 polled | Total Mail in ballots | % based off 308 polled |
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|--------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| 2014 (General Election) | 20,072 | 0.015 | 14,051 | 0.022 |
| 2014 (Bond) | 14,015 | 0.022 | 9,855 | 0.031 |
| 2016 (General Election) | 47,097 | 0.007 | 19,417 | 0.016 |
| 2018 (General Election) | 28,724 | 0.011 | 21,802 | 0.014 |

*Numbers directly from Pinal County Elections --

<http://www.pinalcountyz.gov/Elections/Pages/ElectionResults.aspx>