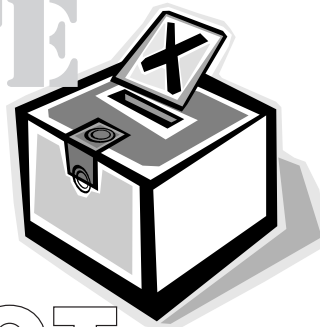


ELKO COUNTY, NEVADA

VOTE



SAMPLE BALLOT

and Voter Information Pamphlet

SPECIAL ELECTION

Tuesday, December 14, 2021



**POLLS OPEN ON ELECTION DAY
7 A.M. AND CLOSE AT 7 P.M.**

NOTICE
Your polling
place has
changed!

ELKO COUNTY LIBRARY
720 COURT STREET, ELKO, NEVADA

**SAVE THIS SAMPLE BALLOT TO HELP YOU LOCATE
YOUR POLLING PLACE ON ELECTION DAY!**

Compiled and Distributed by
KRISTINE JAKEMAN, ELKO COUNTY CLERK

**NOTICE OF MAIL BALLOT
AND ELECTION DAY VOTING
Special Election – December 14, 2021**

MAIL BALLOTS

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 4 that was passed during the 32nd Special Session of the Nevada Legislature, all active registered voters will be mailed an official mail ballot.

- If you choose to vote your mail ballot:
 - Mark your ballot;
 - Sign the return envelope (for verification purposes); and
 - Return your voted ballot by mail or in person.
 - By Mail:
 - Return your voted ballot in the postage pre-paid envelope. Ballots must be postmarked **on or before Election Day** and received in the Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. the 7th day after Election Day.
 - In-person Ballot Drop Box Locations:
 - Elko County Clerk's Office, 550 Court Street, 3rd Floor, Elko.
 - Early Voting, November 27-December 10, 2021, at the Elko County Library, 720 Court Street, Elko.
 - Election Day, December 14, 2021, at the Elko County Library, 720 Court Street, Elko.
 - **In-person ballots must be received by the Clerk's Office or a ballot drop box no later than 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 14, 2021.**

You are encouraged to return your voted ballot at your earliest convenience or to utilize one of the drop boxes. This will give you the greatest amount of time should you have any signature cure issues to resolve.

If you did not receive a mail ballot or need a replacement ballot, please contact the Clerk's Office on or before December 7, 2021.

VOTING AT THE POLLS

There will only be **one vote center** for the Special Election, located at the Elko County Library, 720 Court Street, Elko. If you plan to vote at the polls, you may bring your mail ballot to surrender to an Election Worker or, if you do not bring your mail ballot, you must complete an Affirmation prior to casting a ballot.

Voters are encouraged to wear a face mask when voting in person. Please be aware that there may be long lines at the polling place because the check-in process will be longer. The polling place will be in compliance with social distancing requirements and all election equipment will be sanitized. Voters will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer prior to voting on a machine.

IDENTIFICATION MAY BE REQUIRED if you registered to vote by mail or computer and did not provide identification at the time of registering. Proof of residence may also be required if your identification does not list your physical address.

A NEVADA DRIVER'S LICENSE OR IDENTIFICATION CARD WILL BE REQUIRED if you registered to vote online between November 28 and December 9, 2021. Proof of residence may also be required if your identification does not list your physical address.

SAMPLE BALLOT

The Sample Ballot indicates what will be on your Official Ballot. Mark it and take it with you to your polling place to expedite the voting process.

Clerk's Office Contact Information:

550 Court Street, 3rd Floor

Elko, Nevada 89801-3518

Phone: (775) 753-4600

Fax: (775) 753-4610

E-mail: election@elkocountynv.net

Website: www.elkocountynv.net

KRISTINE JAKEMAN
ELKO COUNTY CLERK

VOTING MACHINES

REVIEWING YOUR BALLOT: Each voting machine will allow you to review your ballot before printing. After you have reviewed your ballot on the screen, you must print a paper record of your selections. You can review your selections on the printed record to ensure you have not made a mistake before casting your ballot. To make changes, you can return to a previous ballot screen. Another record of your selections will print out to review before casting your ballot. Once you cast your ballot, the paper printout will scroll out of view and the machine will be ready for the next voter. The printed voting record will remain in the printer for record retention purposes. Return your VOTER CARD to an Election Worker before leaving the polling place.

If you have any questions or concerns about the voting machine, please **stop** voting and request assistance from an Election Worker. **Once you cast your ballot, you cannot make changes.**

Ask an Election Worker for assistance if you need help reading the ballot or operating the voting machine.

The polling place has a voting machine that can enlarge the screen, change the screen contrast, support audio voting and support “sip and puff” technology.

Reasonable accommodations will be made to help any voter requesting assistance at a polling place. (NRS 293.565(12))

MAIL BALLOT

If you assist a voter, you are required to complete the declaration below and include it with the ballot.

----- c u t h e r e -----

Voter assistance statement pursuant to NRS 293.8857:

At the direction of a voter who has a physical disability, is at least 65 years of age or is unable to read or write, a person may mark and sign a mail ballot on behalf of the voter or assist the voter to mark and sign a mail ballot. The person who marks and signs a mail ballot on behalf of a voter must indicate next to his or her signature that the mail ballot has been marked and signed on behalf of the voter. The person assisting is also required to provide the declaration below and include it with the ballot:

I assisted a voter who has a physical disability, is at least 65 years of age or is unable to read or write in marking and/or signing their ballot.

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Insert your activation card into the yellow slot at the bottom of the tablet to activate your ballot. Leave the card inserted for the duration of your session.



2. Change the font size and screen contrast as needed.



VIEW

3. Tap your choice to vote. If you change your mind tap your choice again to undo it.



4. Tap the buttons at the bottom of the tablet to navigate through your ballot.

5. Once you have navigated through your ballot on the ImageCast• Prime, you will have the opportunity to review and confirm your selections on the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT Printer) before casting.



6. Once you are satisfied with your selections, tap the cast ballot button. The VVPAT will indicate that your ballot has been successfully cast.



If you have any questions while voting on the mechanical voting device please raise your hand and an Election Worker will assist you. Once you cast your vote you cannot make changes.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – VOTING BY MAIL

How do you prevent election fraud when people are voting by mail?

The voter whose name appears on the mailing label must sign the return envelope. The signature will be compared to the signature we have on record for verification. If there is an issue with a signature, the voter will be contacted and will have the opportunity to cure the discrepancy.

What if a deceased family member receives a ballot in the mail?

Voter registration records are verified daily with a report generated through the State Office of Vital Records and Statistics. If your household receives a ballot for a deceased family member, please contact our office to find out how to cancel the deceased voter's registration record.

I received a ballot for someone who no longer lives here. What should I do with it?

Although our office diligently works to ensure our voter registration database is current, we are not always notified when a voter moves. If you receive a ballot for someone who no longer lives at your address, please write "no longer at this address" and return it to the post office.

I received a ballot but have a condition that limits my ability to vote the ballot and/or sign the envelope. How do I make sure my ballot will count?

A voter who has a physical disability, is at least 65 years of age or is unable to read or write may receive assistance marking and signing their ballot. The person who marks and signs a mail ballot on behalf of a voter must indicate next to his or her signature that the mail ballot has been marked and signed on behalf of the voter. The person assisting is also required to submit a written statement that includes their name, address and signature.

If a voter requests a replacement ballot, what happens to the record of the original ballot? What if a voter returns both voted ballots?

Before processing a replacement ballot, our office cancels the original ballot. This is a required security measure within our voter registration system. If a voter returns a second voted ballot, our system will notify us that a ballot has already been received from this voter.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND QUESTION:

Shall Elko County School District, Nevada, be authorized to issue up to \$150,000,000 of general obligation bonds, in one series or more, for the purpose of financing the acquisition, construction, improvement and equipping of school facilities? Each series of bonds is expected to require a property tax levy for up to 21 years. Due to the expiration of the District's capital projects property tax rate of 75 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation on June 30, 2022 and any property tax levy to repay the bonds not commencing until fiscal year 2023, passage of this question is not expected to result in an increase in the existing property tax rate levied by the District for capital projects, and will not result in an increase in the property taxes that the owner of a new \$100,000 home will pay.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Explanation:

A “yes” vote would permit the Board of Trustees of Elko County School District (the “District”), to issue up to \$150,000,000 of general obligation bonds. The proceeds of the bonds will be used by the District to finance the acquisition, construction, improvement and equipping of school facilities in accordance with NRS 387.355. The question does not add to, change, or repeal any existing laws. If the question is approved by the voters, the question will generate public revenue for use in paying debt service on bonds issued by the District pursuant to this question. The property tax rate to be levied to repay the bonds is expected to be \$0.50 per \$100 of assessed valuation during the term of the bonds, which cannot exceed 21 years for each series of bonds.

A “no” vote would prevent the District from issuing general obligation bonds for these purposes at this time.

Arguments For the Bonds:

The Elko County School District (the “District”) has ongoing needs for infrastructure to accommodate enrollment growth and make required improvements to facilities. With the expiration of the \$.75 Pay-As-You-Go tax

rate, the bonds will help with these needs. The bond proposal would allow the District to issue up to \$150,000,000 of general obligation bonds for a 10-year capital plan at a tax rate of \$.50 which is \$.25 lower than currently assessed. The capital plan includes projects of various types at Elko, Spring Creek, Wells, Wendover, Owyhee, and Jackpot (e.g., new buildings and remodels, roof replacements, classroom additions, ADA and safety upgrades, and retrofits to ventilation, heating, plumbing, and electrical systems.)

The bonds would not be issued all at one time allowing flexibility to define specific project(s) based on need that would be approved by the School Board after public meetings. Authorization for issuance of the total amount of the bonds (150 million) will expire in six years. Any additional funding will require another vote. If federal infrastructure money is made available for some planned projects, it may not be necessary to issue the full authorized amount.

In contrast to Pay-As-You-Go, bonding has an advantage of providing upfront funding for projects. Instead of waiting to accumulate enough to start a project, construction can begin upon bond issuance, possibly reducing costs by moderating the impact of inflation, which is likely to be extreme in the next decade.

If the proposal is not passed, overall tax rates are unlikely to decrease significantly because other taxing entities may use the room under the tax cap to increase their own revenues. If this happens, it is possible that insufficient tax rate will be available for the District to fund capital projects. This could result in the capital needs of the District being severely underfunded for years.

Due to the expiration of the Pay-As-You-Go tax, this proposal will free up \$.25 of potential tax rate assessment for use by other Elko County political entities.

The District is, geographically, the fourth largest school district in the country. This creates needs and expenses beyond those experienced by many other districts. It requires a substantial transportation infrastructure and expenses; it requires facilities in many different places without economy of scale.

The health and welfare of our society and our children depend on us to provide quality education in adequate facilities.

Arguments Against the Bonds:

Overview: “Pay-As-You-Go” was voted down by 58%. This bond will cost an additional \$41,433,760 just in interest. There is historically poor management with no transparency or oversight. This money will not be used to improve students’

education. More buildings require more maintenance, which comes from the general fund.

In the November 2020 election, the Capital Projects Tax or “Pay-As-You-Go” ballot question for Elko County Schools was voted down by 58.83% of voters. From its inception in 1986 through April 2020 it generated a total of \$251,583,835, which is more than enough to pay for needed buildings.

Now the School Board seeks to extend this property tax levy with a bond or series of bonds for \$150,000,000 plus anticipated interest of \$41,433,760. “Pay-As-You-Go” had no interest. The bonds can only be issued for 6 years but taxpayers will pay up to 21 years.

One huge problem is that the School Board, which by state law must use the bond for capital building projects, has not specifically identified how they plan to spend the money. Transparency is a huge issue. The bond will generate an immense sum of taxpayer money which the School Board can use as they like. There is minimal citizen oversight regarding the priorities concerning which project is funded. The School Board previously has been non-responsive to parents’ and taxpayers’ concerns.

The District has used the “Pay-As-You-Go” irresponsibly; for example, they built a new auditorium for Elko High School, which seats less than the Convention Center, but cost \$21,000,000. Instead, the Convention Center auditorium use averaged just over \$9,000 yearly. This is wasteful and unnecessary spending. Most of the trailers at numerous Elko County Schools are over 20 years old. No effort has been made to replace them with brick-and-mortar buildings.

Schools in Nevada, including Elko County, consistently rank near the bottom in education nationally. This money will not be used to improve the quality of education, academics or achievement of our children because it cannot be used for books, supplies, teacher training or salaries. This bond can only be used for large new construction projects. It cannot be used for maintaining current buildings. More buildings will require more maintenance, which would come from the District’s general fund depleting funds for education. Taxpayers want better education not bigger buildings. Vote no.

Rebuttal to the Arguments Against the Bonds:

It is not possible to maintain and operate a large school district without ongoing capital and, without the ability to issue bonds, the needs will be severely underfunded. Pay-As-You-Go was implemented at a time of very high interest

rates and low inflation. Circumstances are now very different, and bonding is more appropriate. Over the next decade inflation will increase construction costs so rapidly that beginning construction when a bond is issued will save more than the cost of the interest.

Over the last 34 years the District completed many projects with Pay-As-You-Go to address the growth and replacement of assets for permanent classrooms. Some of these accomplishments included the construction of Spring Creek High School, Sage Elementary School, Liberty Peak, Adobe Middle School, Mountain View Elementary, Spring Creek Middle School, Southside School Gym, an expansion at Northside Elementary, and other projects throughout Elko County. During this period the population of Elko County has more than doubled and the school enrollment has grown proportionately. The District did recently construct a new auditorium for Elko High School, which was the follow through of a commitment in 2010. This was one of the many accomplishments of Pay-As-You-Go.

For clarification, there are legal limits on what the District can utilize the bonds for. This bond proposal allows the District to issue bonds up to \$150,000,000 to complete various capital projects, not just new buildings. The District has adopted, in public meetings, a capital project plan that includes new construction and remodels, roof replacements, classroom additions, ADA and safety upgrades, retrofits to ventilation, heating, plumbing and electrical systems. New construction, replacement and upgrades will reduce maintenance costs in most cases.

The Board meets two times per month in a public forum subject to the open meeting laws of the State of Nevada. An agenda is posted in advance of the meeting and any member of the public is welcome to attend. Every decision made by the Board, including capital projects, is discussed openly at the meetings, and public input is encouraged.

Rebuttal to the Arguments For the Bonds:

All is not lost if this bond fails. Elko County will be able to receive taxes up to the remaining tax cap. This would allow an inter-local agreement between the County and the District. The County Commission could elect to supply the District with funding without the limitation of time constraints or interest fees, and it would go through a more transparent and accountable process, as opposed to the vague proposal which states, "The capital plan includes projects of various types." This statement confirms there is no announced plan with specified priorities for spending our tax dollars.

Taxpayers will be paying for up to 21 years for the District's 10-year capital plan. There will be zero new funding for years 7 through 21 under this bond issue. If the District uses the \$150 million bonding capacity in the first 6 years, the District will have no access to capital funds during the subsequent 7-21 years taking us to the year 2043.

If more property tax is collected than needed to pay for the interest on the bond, the extra money must be spent or the District must give up some of the tax. History shows that governments do not easily give up taxes, so it is likely the District will spend the money quickly. This could lead to irresponsible, poorly planned projects; for instance, instead of providing regular maintenance, the District currently has opted to replace entire Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning systems using capital funds.

Elko County citizens have traditionally been opposed to accepting federal monies. Why would we now depend on federal infrastructure funding to bail out our District? Nonetheless, the issue of federal monies is irrelevant to this bond proposal.

The Nevada State Demographer has projected minimal population growth for Elko County for the next 5 years and then an actual decrease in population for the next 12 years. This means that we don't need more school buildings. What we do need is better education for our children.

Additional Information:

The purpose of the proposed bonds is to acquire, construct, improve and equip school facilities of the District.

Description of Anticipated Financial Effect:

If the assessed value of property in the District decreases, approval of the question could require a property tax rate within the District greater than the property tax rate which has been projected by the District as needed to repay the bonds. The maximum term of each series of the bonds is 21 years, and the Board of Trustees expects that each series of bonds will have an anticipated interest rate between 1.35% and 2.90%. The maximum aggregate principal amount of the bonds is \$150,000,000 and total interest cost is anticipated to be approximately \$41,433,760. The District's capital projects property tax rate of 75 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation (the "Capital Projects Tax") will expire on June 30, 2022.

Subject to voter approval of this proposal, the District expects to levy 50 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation beginning in fiscal year 2023 to repay the bonds. As a result, approval of the bond proposal will result in a lower tax rate levy by the District. The cost of the bonds to the owner of a new home with a taxable value of \$100,000 is estimated to be \$175 per year, which is less than the cost of \$262.50 to the owner of a new home with a taxable value of \$100,000 for the expiring Capital Projects Tax. The estimated annual operation, maintenance and repair costs of the facilities expected to be financed with the bonds are estimated to average \$8.64 per square foot. These are normal operation, maintenance and repair costs that will be paid from the District's general operating budget and are not expected to affect the tax rate. The Board expects that all future costs (other than bond payments) in relation to the purposes for which the bonds are to be issued, will be paid from other revenues of the District. There are no requirements relating to the bond proposal which are imposed pursuant to a court order or federal or state statute.

COUNTY BALLOT QUESTION

COUNTY QUESTION

Elko County School District
General Obligation Bond Question

Shall Elko County School District, Nevada, be authorized to issue up to \$150,000,000 of general obligation bonds, in one series or more, for the purpose of financing the acquisition, construction, improvement and equipping of school facilities? Each series of bonds is expected to require a property tax levy for up to 21 years. Due to the expiration of the District's capital projects property tax rate of 75 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation on June 30, 2022 and any property tax levy to repay the bonds not commencing until fiscal year 2023, passage of this question is not expected to result in an increase in the existing property tax rate levied by the District for capital projects, and will not result in an increase in the property taxes that the owner of a new \$100,000 home will pay.

YES

☐

NO

☐

NOTES

VOTE



*YOUR VOTE
MAKES A
DIFFERENCE*

KRISTINE JAKEMAN
ELKO COUNTY CLERK
550 COURT STREET
THIRD FLOOR
ELKO, NEVADA 89801-3518



NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
RENO, NV
PERMIT NO. 931

S1

Please bring your sample ballot when you go to the polls.

EARLY VOTING

Early voting is available at the Elko County Library located at 720 Court Street, Elko, Nevada. Hours for early voting are:

November 27 (Saturday)	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
November 29 – December 3 (Mon.-Fri.)	8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
December 4 (Saturday)	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
December 6 – 10 (Mon.-Fri.)	8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



***POLLING PLACE IS ACCESSIBLE
TO VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES***

NRS 293.780 Voting more than once at the same election. A person who is entitled to vote shall not vote or attempt to vote more than once at the same election. Any person who votes or attempts to vote twice at the same election is guilty of a Category D felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130.