

Bond Graphic Story Script

Characters-

Joe (Father) is a money-conscious family man, who cares about his daughter's well-being, but also cares about knowing what his money is going towards.

Sofia (Daughter) is a politically-minded junior in high school, and cares about knowing what's going on in her community. She cares about the bond, because her school is ranked low in utilities whenever they're inspected.

Setting-

Kitchen of a middle-class home.

(Note: Almost no panel borders- use as "anchors" to draw eye to focal points, and show gravity of situation)

Panel 1-

Sofia is lying on couch next to front door, her backpack on the ground next to her.

(Joe enters through front door reading flyer, sour expression on face)

S: What's that, Dad?

J: A flyer about the Austin ISD Bond.

Panel 2 (BORDER)

S: What's wrong?

J: I'm just concerned about it.

Panel 3 (BORDER)

(Sofia pulls spiral notebook out of bag)

S: I actually learned about the bond in class today!

J: Really? What can you tell me?

Panel 4

(Sofia stands up, as if making a formal presentation, and starts reading)

S: Well, for starters, the bond is being proposed because the school district's budget for maintenance and operations makes it difficult to keep up with repairs.

Panel 5 (BORDER)

J: How is that possible? What in the world are my tax dollars going towards?!

(Excited, pointing at Joe)

S: That's the thing, Dad! Did you know that this government program called "Recapture" takes around 53% of local maintenance property tax dollars.?

Panel 6

J: Recapture? What on earth is that?

S: It's also called the "Robin Hood" plan. Basically, the state takes money from property-rich school districts and gives it to property-poor ones.

(Communicate through icons; Sofia moves from one hand to the next to represent this, display half a dollar being split between buildings above her, in symbols)

Panel 7

(Symbology remains)

J: So more than half of the dollars I'm paying towards Austin ISD aren't staying in the district? **S:** Exactly.

Panel 8

(Symbols poof away)

S: But the interesting thing about bond funds is that they aren't subject to recapture!

J: So all of the money can be used by the district?

Panel 9

S: Yep! And they can modernize the schools using all of that money.

Panel 10 (BORDER)

(Joe holds up hands, "stop, stop" motion)

J: Now hold on, honey. That's where you lose me. Why would we build new schools? Can't they just do repairs?

Panel 11

(Green plus sign above Sofia's head)

S: Well, the district's goal with the bond is to extend the life of schools, and doing patch repairs puts more money into old systems that will likely need more work in the future.

J: Oh, and new buildings don't cost much to repair!

Panel 12

S: Right! Plus, they come with other benefits, like lower energy costs, improved security features and flexible learning spaces.

J: Okay, I think I get what you're saying.

Panel 13 (BORDER)

(Symbolic school building being worked on by a hammer and screwdriver)

S: By using the bond to pay for big renovations and upgrades of the campus, the district may be able to avoid spending money in the future on all of the repairs that come up day-to-day.

Panel 14

(Hammer and screwdriver gone, school building looks repaired, and half of the dollar from earlier is going towards a symbolic teacher)

S: That would mean they're left with more of the maintenance and operations budget after recapture to help pay for salary raises, supplies, etc!

Panel 15

J: That's great, but won't it raise my property taxes? I'm already paying so much.'

(Pinching her fingers in the air)

S: Ooh! Fun fact; Austin ISD has one of the lowest tax rates in our region.

Panel 16 (BORDER)

(Addition problem in air: Interest and sinking +1, maintenance and operations -10.5 = -9.5)

S: And yes, the bond would mean a 1 cent "interest and sinking" tax rate increase, but the "maintenance and operations" tax rate is getting a 10.5 cent reduction by trustees over the next two years, which means you would actually be seeing a 9.5 cent *decrease* in your tax rate, overall!

Panel 17

J: Wow, honey. I didn't know any of that. They really taught you that in school?
(Plops back down into chair next to Joe)

S: Yeah! We can look at the aisdfuture.com website to learn more facts.

Panel 18 (BORDER)

J: Let's check it out then.

(Sofia grabs her laptop, sits next to Joe and types www.aisdfuture.com)

(Zoom on laptop screen to show website)