Sumner's Bond Cost Ad Explained

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Table of Contents

Summary	1
Bond cost to taxpayers as represented by the school district	
Bond cost to taxpayers as calculated by the authors	
Historical and projected tax rates for local school taxes	
Projected tax rate for the 2020 bond.	
Projected AV growth by the district	

Summary

Problems with Sumner's advertisement:

- 1. The district is comparing all local school tax rates between just 2 years: 2020 and 2021. All local school taxes include Prev Debt, Tech Levy, Operations Levy, and the 2020 Bond. That is how they calculated the 45 cents per \$1,000 assessed value. See Fig 1 and Fig 3. They designed their own AV growth projections for 2021 and beyond to give the appearance of a flat tax rate for 2021 through 2028.
- 2. The tax rate for just the 2020 bond is never 45 cents per \$1,000 AV. See Fig 4.
- 3. The district failed to mention the 3+% AV growth each year they are assuming through 2042 which is how long taxpayers are expected to be paying for this one bond. A constant tax rate applied to increasing home values results in higher taxes that taxpayers must pay.

Bond cost to taxpayers as represented by the school district



Fig 1

Bond cost to taxpayers as calculated by the authors

Sumner: Projected school tax collection for the 2020 bond On a home with an assessed value of \$300,000 as of 2020 Total: \$9,505

Average per year: \$432 for 22 years

\$800
\$700
\$500
\$400
\$300
\$200
\$100

Source: Sumner School District bond/levy datasheet; Graphics: JH

\$0

Fig 2

Historical and projected tax rates for local school taxes

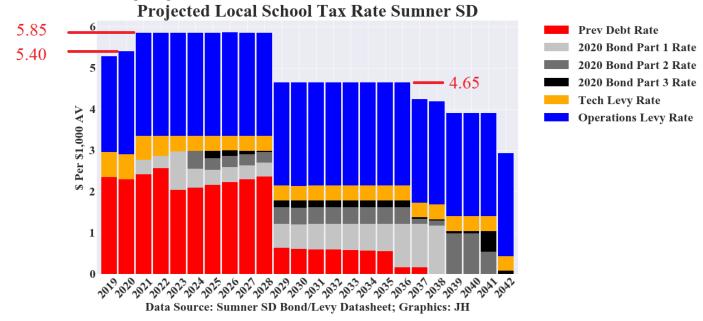


Fig 3

Projected tax rate for the 2020 bond

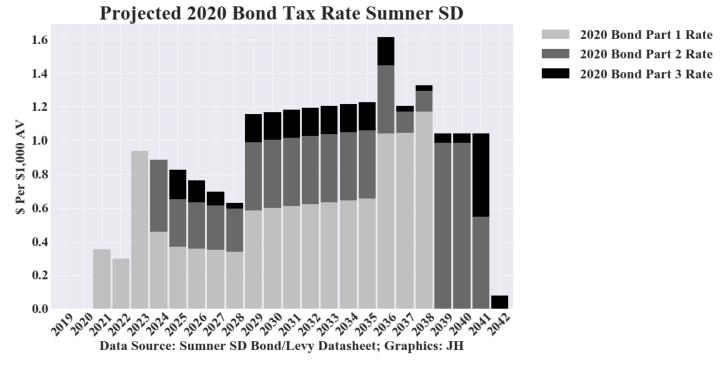


Fig 4

Projected AV growth by the district

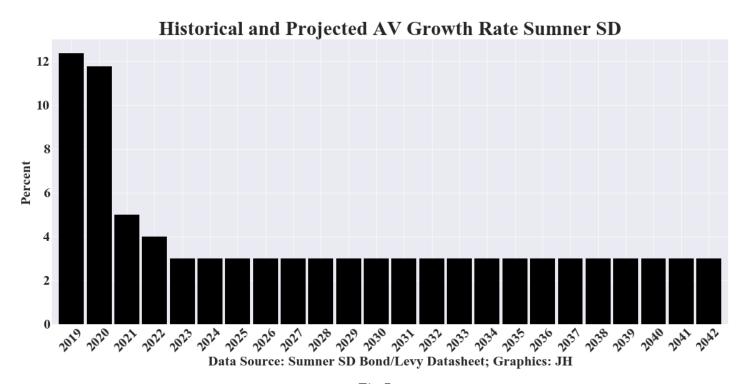


Fig 5