



Helena School Bond  
HIGH SCHOOL & ELEMENTARY BOND 2025

# TODAY'S VOTE. TODAY'S INVESTMENT. TOMORROW'S IMPACT.

ELECTION DAY: SEPTEMBER 9TH

## *The Time is Now.*

Across our Helena Public Schools, our buildings are aging—the **average facility is over 70 years old**—and decades of **deferred maintenance** have taken a toll. Failing systems, outdated learning environments: if our buildings could speak, they'd be telling us that they can't keep up with the needs of our students. Over the years, there hasn't been significant bond investment, and now construction costs continue to rise—meaning the longer we wait, the more expensive it gets to fix what's broken and build what's needed.

A recent Facilities Master Plan, built on months of study and public input, identified the most urgent projects.

These include:

- A **new Helena High School** to replace the deteriorating facility.
- Significant renovations to **Capital High School** to address critical infrastructure needs.
- A **new Kessler Elementary School** to replace an outdated, undersized building.

- **Athletics investments** for a new competition field and HHS/CHS Practice Facilities.
- A **new location for the District Kitchen**, which currently operates out of a space never meant for food service.
- A **new facility for the Project for Alternative Learning (PAL)**, providing better support for students who need it most.

To make this happen, we're asking voters to consider two bond measures:

- **\$240 million for the High School District**
- **\$43 million for the Elementary District**

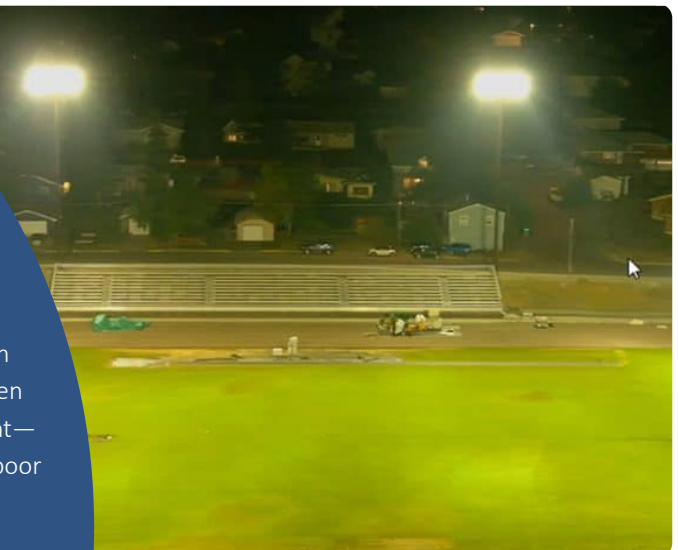
These are strategic, future-focused investments in safe, healthy, and functional learning environments—not just for today's students, but for generations to come.

**THE ELECTION IS SEPTEMBER 9.** This is our moment to act—before costs rise further, and while we can still choose to build a stronger future for Helena.

## *If Our Buildings Could Speak*

### The 2025 High School Bond Vigilante Stadium Serving High Schools and the Community.

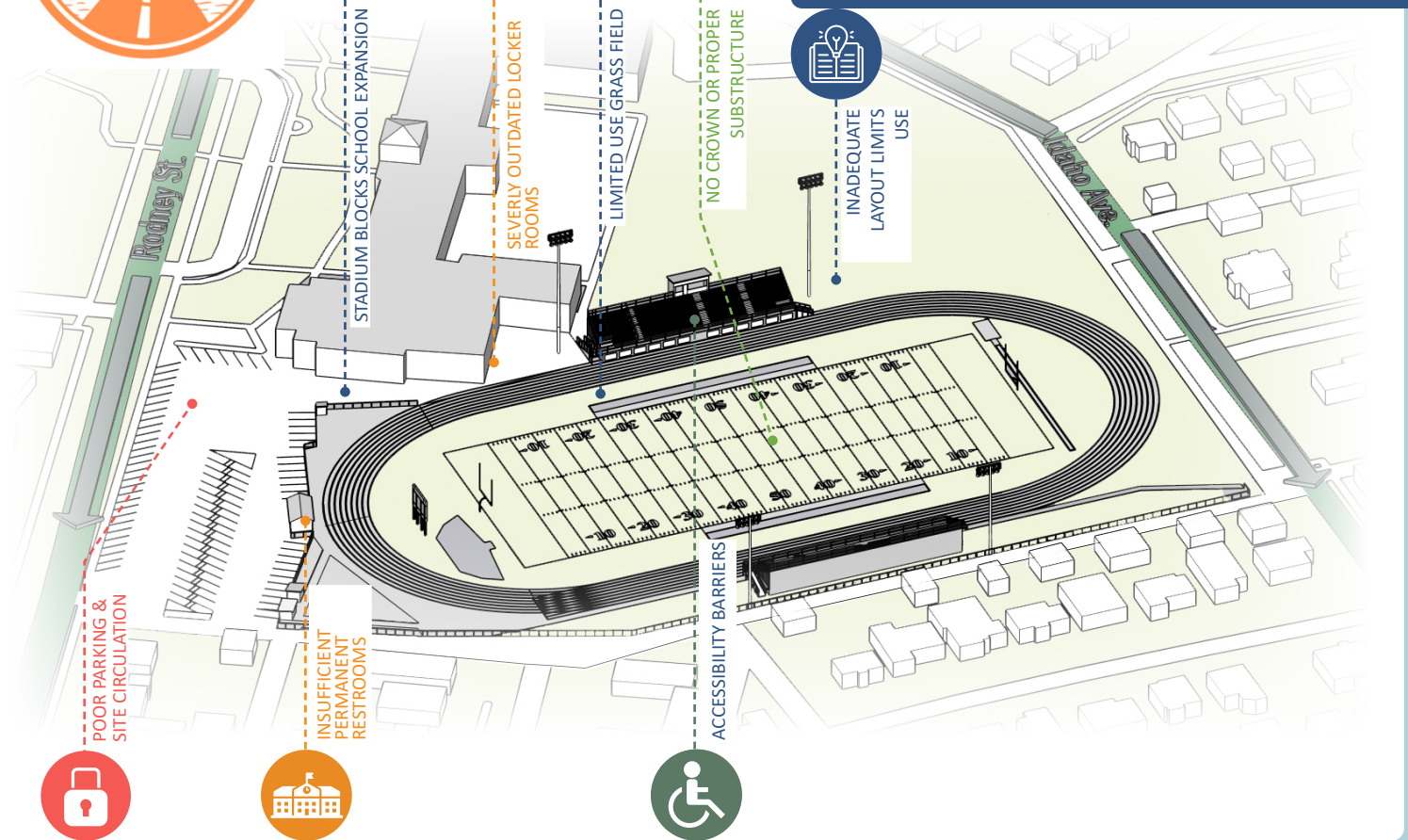
Currently, Helena's two high schools—Capital and Helena High—as well as Carroll College track athletes compete at Vigilante Stadium, located at Helena Middle School. While the stadium has received surface-level updates—like a resurfaced 10-lane track, new lighting, and some ADA walkways—it continues to present serious limitations that can't be addressed without major reconfiguration. The stadium struggles to meet full accessibility standards, both in its spectator areas and athlete facilities. Event restrooms are inadequate, often requiring large numbers of rented porta-potties, and parking is not only insufficient—it poses real safety issues during high-attendance events due to congestion and poor traffic flow.





# VIGILANTE STADIUM TODAY

UNDER UTILIZED. UNDER SUPPORTED



What are the current issues at Vigilante Stadium?



## SAFETY & SECURITY CONCERNS

Vigilante Stadium presents several safety issues for students, staff, and spectators. **Event circulation and traffic flow are poorly organized**, with limited parking. **Confusing site access creates congestion and risk during busy times.** The **Lack of an appropriate loading zone, poor visibility** in some areas and **outdated locker room access** also compromise safety.



## BARRIERS TO ACCESSIBILITY

The stadium does not meet current ADA standards. **Access routes, restrooms, seating, and circulation paths** present barriers to students and community members with disabilities. These limitations prevent inclusive participation and create challenges during large events.



## INADEQUATE FOR STUDENT & COMMUNITY USE

Despite being a major athletic facility, the field is **only maintained for football use and cannot support practices**—leaving HMS students without access. **Track and field facilities do not meet Montana High School Association regulations**, particularly for throwing events where areas overlap and field lengths fall short. As a result, **the district is unable to host state track meets**, reducing opportunities for athletes and the broader community.



## SITE CONSTRAINTS LIMIT SCHOOL GROWTH

The stadium's footprint **restricts any meaningful expansion or modernization of Helena Middle School.** Until a long-term solution is found for Vigilante Stadium, the middle school is effectively landlocked—**limiting future opportunities to improve the campus for current and future students.**



## WORN OUT SUPPORT FACILITIES

There is no crown or proper substructure on the field, **limiting its durability and drainage.** Existing utilities and **support systems are minimal** and not designed for multi-sport, high-traffic use. **Improvements to core infrastructure are needed** to support broader, year-round functionality.



## LIMITED INFRASTRUCTURE & SYSTEMS

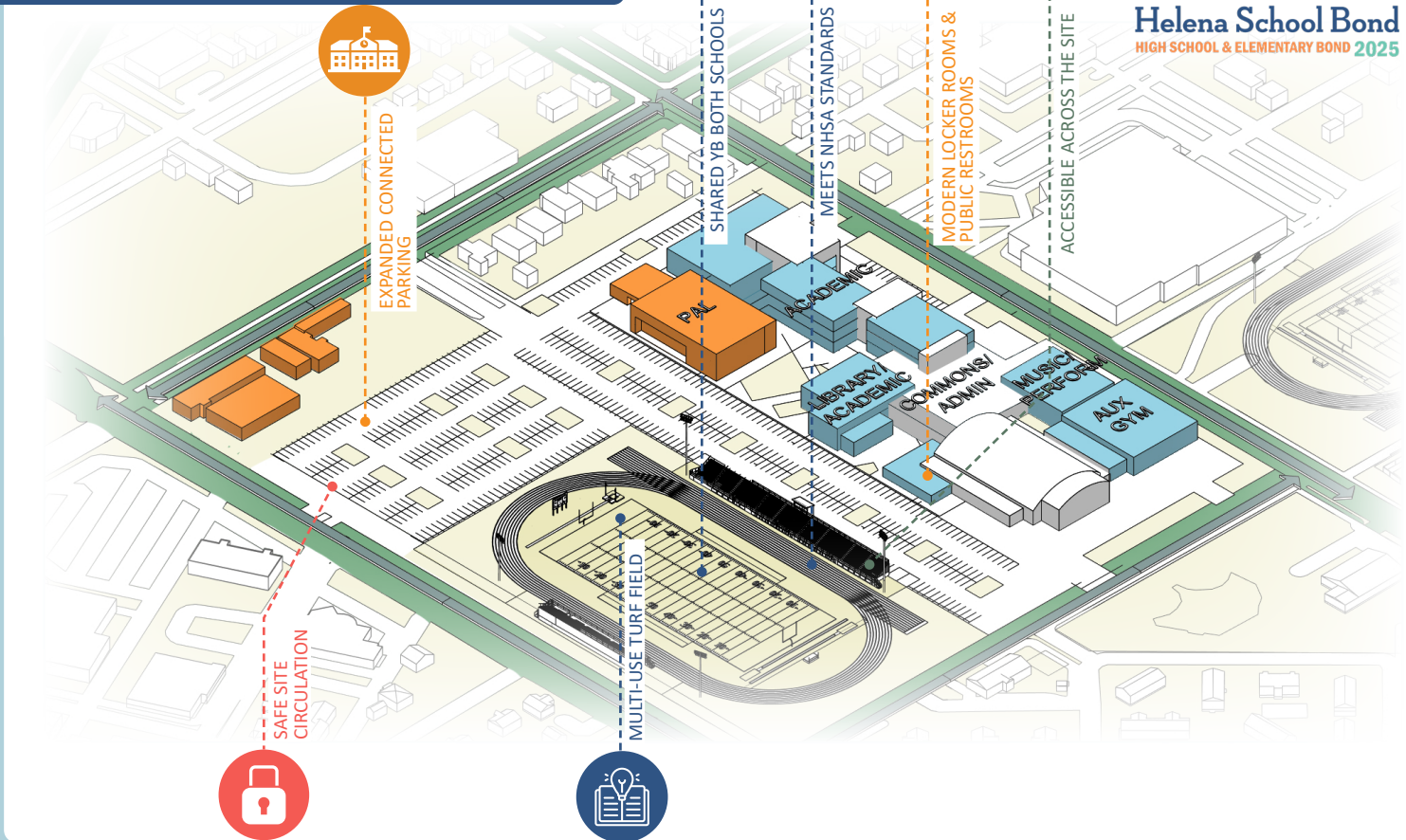
Kessler's core systems—like HVAC and circulation—are no longer functioning effectively. The aging HVAC system results in **poor air quality and inconsistent temperatures** throughout the building. Narrow hallways create bottlenecks during transitions, adding stress and congestion to the school day.

# ATHLETICS ELEVATED

THE COMMUNITIES THIRD PLACE.  
REAL IMPACT.



**Helena School Bond**  
HIGH SCHOOL & ELEMENTARY BOND 2025



What will an investment in Vigilante Stadium look like?



## IMPROVED SAFETY & SITE CIRCULATION

The new facility includes intentional, efficient traffic flow with expanded parking shared with Helena High—reducing congestion and hazards during large events. Event access, circulation, and emergency response will be safer and easier to manage, improving the overall experience for students, staff, and spectators.



## FULLY ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL

The new complex is designed to meet ADA standards across the entire site. That includes accessible paths, restrooms, seating, and locker rooms—ensuring all students, athletes, families, and community members can access and enjoy the facility with ease.



## EQUITABLE, HIGH-QUALITY ATHLETIC FACILITIES

The upgraded field and track will meet MHSA requirements, allowing Helena to once again host state meets and large events. The competition field will be used by both high schools, with dedicated home locker rooms for each. The facility will also support PE programs at Helena High, making it a daily part of student life.



## MODERN, MULTI-PURPOSE SPACES

The project includes modern locker rooms, restrooms, and support spaces sized appropriately for both practice and event needs. Designed for flexibility, these spaces improve student comfort, team organization, and long-term functionality. The use of synthetic turf ensures the field is durable and usable throughout the year for multiple sports.



## INFRASTRUCTURE THAT SUPPORTS PERFORMANCE

With upgraded utilities and durable materials—including a turf field, modern lighting, and stormwater controls—the facility will provide consistent, low-maintenance performance. These improvements reduce wear and tear while increasing reliability and long-term sustainability.



## BETTER USE OF DISTRICT FACILITIES

With football and track relocated, Vigilante Stadium can be repurposed for soccer and middle school use, increasing field time and relieving pressure across the district. The new complex supports both school and community needs—improving flexibility, expanding access, and offering a better experience for all users.

# HOW WILL THIS BOND AFFECT MY PROPERTY TAXES?

Helena voters will be asked to consider two separate bond measures in 2025:

## \$43 MILLION ELEMENTARY BOND (20-YEAR TERM)

The Elementary Bond will appear on tax rolls starting in the 2026–27 fiscal year. To help reduce the early impact on taxpayers, the bond is structured to levy fewer mills until two existing school bonds are paid off in 2037 and 2039—balancing near-term affordability with long-term investment in Helena’s aging elementary facilities.

## \$240 MILLION HIGH SCHOOL BOND (30-YEAR TERM)

The High School Bond, also appearing on tax rolls in 2026–27, funds critical safety upgrades, new construction, renovations, and facility modernization at Helena’s two high schools.

The chart below shows **estimated tax increases** based on your home’s market and taxable value. These examples reflect homestead-qualified residential properties (primary homes or long-term rentals).

|                           | ELEMENTARY BOND       |                        | HIGH SCHOOL BOND      |                        |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
|                           | 20-Year Term          |                        | 30-Year Term          |                        |
|                           | \$43M                 |                        | \$240M                |                        |
|                           | ANNUAL<br>(ESTIMATED) | MONTHLY<br>(ESTIMATED) | ANNUAL<br>(ESTIMATED) | MONTHLY<br>(ESTIMATED) |
| 2024/25 MARKET MULTIPLIER |                       |                        |                       |                        |
| \$100,000                 | \$13.15               | \$1.10                 | \$73.45               | \$6.12                 |
| \$200,000                 | \$26.30               | \$2.19                 | \$146.9               | \$12.24                |
| \$300,000                 | \$39.46               | \$3.29                 | \$220.35              | \$18.36                |
| \$400,000                 | \$52.61               | \$4.38                 | \$293.81              | \$24.48                |
| \$500,000                 | \$71.66               | \$5.97                 | \$400.12              | \$33.34                |

**New in 2025:** Montana’s tax laws are changing. Your home’s taxable value will now be based on its market value range:

- Up to \$400,000 – taxed at 0.76%
- \$400,001 to \$1.5 million – taxed at 1.10%
- Over \$1.5 million – taxed at 2.20%
- Non-primary homes and some agricultural properties will be taxed at different rates.

ALL BALLOTS MAILED ON AUG 22  
ELECTION DAY: SEPT 9

## UPCOMING EVENTS | BROWN BAGS & BONDS

- Tuesday, July 15 | 12-1 pm @ Capital High School
- Tuesday, July 22 | 12-1pm @ Helena High School
- Tuesday, July 29 | 12-1 pm @ Kessler Elementary School
- Tuesday, August 5 | 12-1 pm @ Capital High School
- Tuesday, August 12 | 12-1 pm @ Helena High School

CHECK BACK WITH THE HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR MORE BOND EDUCATION EVENTS AND TOURS THROUGH THE SUMMER.

## QUESTIONS? WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Check out the website for more information on the high school and elementary bonds, tax increase, images and more.

Check [helenaschoolbond.org](https://helenaschoolbond.org) on July 11th for more information!

