

Proposition PAWS:

Frequently Asked Questions

On Tuesday, April 4, 2023, Cassville R-IV patrons will be asked to consider a nine million dollar no-tax rate increase PAWS initiative.



The acronym PAWS stands for Performing Arts and Wildcat Safety.

Passage of the bond will allow the district to utilize bond funds to construct, equip and furnish a performing arts center on the high school campus; to implement energy saving/maintenance improvements, including roofs, windows, electrical systems, gutters, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) units, and lighting; to complete safety upgrades District-wide; to repurpose existing space for the wrestling program; to the extent funds are available, complete other repairs and improvements to the existing facilities of the District.

If the bond issue is approved, Paragon Architecture will be the architect and R.E. Smith will be the construction management company for the project.

The following information is provided for your review. If you have questions about the no-tax rate increase Proposition PAWS bond issue, please contact Dr. Merlyn Johnson at 417.847.2221 or reach out via email at mjohnson@cassville.k12.mo.us.

What vote is required to pass the request?

The approval vote needed is 4/7 majority or 57.14%



What will be the cost for individual taxpayers if the issue is passed?

Your current school tax levy will remain unchanged. However, reassessment, new personal property or newly added real estate property could affect your bill.

Why is the additional funding needed?

The bond proceeds will allow for improved opportunities and space at the high school for students in the fine arts programs. The performing arts center would enhance many of our programs including the technology department by offering students opportunities to learn about advanced programming, recording, and sound systems. This space would also serve as a site for many of our elementary school concerts, award programs, and movie nights. Furthermore, the addition of the performing arts center will be something the community can be proud of and use for many community related events. The movement of some of the fine arts classes will free up space for other needs in the high school.

There will be safety and energy upgrades with all projects, which would include energy saving/maintenance repairs and upgrades throughout all campuses. Many of these upgrades would be centered around our older buildings such as the primary and middle schools. Securing the entryway at the high school will also be a high priority.

If Proposition PAWS passes, can the community utilize the performing arts center?

Yes, once the space is fully constructed, the performing arts center will be available for organizations outside of the district to rent. Rental arrangements, including an agreement, must be made with the district prior to renting the space.



What is the current tax levy for Cassville R-IV School District?

This will be a no-tax rate increase initiative. The adjusted debt service levy of the school district is estimated to remain unchanged at \$0.5071 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation of real and personal property. Passage of this initiative in April will extend the present debt service levy by 4 years (from 2039 to 2043). Barry County school district levies (highest to lowest) are:

District	Operating	Debt Service	Total
Exeter	\$3.51	\$0.65	\$4.16
Monett	\$3.12	\$0.56	\$3.68
Southwest	\$2.75	\$0.85	\$3.60
Wheaton	\$2.75	\$0.83	\$3.58
Purdy	\$2.78	\$0.77	\$3.55
Cassville	\$2.96	\$0.51	\$3.47
Shell Knob	\$3.40	\$0.00	\$3.40

Can the district pay the bond off early?

Yes, the bonds 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 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



What is the Proposition PAWS ballot language?

**OFFICIAL BALLOT
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOND ELECTION
CASSVILLE R-IV SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI**

Proposition P.A.W.S.

Shall the Board of Education of the Cassville R-IV School District, Missouri, without an estimated increase in the current debt service property tax levy, borrow money in the amount of Nine Million Dollars (\$9,000,000) for the purpose of providing funds to construct, equip, and furnish a new Performing Arts Center on the High School campus; to implement energy saving/maintenance improvements, including roofs, windows, electrical systems, gutters, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) units, and lighting; to complete safety upgrades District-wide; to repurpose existing space for the wrestling program; 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 \$0.5071 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation of real and personal property.

YES ☐

NO ☐

What will happen if Proposition PAWS does not pass?

The performing arts center will not be constructed. Safety upgrades and the other repairs and maintenance projects will be placed on a new improvement schedule to be completed as funds become available. To pay for future repairs and maintenance, money will have to be spent from the day-to-day operating budget (the funds that normally pay for classroom instruction and supplies). The debt service tax rate levy would remain unchanged whether the bond issue passes or fails.

ELECTION DAY: Tuesday, April 4, 2023

