

October 25, 2024

Dear Houston ISD Community:

Houston schools represent the vitality of our communities and our children's pathway to future prosperity. Houston ISD is at a critical juncture, where the need for investment in our schools has never been more urgent. For too long, the district's aging facilities have suffered from deferred maintenance without meaningful investment, leaving students in environments that are neither healthy nor safe.

The following undersigned organizations believe HISD's proposed bonds, Proposition A & B, are a significant opportunity for our community to ensure that every student has access to a great public education and to invest in the future Houston.

HISD Props A and B are essential steps toward creating schools equipped to meet modern educational standards. Thanks to the district's solid bond rating, we can undertake necessary improvements without increasing taxes on our community. Financial forecasts from five financial firms show, even with conservative projections of property value growth, HISD can manage the proposed bond while maintaining current tax rates.

It has been over a decade since the district's last bond election for high school campuses and nearly two decades for middle and elementary schools. The consequences of this prolonged neglect are stark. Reports of failing infrastructure—such as air conditioning breakdowns during extreme heat and non-functioning heaters in winter—have become all too common. Alarmingly, about a third of HISD campuses, around 82 schools, have tested positive for elevated lead levels in their water, forcing the district to cap fixtures and necessitating urgent action to provide safe drinking sources.

Many schools, some nearly a century old, have not been significantly renovated since they were built and lack the necessary safety infrastructure to meet today's standards. With increasing concerns about campus safety, modern features like secure fencing and controlled entry points are essential to ensure families feel secure in entrusting their children to our schools.

Ultimately, we've seen the cost of waiting in the decade since our last bond and further delay only serves to increase future expenses for upgrades and renovation. More importantly, delay continues to keep students and teachers in unhealthy and unsafe conditions when we have the means to provide them with better.

This is a pivotal moment for Houstonians. By coming together to support this bond, we can enhance the educational environment in our community and ensure that every student has the safe, healthy, and supportive school they deserve. The organizations undersigned firmly believe now is the time to invest in our future.

Sincerely,



