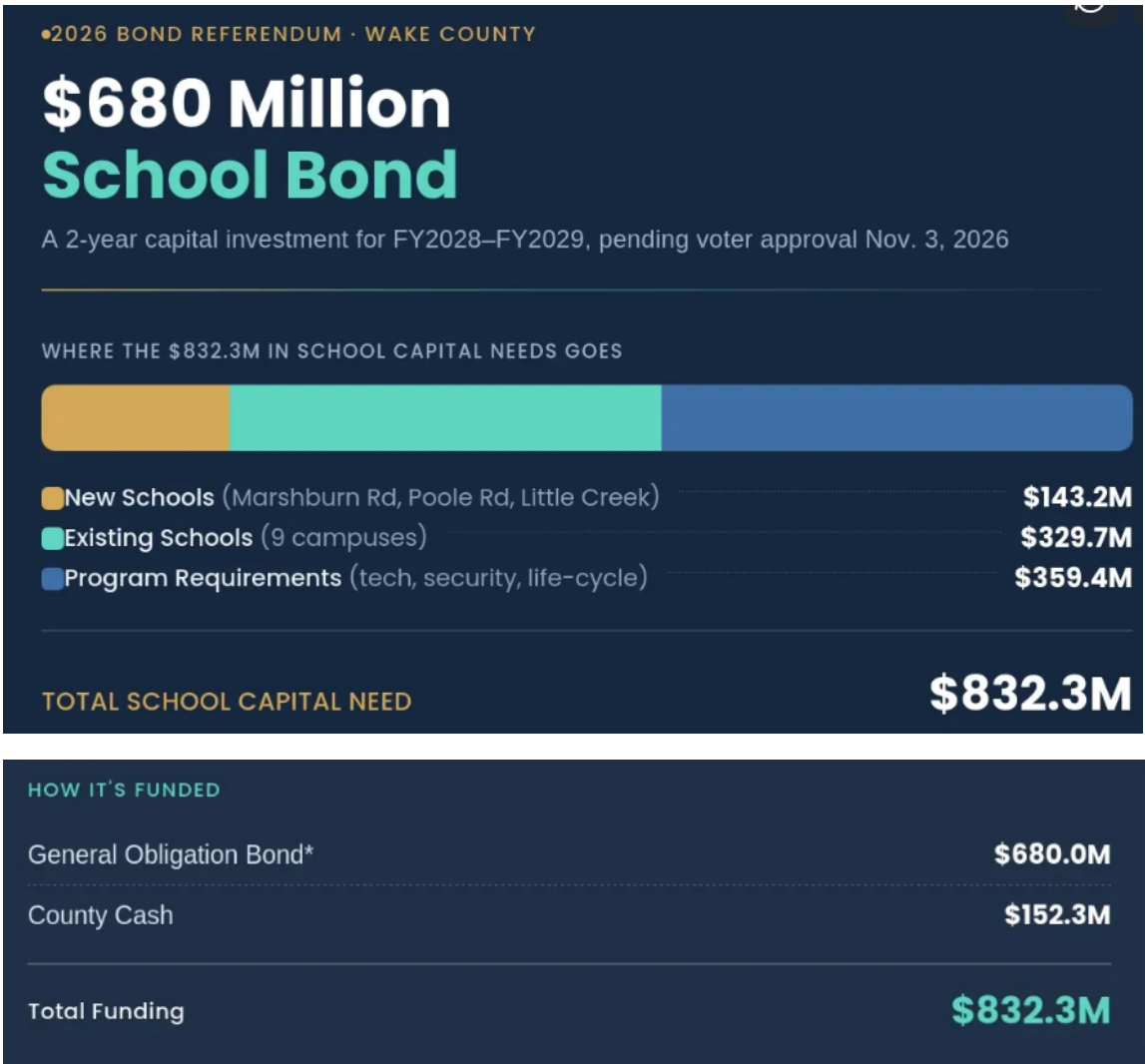


Wake School Bonds



New schools in eastern Wake

Enrollment growth has slowed, to the point where Wake joined most of North Carolina’s school districts in losing students this school year. Wake is now only projecting to add 2,633 more students over the next decade. But planners say there are still pockets of growth in areas such as eastern Wake. Two of the new schools that would at least be partially funded by the bond are **Marshburn Road Elementary in Lizard Lick** and **Little Creek Elementary in Zebulon**. The bond would also pay for the construction of the long-delayed **Poole Road Elementary** in Southeast Raleigh.

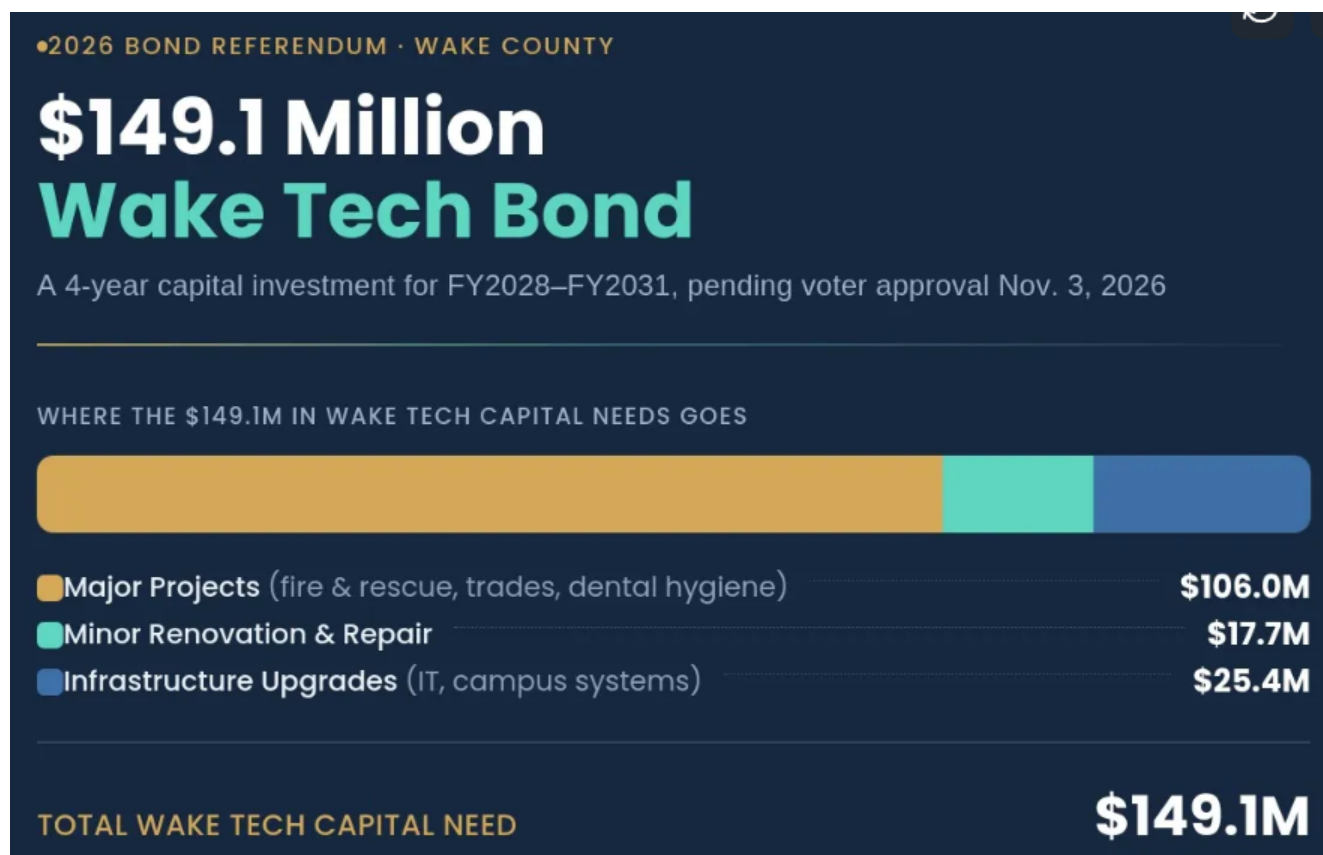
Increasing bond focus on renovations

Planners say the slower growth means that the district can spend more resources on renovations in this bond issue. Of the \$832.3 million that would be spent over two years, \$329.7 million would go to eight major renovations, compared to \$143.2 million for the three new schools. Of the remaining \$359.4 million in what Wake calls program requirements, a portion would go to pay for smaller renovation projections as well as replacing aging furniture and equipment at existing schools.

The eight major renovations in the bond are:

- Raleigh Athens Drive High Ligon Middle Washington Elementary Ligon Middle
- Cary Cary High School Briarcliff Elementary

The Ligon project is the most expensive of the renovations. The school board recently approved a plan to demolish Ligon’s historic building and replace it with a new building on the site of the current ball fields.



Wake Tech’s portion of the referendum would support renovations across its campuses, construction of a fire and rescue training facility, expanded skilled-trades and automotive instructional space, dental hygiene program improvements, a new academic building, a parking deck and additional infrastructure and safety upgrades.

What is a general obligation bond?

School districts in North Carolina cannot raise capital funds on their own, so counties are responsible for school construction funding. General obligation bonds allow counties to borrow money for major projects and repay that debt over time at a favorable interest rate. Issuing bonds is often the cheapest option for funding capital projects.

<https://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/education/article315324969.html#storylink=cpy>

<https://www.hollyspringsupdate.com/p/wake-county-nc-voters-to-decide-829>

<https://www.wcpss.net/about-us/school-facilities/design-and-construction/school-bond-2026>