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Media Release

District One Governing Board Approves a \$77 million Bond Measure for November Ballot

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YUMA, AZ - Yuma Elementary School District One will hold a Special Bond Election on November 5, 2024 for a \$77 million bond measure to improve District One school facilities. At the monthly meeting on June 11th, Governing Board members voted to approve placing a general obligation bond question on the November ballot.

If approved by voters, bond funds would be used to make capital improvements at school facilities across the district. Spaces with the most need will be prioritized, with a goal to positively impact every District One school in some way. Areas of focus include:

- Improving school safety
- Revitalizing aging facilities
- Creating future-ready learning spaces focused on S.T.E.A.M., innovation, and collaboration
- Providing accessible and engaging learning spaces for students with special needs.

“We’re experiencing an increase in opportunities for programs that give kids job skills, hands-on experience, and the ability to explore careers,” stated James Sheldahl, District One Superintendent. “To prepare our students for success in a 21st century workplace, it’s important that we have facilities that match the needs that 21st century industries require. Our goal is to revitalize spaces with the most need to create innovative, collaborative, and accessible learning spaces for future-ready students.”

From 2009 through 2022, the State of Arizona cut capital funding to public schools below the level legally required by the funding formula. The amount District One was underfunded during this time totalled \$25 million. With significant underfunding, many projects were paused, or deferred. For the past two years, District One personnel have been assessing the condition of school facilities and identifying the needs for capital improvement throughout the District. The process has resulted in the recommendation to the Board to seek revenue through a special bond election, which they approved.

Bond debt is paid for through property taxes. A \$77 million bond would raise property taxes for homeowners in Yuma by approximately \$3.63 per month, or \$0.12 per day, for a home with an assessed value (not retail value) of \$100,000.

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