



ECOLOGYCENTER

Healthy People, Healthy Planet

October 29th, 2019 ECOLINK STORY 1

Vote YES on the Ann Arbor School Bond Proposal



Dear Emily,

The Ecology Center urges residents of the Ann Arbor school district to vote YES for the district's bond proposal on the November 5 ballot.

We have never before issued an endorsement on any local school funding proposal, but this proposal won our attention, and our support, because it enables the Ann Arbor Public Schools to take critical first steps toward de-carbonizing their facilities, and toward preparing our community to address the climate crisis.

The proposal would fund the extensive renovation of the district's 32 schools, five of which were constructed a century ago. The renovation plan includes major commitments to solar energy, energy efficiency and LED lighting for all buildings. These are the sorts of measures that all institutions, public and private, need to urgently implement in the carbon-constrained future, but that only a few have done so far.

The proposal is a 20-year plan that would raise taxes \$19 per month for a household with the average taxable value in the district.

Once the proposal passes, we believe the school district will need to build out its sustainability policy, bring on executive leadership in charge of sustainability, and welcome community input into its building plans. It's essential, though, that the

school district have the resources to carry out this ambitious agenda, and the ballot proposal would provide them.

There is detailed information about the plan on the [A2 Schools website](#), and information on how you can help the YES campaign at the [citizens' committee site](#).

If you live in the district, please vote YES on the Ann Arbor school bond proposal November 5.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Garfield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

**Mike Garfield, Director
Ecology Center**