

With Early Voting well underway, this Saturday May 7th, the school district's voters will decide to vote "For" or "Against" the Sabinal ISD Proposition A (Supplement Bond). The ballot item reads: *"The Issuance of \$4,500,000 of bonds by the Sabinal Independent School District for an event center combining an auditorium and an gymnasium, and Levying a Tax Payment thereof. This is a Property Tax Increase."*

According to the Event Center Cost and Tax Fact Information Sheet, Last year in May 2021 voters approved the original bond for \$6,950,000.

Voter's may be asking why the additional bond is needed by the school district for the Events Center.

" Breaking ground for the Event Center was originally slated for Fall 2021, The project came to an unexpected pause due to drastic inflation. The annual rate of inflation in the United States hit 6.2% in October 2021 and accelerated to 7.5% in January 2022, the highest since February 1982 as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

As a result, construction materials and labor costs skyrocketed, creating the need for a supplemental bond package. The estimated 2021 budget for the Events Center is not sufficient to fund the project as the entire project is now over budget approximately \$4.5 million. The original budget was set at an estimated 6.95 million."- Sabinal ISD Updates the Community on New Event's Center

According to Grill, " We have decreased the square footage and types of building materials and still did not get the project into budget, so we will need to drastically reduce the cost further, resulting in a facility that is much different than what the voters have already approved."

According to Grill, it has been suggested that Sabinal ISD hold the bond money and delay construction until construction and labor prices stabilize. Grill said, Waiting for a better time to proceed with construction is not an option. According to TEA rules, once a bond measure passes, there is a limited amount of time for construction to begin.

The Case for the Event Center

"The current gym was built with the high school in 1951, and seats 223; often we exceed the capacity and could be considered a safety issue.

The current stage in the gym is the only stage in our district, and is about half the size of a UIL regulation stage for performing arts.

The facility is on 6" concrete piers, which by today's building standards are not adequate. We replaced the original gym floor six years ago due to termite infestation.

When the flooring company installed the new floor, we learned that the current gym is slightly under UIL regulations for basketball.

All four walls are load bearing, thus cannot be expanded without major expense; and is not practical given its age." Grill said.

Additionally the Event's Center will provide a covered viewing area near the new quarter-mile track and feature restrooms which can be accessed from outside of the building adding a security measure for the rest of the building.

Potential Economic Benefit to Sabinal

Grill said that the new Event Center will allow the district to host UIL events where other schools would come to compete in Sabinal. Parents and family members often accompany students coming to compete from other schools. Since there are often long breaks between when their child will be playing at a tournament or other competitive event, those visiting spectators will likely go into town to shop or look for a place to eat lunch.