



\$112 Million Bond Issue

71 Percent Voter Approval

**2025 Bond Issue Proposal:
From Feedback to Progress**

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Bennington Public Schools

11620 N. 156th Street
Bennington, NE 68007

Enrollment: 4,427 students
Employees: 570 staff members
Communications Staff: 1

NSPRA Gold Medallion Award Entry

Bond/Finance Campaign

2025 Bond Issue Proposal: From Feedback to Progress



SYNOPSIS

In March 2025, voters in Bennington Public Schools (BPS) approved a \$112 million bond issue with 71 percent support to construct a second high school. This was the third attempt to pass a bond issue that included the second high school.

BPS is one of the fastest-growing school districts in Nebraska, serving approximately 4,400 students across one preschool, five elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school. Current enrollment trends and demographic projections have indicated that an additional high school would be needed. In response, the district developed a proposal to construct a second high school to support current and future student enrollment and maintain high-quality learning environments.

The district's first attempt in November 2022 failed with 33 percent voter approval. After gathering community feedback, a revised proposal was presented to voters in March 2024 but failed by 178 votes. Following the second attempt, the district again collected community input and refined the proposal ahead of the March 2025 special election.

The 2025 Bond Issue Proposal: From Feedback to Progress informational campaign was developed to ensure the community had access to clear, accurate information about the proposal. After two previous bond attempts, district leadership recognized the importance of strengthening transparency, providing data about enrollment growth and facility capacity, and creating multiple opportunities for community members to learn about the proposal and ask questions.

Guided by the four-step strategic communication process of RPIE, the district developed a comprehensive communication plan. Research included enrollment projections, analysis of previous election data, feedback gathered through community conversations, surveys, and advisory groups. These insights helped identify common questions and informed the development of clear, consistent messaging. The campaign was led by a one-person communications office that worked collaboratively with district leadership to ensure accurate, consistent information was shared with the community. Communication efforts included community presentations, district newsletters, mailed postcards, a dedicated webpage, social media updates, and direct communication with voters.

Through this strategic and transparent communication approach, the district ensured stakeholders had multiple opportunities to access information and participate in the election process, resulting in strong community support for the district.



RESEARCH

The communication strategy for the 2025 Bond Issue Proposal: From Feedback to Progress was grounded in a comprehensive research process designed to understand community perspectives, identify information gaps, and guide development of an effective informational communication plan. Both quantitative and qualitative research methods were used to ensure communication efforts addressed community questions and priorities.



Enrollment and Facility Data

Bennington Public Schools has experienced steady enrollment growth over the past decade. District demographic studies and enrollment projections indicated continued growth that would exceed the capacity of the existing high school within the next two years. Facility planning studies conducted by the district and external partners confirmed the need for additional high school space to support current and future students.



Community Feedback from Previous Bond Attempts

Two previous bond attempts provided important insight into community concerns and information gaps. The first attempt in November 2022 indicated the need for greater awareness of the proposal and a better understanding of the district's financial capacity to fund the bond. The second attempt in March 2024 demonstrated that while support had increased, additional community input and communication refinement were necessary.

Following both attempts, the district intentionally gathered feedback from residents to better understand questions related to enrollment growth, project scope, and financial impact through surveys, community conversations, public forums, and advisory group discussions. This feedback directly influenced the development of the 2025 proposal and the communication strategy supporting the informational campaign.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

**PROPOSED BOND ISSUE
COMMUNITY FORUM**

TUESDAY JULY 19TH	THURSDAY JULY 21ST	MONDAY JULY 25TH
Bennington High School • 11610 Bennington Road • 6 to 7:30 P.M.		

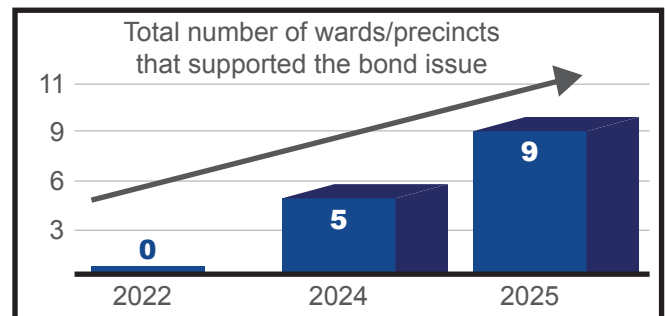
For more information on the Proposed Bond Issue, visit: www.benningtonschools.org/bond_issue



Election Data Analysis

The district conducted an analysis of voter participation and election results from the March 2024 election to better understand community engagement and identify opportunities to improve informational outreach.

Research focused on identifying who was participating in the election, including voter turnout among parents, staff members, and community residents. Election results were also reviewed by ward and precinct to better understand voting patterns across the district.



Research Findings

Research findings highlighted three key priorities for the communication plan:

- Provide clear data explaining enrollment growth and facility capacity needs
- Increase transparency around the scope, purpose, and financial impact of the proposal
- Create multiple opportunities for community members to ask questions and receive factual information

These findings directly informed the communication plan and messaging strategy for the 2025 informational campaign and guided the development of the district's strategic communication plan, outlined in the Planning section.

PLANNING

Findings from the research phase directly informed the development of the strategic communication plan for the 2025 Bond Issue Proposal: From Feedback to Progress informational campaign. The planning process focused on ensuring community members had access to clear, factual information about the proposal while providing multiple opportunities for residents to learn about the project and participate in the election process.

Situational Analysis

Historically, Bennington Public Schools has placed a bond proposal before voters approximately every two years to address district growth and facility needs. The most recent successful bond issue was passed in 2020. A bond proposal presented in November 2022 was unsuccessful, and a revised proposal presented in March 2024 narrowly failed by 178 votes.

GOAL

The primary goal of the informational campaign was to provide factual information to all target audiences in order to achieve 60 percent voter approval or greater for the \$112 million bond proposal.



Objectives

To support this goal, the district established the following objectives:

- Develop a bond proposal that **reflects the facility needs** of the district and incorporates feedback gathered through surveys, community meetings, and advisory group discussions prior to the March 2025 election.
- Utilize research findings, including election data, surveys, and community feedback, to **guide the development of the communication plan and informational messaging**.
- Provide factual information about the bond proposal through multiple communication channels with the goal of **achieving at least 45 percent voter turnout** in the March 2025 special election.
- Inform the community of the key components of the bond proposal through clear and consistent messaging in order to **achieve a minimum of 51 percent voter approval**.
- Provide factual information about the bond proposal across multiple communication platforms so that all registered voters **receive information about the proposal at least three times** prior to the election.
- Provide factual information about the bond proposal to parents and guardians through district and school communication channels so that parents **receive information about the proposal at least seven times** prior to the election.
- **Increase employee knowledge of the bond proposal** by providing informational resources and presentations so that district administrators and building leaders can accurately answer common questions from families and community members.



Target Audiences

The communication plan was designed to reach a broad cross-section of the community.

Key audiences included:

- Parents and guardians of current students
- District staff members
- Registered voters and community residents
- Local business and civic leaders
- Senior citizens and long-time community members



Key Messages

Based on research findings and community feedback, the district developed consistent key messages to guide communication materials. These messages focused on providing factual information about:

- The continued enrollment growth in Bennington Public Schools
- The need for additional high school capacity within the next two years
- Expanding opportunities for students through enhanced Career and Technical Education programs
- The financial impact of the proposal and the district's plan to responsibly manage the bond repayment
- The details of the March 2025 election and voting process



Communication Strategies

To effectively reach stakeholders, the district implemented a multi-channel communication strategy designed to provide information through both digital and in-person opportunities.

Strategies included:

- Providing clear and consistent messaging across all communication platforms
- Reaching registered voters multiple times through a variety of communication channels
- Communicating with parents and families through school and district communication systems
- Prioritizing face-to-face meetings and community presentations to provide factual information and answer questions
- Reinforcing key messages through repetition across multiple communication platforms
- Utilizing district and school social media channels to increase engagement
- Sharing stories and visual content through photos and video to help communicate district needs

Because the communications department consists of a one-person office, the planning process included identifying ways to leverage district leadership, administrators, and staff to expand communication outreach and ensure consistent messaging across schools and community interactions. This approach created a clear roadmap for the informational campaign and ensured communication efforts were coordinated, consistent, and accessible to all stakeholders.

IMPLEMENTATION

The 2025 Bond Issue Proposal: From Feedback to Progress informational campaign was implemented through a coordinated, multi-channel communication effort designed to provide community members with clear, factual information about the proposal and the March 2025 election. Strategies identified during the planning phase were executed through direct communication, digital outreach, printed materials, media engagement, and in-person community meetings.



Leadership and Coordination

The campaign was coordinated by the district's one-person communications office, working collaboratively with the superintendent, district leadership team, school administrators, and staff members. Key leaders helped extend the district's communication reach by presenting information at meetings, responding to questions from stakeholders, and reinforcing consistent messaging across schools and community interactions. Over the course of the campaign, the district implemented dozens of communication tactics, including community presentations, direct mail, digital communication, media outreach, and school-based engagement opportunities.



Community Engagement

Face-to-face engagement was a central component of the campaign strategy. District leaders conducted numerous presentations and informational meetings to provide an overview of the proposal and answer questions from residents.

These presentations were delivered at:

- Community informational meetings
- Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) meetings
- Homeowner Association (HOA) meetings
- Local civic and community organization gatherings

These conversations provided opportunities for two-way dialogue and allowed community members to hear directly from district leaders about enrollment growth, facility needs, and the details of the proposal.



Direct Communication with Families and Staff

District communication platforms were used to ensure parents and employees received repeated informational updates throughout the campaign to reinforce key messages and ensure accurate information was consistently shared. Information was shared through:

- District newsletters
- School communication platforms and email messages
- Staff meetings and internal communications

These channels ensured families and employees received consistent messaging and had access to accurate information about the proposal and voting process.



Digital Communication

Digital communication tools were used to provide accessible information and reinforce key messages throughout the campaign.

Communication efforts included:

- A dedicated webpage containing information about the bond proposal
- Social media posts across district platforms
- Informational graphics, photos, and videos explaining district growth and facility needs
- Digital reminders about election dates and voting procedures

These platforms allowed stakeholders to access information at their convenience and helped extend the reach of the informational campaign.



Printed Materials and Direct Mail

Printed materials were used to ensure information reached community members who may not regularly engage with digital platforms. Five informational postcards and mailers were distributed to households within the district, providing key facts about the proposal and directing residents to additional informational resources.

In addition, large-format informational posters were printed and displayed at each school during high-attendance events, including sporting events, large school activities, parent-teacher conferences, and PTO meetings. These displays helped reinforce key messages and provided another opportunity for families and community members to access factual information about the proposal.



Media Outreach

Local media outlets were also engaged to help share factual information about the proposal and the election. News coverage and media statements helped increase community awareness and ensured residents had access to accurate information through trusted local news sources.



Message Reach

The campaign emphasized message saturation and repetition across multiple communication platforms. Through the coordinated use of digital communication, printed materials, direct mail, in-person meetings, and media outreach, the district ensured stakeholders had multiple opportunities to receive factual information about the proposal and the voting process.

This multi-channel approach allowed the district to meet its communication objectives and ensure community members had access to clear, consistent information leading up to the March 2025 election.

EVALUATION

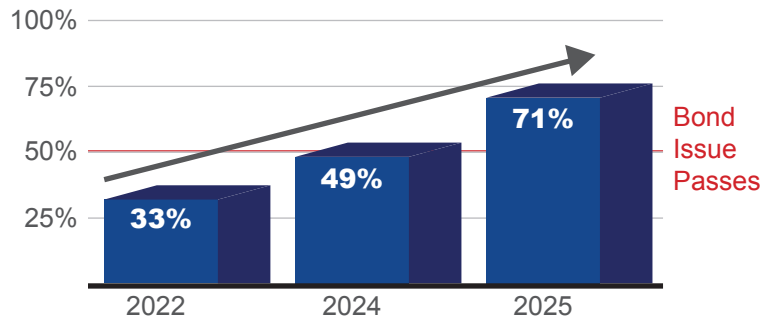
The success of the 2025 Bond Issue Proposal: From Feedback to Progress informational campaign was evaluated by measuring outcomes against the objectives established during the planning phase. Evaluation focused on voter participation, election results, communication reach, and stakeholder engagement.



Election Results

The primary measure of success was the outcome of the March 2025 special election. The \$112 million bond proposal was approved with 71 percent voter approval, significantly exceeding the campaign objective of securing at least 51 percent approval.

Community support increased steadily across the three bond elections, rising from 33 percent approval in 2022 to 49 percent in 2024 and 71 percent in 2025. This steady increase reflects the district's commitment to listening to community feedback and refining both the proposal and communication approach over time, moving the district from Feedback to Progress.



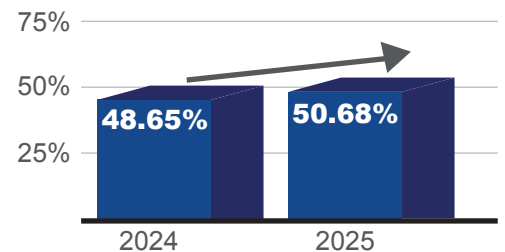
The 71 percent approval was the highest voter approval for a school bond issue in Douglas County in the past 20 years and represented a substantial increase in community support compared to previous bond attempts. This result reflects the impact of providing clear, factual information about the district's growth and facility needs.



Voter Participation

Another key objective of the campaign was to encourage community participation in the election. The communication plan established a goal of achieving at least 45 percent voter turnout in the March 2025 special election.

The final voter turnout for the election was 50.68 percent, exceeding the established objective and demonstrating strong community engagement in the decision-making process. This level of participation is notably strong for a special election.



Communication Reach

The campaign also measured success based on the reach and frequency of informational messaging across multiple communication channels.

The communication plan established the goal of ensuring registered voters received information about the proposal at least three times and parents received communication at least seven times through a variety of communication platforms. Through the use of district newsletters, direct mail, digital communication, social media, and community meetings, these communication objectives were successfully achieved.



Community Engagement

Community engagement throughout the campaign demonstrated strong interest in learning about the proposal and the district's long-term facility planning. Community meetings, presentations, and conversations with stakeholders provided opportunities for two-way dialogue and helped address questions related to enrollment growth, project scope, and financial impact.

SUMMARY

The informational communication campaign successfully met or exceeded the objectives established during the planning phase. The following summary demonstrates how each objective was achieved.

Objective: Develop a bond proposal that **reflects the facility needs** of the district and incorporates feedback gathered through surveys, community meetings, and advisory group discussions prior to the March 2025 election.

- ✓ **Success:** Community feedback gathered through surveys, public forums, and advisory group discussions informed revisions to the proposal following the 2022 and 2024 elections. These insights helped shape the final proposal presented to voters in March 2025.

Objective: Utilize research findings, including election data, surveys, and community feedback, to **guide the development of the communication plan and informational messaging**.

- ✓ **Success:** Research findings directly informed the campaign's key messages, communication strategies, and outreach efforts. Data related to enrollment growth, facility capacity, and voter participation trends helped guide the development of communication materials and engagement opportunities.

Objective: Provide factual information about the bond proposal through multiple communication channels with the goal of **achieving at least 45 percent voter turnout** in the March 2025 special election.

- ✓ **Success:** The March 2025 election **achieved 50.68 percent voter turnout**, exceeding the established objective and demonstrating strong community participation in the decision-making process.

Objective: Inform the community of the key components of the bond proposal through clear and consistent messaging in order to **achieve a minimum of 51 percent voter approval**.

- ✓ **Success:** The bond proposal was **approved with 71 percent voter approval**, significantly exceeding the established objective. This result also represents the highest voter approval for a school bond issue in Douglas County in the past 20 years.

Objective: Provide factual information about the bond proposal across multiple communication platforms so that all registered voters **receive information about the proposal at least three times** prior to the election.

- ✓ **Success:** Through the coordinated use of direct mail, community meetings, media coverage, digital communication, and social media, registered voters received repeated exposure to factual information about the proposal and the election process. **Five direct mail pieces were sent** to ensure information was received.

Objective: Provide factual information about the bond proposal to parents and guardians through district and school communication channels so that parents **receive information about the proposal at least seven times** prior to the election.

- ✓ **Success:** Parents received regular informational updates through district newsletters, school communication platforms, social media, and in-person meetings, ensuring families had multiple opportunities to access information and ask questions. **Five direct mail pieces, three dedicated emails, and weekly newsletters were sent** to reach parents and guardians.

Objective: **Increase employee knowledge of the bond proposal** by providing informational resources and presentations so that district administrators and building leaders can accurately answer common questions from families and community members.

- ✓ **Success:** District leaders and administrators shared informational resources and messaging guidance with staff, helping ensure employees were prepared to respond to questions and direct community members to accurate information about the proposal.

The success of the 2025 Bond Issue Proposal: From Feedback to Progress informational campaign demonstrates the impact of strategic communication grounded in research, transparency, and community engagement. By listening to community feedback, sharing clear and factual information, and utilizing a coordinated multi-channel communication approach, Bennington Public Schools ensured stakeholders had meaningful opportunities to learn about the proposal and participate in the decision-making process. The campaign ultimately strengthened community understanding of the district's long-term facility needs and helped secure strong voter participation and support for the future of Bennington Public Schools.

RESEARCH



Facility planning studies conducted by the district and external partners confirmed the need for additional high school space to support current and future students.

High School Enrollment



	No Growth			Historical Growth		
	# of Students	% Capacity	# Over Capacity	# of Students	% Capacity	# Over Capacity
2024-25	1,081	94.00%	-69	1,081	94.00%	-69
2025-26	1,151	100.01%	1	1,164	101.22%	14
2026-27	1,246	108.35%	96	1,294	112.52%	144
2027-28	1,307	113.65%	157	1,396	121.39%	246
2028-29	1,369	119.04%	219	1,518	132.00%	368
2029-30	1,453	126.35%	303	1,652	143.65%	502

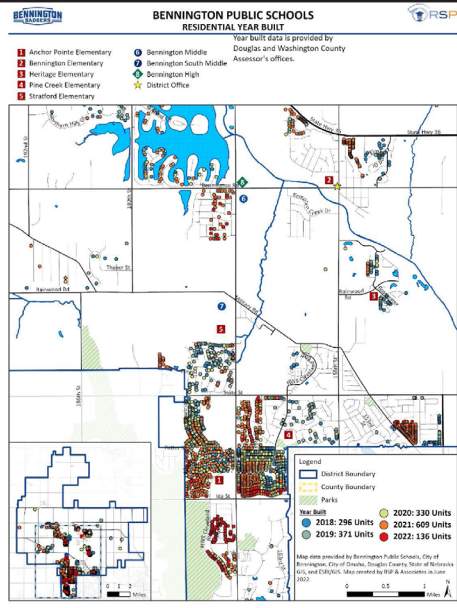
Recent Year Built Map

Map Details

- Reveals the clusters of where recent residential development has occurred
- Some new areas do not necessarily lead to similar yield rates of like developments
- Colors of dots represent a specific year according to the county assessor's office
 - Red: units built in 2022
 - Orange: units built 2021
 - Yellow: units built 2020
 - Green: units built in 2019
 - Blue: units built in 2018

Notes

- Type of housing is monitored as some planning areas (single-family or multi-family) do not necessarily lead to similar yield rates and may change from year to year
- Only partial record for 2021



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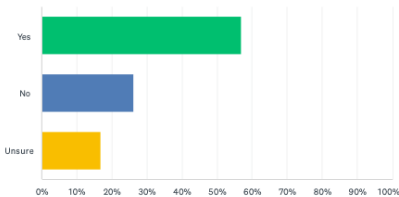


Following both attempts, the district intentionally gathered feedback from residents to better understand questions related to enrollment growth, project scope, and financial impact through surveys, community conversations, public forums, and advisory group discussions.

Potential 2024 Bond Issue Community Survey

Q10 The levy impact of the bond issue proposal to build a second high school has been reduced by 51% from the 2022 bond proposal down to 4.9 cents per \$100 in valuation. This proposal would result in a potential property tax increase of \$147 annually on a \$300,000 home (\$12.25 monthly). Knowing that, will you support such a bond issue?

Answered: 2,043 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	56.83%
No	26.24%
Unsure	16.94%
TOTAL	



We Want Your Feedback! 2024 Potential Bond Issue

Bennington Public Schools is gathering feedback on a potential bond issue for 2024. All residents in the District are asked to complete the survey and provide their feedback. The survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete. If you are not able to complete the survey online, paper copies of the survey will be available at the District Office or at each school in BPS.

The District and the Board of Education will review the results to help them in the decision making process.

All Surveys are Due by December 4, 2023

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BPS24PotentialBond>

Scan me to fill out the survey!



WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

PROPOSED BOND ISSUE COMMUNITY FORUM

TUESDAY
JULY 19TH

THURSDAY
JULY 21ST

MONDAY
JULY 25TH

Bennington High School • 11610 Bennington Road • 6 to 7:30 P.M.

Information on the Proposed Bond Issue, visit: www.benningtonschools.org/bond_issue

RESEARCH



Research focused on identifying who was participating in the election, including voter turnout among parents, staff members, and community residents. Election results were also reviewed by ward and precinct to better understand voting patterns across the district.

	Staff			Staff Family		
	Ballot Sent	Voted	Percentage	Ballot Sent	Voted	Percentage
Douglas	256	235	91.80%	72	51	70.83%
Washington	6	5	83.33%	3	0	0.00%
2024		192			124	
	Parent			Student		
	Ballot Sent	Voted	Percentage	Ballot Sent	Voted	Percentage
Douglas	3603	2337	64.86%	78	54	69.23%
Washington	28	19	67.86%	2	2	100.00%
2024		1985			39	
	Parent of Graduate			Graduate		
	Ballot Sent	Voted	Percentage	Ballot Sent	Voted	Percentage
Douglas	700	394	56.29%	704	302	42.90%
Washington	23	12	52.17%	26	15	57.69%
2024		318			232	
	Parent of Prochial/Opt Out			Prochial/Opt Out Student/Grad		
	Ballot Sent	Voted	Percentage	Ballot Sent	Voted	Percentage
Douglas	519	177	34.10%	121	39	32.23%
Washington	8	4	50.00%	1	0	0.00%
2024		123			4	
	Community Member					
	Ballot Sent	Voted	Percentage			
Douglas	6347	2694	42.45%			
Washington	156	63	40.38%			
2024		3018				

2024							2025									
WP	For	% of Vote	Against	% of Vote	Total Percent	Total Votes	Votes	Ballots Sent	Percent	WP	For	% of Vote	Against	% of Vote	Total %	Total Votes
08-12	36	45.00%	44	55.00%	66.12%	80	67	116	57.76%	08-12	33	49.25%	34	50.75%	57.76%	67
08-13	472	43.62%	610	56.38%	50.47%	1,082	1,160	2123	54.64%	08-13	783	67.15%	383	32.85%	54.92%	1,166
08-14	353	45.90%	416	54.10%	52.78%	769	741	1405	52.74%	08-14	507	68.33%	235	31.67%	52.81%	742
08-16	0		0		0.00%	0	0	1	0.00%	08-16	0		0		0.00%	0
08-17	333	52.77%	298	47.23%	39.10%	631	631	1576	40.04%	08-17	476	75.80%	152	24.20%	39.85%	628
08-18	93	50.00%	93	50.00%	32.18%	186	194	550	35.27%	08-18	154	79.38%	40	20.62%	35.27%	194
08-20	435	50.41%	428	49.59%	53.01%	863	866	1601	54.09%	08-20	650	74.97%	217	25.03%	54.15%	867
08-21	552	55.70%	439	44.30%	54.15%	991	1,083	1821	59.47%	08-21	838	77.31%	246	22.69%	59.53%	1,084
08-22	331	51.24%	315	48.76%	46.37%	646	690	1382	49.93%	08-22	514	74.17%	179	25.83%	50.14%	693
08-23	200	41.93%	277	58.07%	35.57%	477	531	1334	39.81%	08-23	329	61.84%	203	38.16%	39.88%	532
08-33	136	42.50%	184	57.50%	64.91%	320	319	489	65.24%	08-33	189	59.25%	130	40.75%	65.24%	319
08-34	0		4	100.00%	44.44%	4	2	9	22.22%	08-34	1	50.00%	1	50.00%	22.22%	2
DC Total	2,941	48.62%	3,108	51.38%	47.97%	6,049	6,284	12407	50.65%	Totals	4,474	71.08%	1,820	28.92%	50.73%	6,294



These findings directly informed the communication plan and messaging strategy for the 2025 informational campaign.

Communication Plan

Direct Mailing

At least three mailings with information mailed to every home in the district.

Website

Dedicated section created on the District website.

Community Meetings

At least three community meetings will be held. Various meetings with other community PTO's and organizations.

Signs & Flyers

Informational signs and flyers will be posted throughout the community.

Social Media

Information shared to the District Facebook page at least twice a week.

Media

Media stories with the Bennington Herald, Omaha World Herald, & Local News Stations (KETV, WOWT, KMTV)

PLANNING



The planning process focused on ensuring community members had access to clear, factual information about the proposal while providing multiple opportunities for residents to learn about the project and participate in the election process.

Communication Action Plan - Bond Issue 2025

Goal:

- Win by 60% or better a \$112 million school bond election by providing factual information to all target audiences.

Situational Analysis:

- Historically, BPS has had a bond issue every 2 years. The last successful bond issue was in 2020.
- The bond issue in 2022 failed. 33% approval
- The bond issue in 2024 failed by 178 votes.

Objectives:

- Develop a bond proposal that reflects the facility needs of the district and incorporates feedback gathered through surveys, community meetings, and advisory group discussions prior to the March 2025 election.
- Utilize research findings, including election data, surveys, and community feedback, to guide the development of the communication plan and informational messaging.
- Provide factual information about the bond proposal through multiple communication channels with the goal of achieving at least 40 percent voter turnout in the March 2025 special election.
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- Provide factual information about the bond proposal to parents and guardians through district and school communication channels so that parents receive information about the proposal at least seven times prior to the election.
- Increase employee knowledge of the bond proposal by providing informational resources and presentations so that district administrators and building leaders can accurately answer common questions from families and community members.

Key messages:

- Bond Issue Proposal Goals
 - Fairness between buildings
 - Levy impact as low as possible
 - Long term sustainability of the building
- From Feedback to Progress
 - How community feedback shaped the new proposal
- Lower the Levy Impact
- Decrease the Bond Debt
- Now is the Time... Vote!
 - Vote March 12, 2025

Week of January 13- January 19

Date	Message	What	Audience	Platform 1	Platform 2	Platform 3	Link to Supporting Material	Cost	Status
January 14	Board approves resolution	Post with text, graphic and link	Community	Facebook	NextDoor	Website			✓
January 14	Info Mailer - Send to Printer		All Residents						✓
January 14	Bond Approved/Bond Info/Meeting Info	Launch Info Website	Community	Website					✓
January 16	Join Us! Community Info Meeting	Post with text, graphic and link	Community	Facebook	NextDoor				✓
January 16	Bond Approved/Meeting Info		Staff	Staff Newsletter - Smore					✓
January 17	Bond Approved/Meeting Info	Announcement of Meetings	Parents/Staff	Parent Newsletter - Smore					✓

Week of January 20 - January 26

Date	Message	What	Audience	Platform 1	Platform 2	Platform 3	Link to Supporting Material	Cost	Status
January 21	Info Mailer - Drops at Post Office		All Residents						✓
January 22	What it means for BPS Students	Post with text, graphic and link	Community	Facebook	NextDoor				✓
January 22		Newspaper Article	Community	Bennington Herald					✓
January 23			Staff	Staff Newsletter - Smore					✓
January 23	Join Us! Community Info Meeting	Info Mailing with Meeting Dates	All Residents	Mailing				\$4,209.41	✓
January 24	Informational Newsletter	Newsletter	Parents/Staff/Cc	Newsletter - Smore					✓
January 24			Parents/Staff	Parent Newsletter - Smore					✓
January 25	Check Your Mailbox	Post with text, graphic and link	Community	Facebook	NextDoor				✓

Week of January 27 - February 2

Date	Message	What	Audience	Platform 1	Platform 2	Platform 3	Link to Supporting Material	Cost	Status
January 27	Post Card 1 - Send to Printer		All Residents						✓
January 27	PTO Informational Meeting	PTO Meeting - HE	Parents	6:30 at Bennington Library					✓
January 28	Join Us! Community Info Meeting	Post with text, graphic and link	Community	Facebook	NextDoor				✓
January 29	Informational Meeting	Community Meeting	Community	7pm In Person at BHS Auditorium					✓
January 30			Staff	Staff Newsletter - Smore					✓
January 31	FAQ Posted	Post with text, graphic and link	Community	Facebook	NextDoor				✓
January 31	Post Card 1 - Drops at Post Office		All Residents						✓
January 31			Parents/Staff	Parent Newsletter - Smore					✓
February 2	Levy Impact	Post with text, graphic and link	Community	Facebook	NextDoor				✓

Week of February 24 - March 2

Date	Message	What	Audience	Platform 1	Platform 2	Platform 3	Link to Supporting Material	Cost	Status
February 25		Post with text, graphic and link	Community	Facebook	NextDoor				✓
February 26	Post Card 4 - Send to Printer		All Residents						✓
February 27			Staff	Staff Newsletter - Smore					✓
February 28			Parents/Staff	Parent Newsletter - Smore					✓
February 28		Post with text, graphic and link	Community	Facebook	NextDoor				✓

Week of March 3 - March 9

Date	Message	What	Audience	Platform 1	Platform 2	Platform 3	Link to Supporting Material	Cost	Status
March 3		Post with text, graphic and link	Community	Facebook	NextDoor				✓
March 5	Post Card 4 - Drops at Post Office		All Residents						✓
March 6		Email/Text Message	Parents/Staff	School Messenger					✓
March 6			Staff	Staff Newsletter - Smore					✓
March 6		Post with text, graphic, and link	Community	Facebook	NextDoor				✓
March 7			Parents/Staff	Parent Newsletter - Smore					✓
March 7	Post Card 4	Post card Mailer	All Residents	Mailing				\$2,381.39	✓
March 9		Email/Text Message	Parents/Staff	School Messenger					✓
March 9		Post with text, graphic, and link	Community	Facebook	NextDoor				✓

Week of March 10 - March 16 (BOE/Election Day)

Date	Message	What	Audience	Platform 1	Platform 2	Platform 3	Link to Supporting Material	Cost	Status
March 11	Election Day	Post with text, graphic and link	Community	Facebook	NextDoor				✓
March 11	Thank You	Post with text & graphic	Community	Facebook	NextDoor				✓
March 11	Thank You	Email	Parents/Staff	School Messenger					✓
March 11	Thank You	Media Statement	Community	Media					✓
March 12		News Article	Community	Omaha World Herald	KETV - Ch. 7	WOWT - Ch. 6	Bennington Herald		✓


\$14,703.31

IMPLEMENTATION



Over the course of the campaign, the district implemented dozens of communication tactics, including community presentations, direct mail, digital communication, media outreach, and school-based engagement opportunities.

Vote
March 11, 2025



2025 Bond Issue

- Levy Impact**
Tax Rate Increase will be **0.0 cents**
- Bond Issue**
Total Bond Issue: **\$112,000,000**
- Project**
Total Project Cost: **\$124,645,829**
BPS will use \$12,645,829 of District reserves.
- Timeline**
Building Open for the **2028-29 School Year**



District leaders conducted numerous presentations and informational meetings to provide an overview of the proposal and answer questions from residents.

Join Us for an Informational Community Meeting

Event Information
Informational Community Meeting
 When?
Tuesday, Feb 18, 2025, 07:00 PM
 Where?
Bennington Middle School, North 168th Street, Bennington, NE, USA

Join Us for an Informational Community Meeting

www.benningtonschools.org/bond_issue

Monday, February 3rd

7pm - Anchor Pointe Elementary

17007 HWS Cleveland Boulevard

March 11, 2025
Bond Issue

Levy Impact
Tax Rate Increase will be **0.0 Cents**


Bond Issue
Total Bond Issue: **\$112,000,000**

Project
Total Project Cost: **\$124,645,829**
Using \$12,645,829 of District reserves

Timeline
Building Open for the **2028-29 School Year**



Can't make it to a community meeting? You can watch the virtual presentation!



▶

Proposed Bond Issue


High School #2

Bond Issue Informational Community Meeting

Bennington Public Schools
Bennington Middle School
Tuesday, February 18th at 7pm
 More information at www.benningtonschools.org/bond_issue

B

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheDouglasCountyPostGazette/ and on Twitter at twitter.com/DCPGSports/ Single copy: \$4.00
 Print Subscription: \$175/yr. Print + Online Subscription: \$200/yr. Online Only Subscriptions are \$60/yr. or \$10/mo. www.benningtonherald.com



<https://youtu.be/4lhe6Pxbg6w>

IMPLEMENTATION



District communication platforms were used to ensure parents and employees received repeated informational updates throughout the campaign.

Emails to all staff and parents

Information included in district newsletters

2025 Bond Issue
Levy Impact
 Tax Rate Increase will be **0.0 cents**

Bond Issue
 Total Bond Issue: **\$112,000,000**

Project
 Total Project Cost: **\$124,645,829**
 BPS will use \$12,645,829 of District reserves.

Timeline
 Building Open for the **2028-29 School Year**

Vote
March 11, 2025

This newsletter is intended to provide you with information on the 2025 bond issue. District patrons will vote on the bond issue in a special mail-in election on March 11, 2025.

Can't make it to a community meeting? You can watch the virtual presentation!

Bond Issue Update

Time is Running Out, Submit Your Ballot Today!

The Voting Process, It's as Easy as 1, 2, 3!

After voting, put the ballot in the provided envelope and then...

1. Include your state ID number

Write your driver's license or state ID number on the ballot return envelope or enclose copy of your photo ID in your ballot return envelope.

2. Sign the back of the envelope

3. Submit your ballot to the Election Office

- Put a stamp on the envelope and mail through the post office. *(March 4th is the last day to mail ballots)*
- Drop the envelope off at a drop box or at the Election Office.
 - Douglas County Drop Box Locations Near Bennington
 - Douglas County Election Office (12220 W Center Rd)
 - Douglas County Engineer's Office (15505 W Maple Rd)
 - Omaha Public Library - Elkhorn Branch (2100 Reading Plz)
 - Omaha Public Library - Abrahams Branch (5111 N 90th St)
 - Washington County Drop Box Location
 - County Clerk Office (1555 Cofax St., Blair)

Only 4 Days Left to Mail Your Ballot!

If you are mailing your ballot, it must be mailed by March 4th to ensure your vote is submitted on time to count.



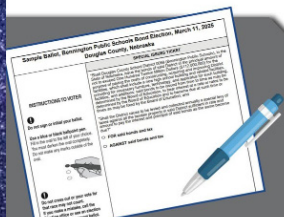
www.benningtonschools.org/bond_issue

Vote March 11th

Time is Running Out, Submit Your Ballot Today!

Vote March 11th

Time is Running Out, Submit Your Ballot Today!



Ballots Must Be Turned in by 5 PM on March 11, 2025 in Order to Count!



Closest Dropbox to Bennington: 15505 W Maple Rd

Email to all staff members

Bond Fast Facts - Bond Debt Bond Issue x



Aaron Plas <aplas@bennps.org>

Thu, Feb 6, 2025, 8:00 AM

to bps_allstaff v

BPS,

I was asked to start sending out "Fast Facts" on the bond issue, where I focus on one specific topic at a time. With so much information involved, this will allow staff to dive deeper into key areas and feel more confident discussing those topics.

Today, we are featuring how the district plans to pay off its bond debt!

BELOW this email are slides that illustrate how much BPS bond debt will be paid off in the coming years.

Over the past 20 years, BPS has passed six bond issues totaling \$198 million, which have funded the construction and renovation of eight buildings. These bond payments were structured so that larger principal payments would occur once the district's tax base (valuation) expanded with future growth.

The district began the 2024-25 school year with \$165,270,000 in bond debt. Through community surveys, we learned that reducing district bond debt is a top priority for our stakeholders. The Board of Education listened to that feedback and has acted on it by making \$6,000,000 in early repayments over the past two years (\$4 million in 2024 and \$2 million in 2025).

Additionally, the larger principal payments that were built into the repayment schedule are now beginning to take effect. Over the next five years, scheduled payments alone will reduce bond debt by \$29,810,000, and over the next 10 years, by \$65,900,000, not including any future early repayments the BOE may choose to make.

The district's debt situation is improving significantly each year!



Bond Debt Information

Information included in school newsletters

IMPLEMENTATION



Digital communication tools were used to provide accessible information and reinforce key messages throughout the campaign.

Dedicated website

Bennington Public Schools
Developing a community of learners

Home About Us Board of Education Departments Families & Students Foundation Bond Issue Career Opportunities

Bond Issue - 2025 Bond Issue - High School #2

2025 Bond Issue - High School #2

The 2025 bond issue was approved by 73% of voters in a special mail-in election on March 11, 2025. This \$112 million bond issue will fund the construction of a second high school, ensuring space for the increasing number of students in Bennington Public Schools. The new high school is planned to open for the 2028-29 school year, serving the current 5th-8th grade students.

Fast Facts:

- Levy Impact: Tax Rate Increase will be 0.0 cents
- Total Bond Issue: of \$112,000,000
- Total Project Cost: \$124,645,829
 - *BPS will be using \$12,645,829 of the District reserves.
- Timeline: Open for the 2028-29 school year

Social Media

Bennington Public Schools
February 2, 2025

Last year, when determining the 4.9-cent levy increase, the district knew the increase was only needed for eight years, until 2032, when multiple bonds would be paid off. After the 2024 bond failed, the district set out to relieve that short-term pressure. Over the past year, several financial management decisions were made to help offset future levy costs, including:

- Lowering the project cost by \$4,000,000
- Increasing the reserve used for the project by \$3,000,000
- Paying down an additional \$2,000,000 in targeted bond debt

These financial management decisions provided \$9,000,000 of targeted relief during the next seven years

Additionally, two economic factors positively impacted the levy situation:

- The projected interest rate decreased by 0.27%
- The base year valuation increased by 10% instead of the projected 9%

This combination of factors has made it significantly easier for the district to meet all bond payments until multiple bonds come off the payment schedule in 2032.
Visit www.benningtonschools.org/bond_issue for more information about the bond issue.

How did the levy impact go from 4.9 cents in 2024 to 0.0 cents in 2025?

In 2024, the tax rate increase was projected to be 4.9 cents to manage the payments over the next seven years before multiple bonds fell off in 2032. The following factors have taken place to alleviate the need for a tax rate increase over those years:

District Financial Management		
Lowered the project cost by \$4,000,000	Increased the district reserves by \$3,000,000	Paid down an additional \$2,000,000 in bond debt
Economic Factors		
Projected interest rate decreased by 0.27%	2025 valuation increased by 10% instead of the projected 9%	

These combined factors have eliminated the need for a tax rate increase on the 2025 bond.

11 likes, 5 shares

Bennington Public Schools
January 31, 2025

Have questions about the bond issue? Check out our newly posted FAQ for answers! Visit <https://bit.ly/BPS25BondFAQ> to learn more. #BPSBond2025

Bond Issue 2025

Vote: March 11th

- Levy Impact**
Tax Rate Increase will be 0.0 Cents
- Bond Issue**
Total Bond Issue: \$112,000,000
- Project**
Total Project Cost: \$124,645,829
Using \$12,645,829 of District reserves
- Timeline**
Building Open for the 2028-29 School Year

Frequently Asked Questions
Now Available Online!

9 likes, 9 shares

Bennington Public Schools
February 19, 2025

This bond issue could increase the Career & Technical Education (CTE) offerings! CTE has always been a vital part of a student's education, helping them explore potential career paths. Currently, Bennington High School offers Construction Trades and Drafting courses in its CTE lab area, and we are in the process of developing an education pathway. Rather than replicating the same offerings at the proposed new high school, we saw an opportunity to expand CTE options for students. The new facility would include lab spaces for Small Engine and Welding courses, along with the creation of a Health Sciences pathway.

Students from either high school could take advantage of these expanded opportunities. For instance, a student at Bennington High School interested in Welding would be able to take that course at the new high school.

Another key benefit of the new CTE space is the potential to strengthen partnerships with local businesses and industries. This facility would allow us to collaborate with community partners and supplement our curriculum with real-world experiences. Additionally, we could expand our partnership with Metro Community College, with the possibility of offering on-site instruction for students.

If approved, this plan would greatly enhance educational opportunities for high school students at Bennington Public Schools! For more information, visit www.benningtonschools.org/bond_issue.

Career & Technical Education

- High School #2**
 - Small Engines, Welding
 - Health Sciences Pathway
- Bennington High School**
 - Construction Trades, Drafting
 - Education Pathway
- Students will be provided the option to go to either school for CTE courses.**
 - More programming partnerships between buildings would continue to be explored
 - These additional offerings will allow us more opportunity to seek public/private partnerships such as with Metro Community College

34 likes, 34 shares

Bennington Public Schools
March 11, 2025

TIME IS RUNNING OUT! TODAY is the LAST DAY to submit your BPS bond ballot! All ballots must be turned in by 5pm today, March 11th, in order to count. Ballots CAN'T be mailed anymore and must be dropped off at the election commissioner's office or an official drop box. The closest drop box to Bennington is located at the County Engineer's Office across the street from HyVee at 15505 W Maple Road (156th & Maple). To view all drop box locations, visit https://www.votedouglascounty-ne.gov/early_voting.aspx.

Time is Running Out!

Ballots Must Be Turned in by 5p.m. Today

VOTE!

DOUGLAS COUNTY ENGINEER

15505 W. Maple Road
Closest Dropbox to Bennington

IMPLEMENTATION



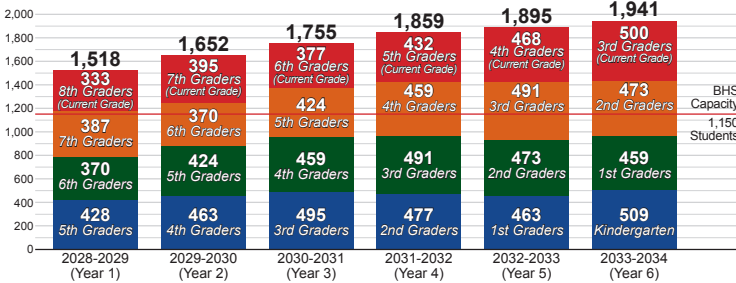
Printed materials were used to ensure information reached community members who may not regularly engage with digital platforms.

Direct mail pieces sent to all households in the District



Posters located at each school during high attendance events

What does this mean for current BPS students?



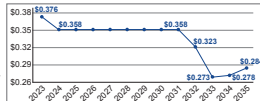
All current K-8 BPS students will be in high school within six years of the second high school opening.

Levy Impact

0.0 Cents

No Tax Rate Increase

This bond issue will **not** impact the bond tax levy. It is projected to remain stable at 35.8 cents until 2031. Beginning in 2032, the District will have the flexibility to either reduce the levy, pay off bonds faster, or retain levy capacity for future growth if needed.



Bond Issuance

\$112,000,000

The 2025 Bond Issue will be voter approved, tax exempt general obligation bonds.

	Bond Amount	Bond Levy Total	Tax Rate Increase	Length	Interest	Principal Payments	Lowest Reserve	District Funds Used
2024	\$119,000,000	40.7¢ (8 Years)	+4.9¢	22 Years	4.42%	3-5 Years	\$5,824,979	\$9,518,118
2025	\$112,000,000	35.8¢ (7 Years)	0.0¢	21 Years	4.15%	3-5 Years	\$5,731,260	\$12,645,829



Decrease Bond Debt

- In 2023-24, the District paid \$7,360,000 in bond principal with \$4,000,000 of that total being repaid early.
- In 2024-25, the District will be paying \$5,905,000 in bond principal with \$2,000,000 of that total being repaid early.
- Resulting in a savings of approximately \$410,000 in interest payments.

Projected to pay off \$65,900,000 in bond principal over the next 10 years

Opportunities to pay off principal even earlier based on valuation changes over the years.

Projected to pay off \$111,860,000 in bond principal over the next 15 years

These are scheduled principal payments but could be accelerated

Vote March 11

Ballots will be mailed to all BPS registered voters on February 18th.

The Voting Process: It's as Easy as 1, 2, 3!

- After voting, place the ballot in the provided envelope and seal.
- Write your driver's license or state ID number on the ballot.
- Place the ballot in the envelope and seal.

All ballots must be in the hands of the election office by 5pm on March 11th or they will not count!

Bennington Public Schools 2025 Bond Issue

Levy Impact

0.0 Cents

No Tax Rate Increase

This bond issue will **not** impact the bond tax levy. It is projected to remain stable at 35.8 cents until 2031. Beginning in 2032, the District will have the flexibility to either reduce the levy, pay off bonds faster, or retain levy capacity for future growth if needed.



Decrease Bond Debt

The District is making scheduled and accelerated principal payments including:

- \$7,360,000 in 2023-24
- \$4,000,000 being repaid early
- \$5,905,000 in 2024-25
- \$2,000,000 being repaid early

Bond principal payments are projected to pay off:

- \$29,810,000 over the next five years
- \$65,900,000 over the next 10 years
- \$111,860,000 over the next 15 years

Bennington Public Schools 2025 Bond Issue

Decrease Bond Debt

- In 2023-24, the District paid \$7,360,000 in bond principal with \$4,000,000 of that total being repaid early.
- In 2024-25, the District will be paying \$5,905,000 in bond principal with \$2,000,000 of that total being repaid early.
- Resulting in a savings of approximately \$410,000 in interest payments.

Levy Impact

0.0 Cents

No Tax Rate Increase

This bond issue will **not** impact the bond tax levy. It is projected to remain stable at 35.8 cents until 2031. Beginning in 2032, the District will have the flexibility to either reduce the levy, pay off bonds faster, or retain levy capacity for future growth if needed.

Projected to pay off \$65,900,000 in bond principal over the next 10 years

Opportunities to pay off principal even earlier based on valuation changes over the years.

Projected to pay off \$111,860,000 in bond principal over the next 15 years

\$29,810,000	\$36,090,000	\$45,960,000	\$53,410,000
Next 5 Years	Years 6-10	Years 11-15	Remaining 8 Years

These are scheduled principal payments but could be accelerated

Bennington Public Schools 2025 Bond Issue

Lower the Levy Impact

Decreased from 4.9 cents to 0.0 cents

Decrease the Bond Debt

BPS paid \$6 million in early repayments over the past two years. There is \$29,810,000 in principal payments scheduled in the next five years.

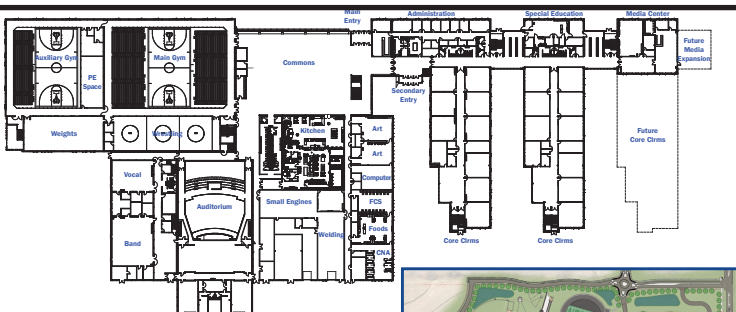
Lower the Total Bond Issue

The total is now \$112,000,000; a reduction of \$7,000,000 (5.88%)

Reduce Athletic Facilities

All athletic facilities have been reduced in scope and seating. There are NO upgrades to the current football stadium. Both high schools will share the current stadium for varsity contests.

You Spoke, We Listened

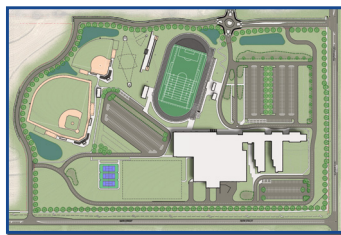


High School #2

180th and Military Road

The second high school will be built for a capacity of 1,000 students with the capability to expand to 1,500 students.

- Infrastructure**
 - Paving Gravel on 180th Street
 - North Property Not Developed
 - Built for 1,000 Student Capacity**
 - Classrooms
 - 700 Parking Stalls
- Built for 1,500 Student Capacity**
 - Cafeteria
 - Hallways
 - Bathrooms
 - Collaborative Spaces
 - Offices
 - Auditorium
 - Locker Rooms
 - Competition Gym



IMPLEMENTATION



Local media outlets were also engaged to help share factual information about the proposal and the election.

BENNINGTON HERALD

A local edition of the Douglas County Post-Gazette

Vol. 1 - No. 25 - Wed., Feb. 5, 2025 Covering Bennington School, Community and Sports www.benningtonherald.com

Bennington School District works to make levy impact of proposed March 11 bond drop to zero cents

Marisa Dawson
Bennington Herald

BENNINGTON – After a careful year of strategic financial decisions in the most recent bond proposal, Bennington Public Schools announced that the levy impact for the bond

projected to last until 2032 when multiple bonds would be paid off. However, after the 2024 bond proposal failed, the district made it a priority to alleviate the short-term financial pressure and reduce the levy impact for taxpayers.

These efforts created a total of \$9 million in targeted financial relief over the next seven years, helping the district manage upcoming bond payments without increasing the levy.

In addition to these internal financial moves, two economic factors also played a role in the positive levy situation:

- The projected interest rate on bond payments decreased by 0.27%.
- The base year valuation increased by 10%, which was higher than the expected 9%.

These factors combined to allow the district to comfortably meet all bond payments through 2032, without the need for a levy increase in 2025. This relief will benefit both the district and the community, as the school system can continue to make progress on its financial obligations while keeping the levy impact at zero for the coming year.

Bennington Public Schools remains committed to responsible financial planning, ensuring that necessary projects are completed while minimizing costs for taxpayers. Superintendent Dr. Aaron Plas and other district representatives will still be available to answer questions in the next upcoming community meeting on Feb. 18 at Bennington Middle School.

A2 • Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025

Community News

Voting Counts: A simple guide to the Bennington bond issue special ballot

Marisa Dawson
Bennington Herald

BENNINGTON – Following three public meetings hosted by Bennington Public Schools addressing concerns and explaining the bond's changes, the ballots have been distributed for the Bennington bond issue.

Bennington residents are encouraged to make their voices heard in this important decision for the community. The bond will go toward a second high school for the district and the process to cast one's

of the envelope. The signature affirms the person submitting the ballot and confirms the legitimacy of one's vote.

Once a person has completed the ballot, it's time to submit it. A person has two convenient options for returning the ballot:

Mail It: Simply add a stamp and drop it in the mail. Be sure to send it early, as March 4 is the last day to mail ballots. This will give enough time for the Election Office to receive and process the vote.

Drop It Off: Prefer not to mail it? A person can drop their ballot off at

(Street)

No matter how a person chooses to submit their vote, be sure it reaches the Election Office by March 11 at 5 p.m.

This is the absolute deadline for ballot submission – any ballots received after this time will not be counted.

The Bennington Public Schools bond issue is a significant vote for the community, as it addresses the overcrowding at Bennington High School by way of building a second

Bennington School Board sets March 11 special election vote on \$112 million bond

Marisa Dawson
Bennington Herald

BENNINGTON – The Bennington Public Schools Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on Monday Jan. 13, marking the beginning of a busy year for the rapidly growing district.

One of the night's first tasks was the reorganization of the Board following the swearing-in of members, with elections for key leadership positions.

Allyson Slobotski was unanimously selected as Board President, while Tim Dreesen won the Vice President position by majority vote over fellow nominee Kristi Ryan. Jeremy Dick was elected as Treasurer and Kristi Ryan took on the role of Secretary.

With the leadership structure confirmed, the Board proceeded to appoint members to various committees, including the Building/Finance, Curriculum, Policy and Foundation Liaison Committees.

After the reorganization, the Board

Bennington Public Schools hopes third time is the charm for bond election

Voters have rejected the previous two bond issues, prompting the district to revamp its communication strategies



Bennington parents believe, hope third bond vote for new high school will be successful



Bennington voters rejected two school bond issues. Now the district is trying again

Luna Stephens Feb 24, 2025 Updated Apr 2, 2025

Bennington High School is expected to be over capacity this fall, and district officials hope a \$112 million bond issue to build a second high school will fare better than two previous attempts in the last three years.

Bennington Public Schools Superintendent Aaron Plas said he thinks the current proposal, with a lower price tag and



KETV 7 Updated: 3:34 PM CST Feb 14, 2025 Editorial Standards 1

EVALUATION



The \$112 million bond proposal was approved with 71 percent voter approval.



Bennington Public Schools
March 11, 2025 · 🌐

The bond issue for a second high school passed with a 71% approval rating! Thank you to everyone who took part in the recent bond issue vote. We are incredibly grateful for your engagement and commitment to our schools. Your participation shows just how much our community values education and the future of our students.

The approval of this bond is a powerful reflection of the trust and confidence you have in our district. Thanks to your support, we can move forward with plans to build a second high school — a project that will make a lasting impact. This new facility will help us address overcrowding at our current high school while expanding academic and extracurricular opportunities for our students.

We understand the responsibility that comes with managing these funds, and we are committed to being thoughtful and transparent throughout the entire process. We will keep the community informed as we move forward with planning and construction to ensure this project meets the needs of our students and families.

Your belief in our schools and investment in our students will positively shape our district for years to come. Thank you for your partnership and support! Go Badgers!

Summary Results Report

2025 Bennington Public Schools Bond Election

March 11, 2025

Bennington Public Schools Bond (Includes Washington County)
Vote For 1

	TOTAL
FOR said bonds and tax	4,554
AGAINST said bonds and tax	1,859

OFFICIAL RESULTS

Douglas & Washington

Unofficial Bennington School District bond election results released
Bond money will be used to build a second high school

UNOFFICIAL BENNINGTON SCHOOL BOND RESULTS

- For: 4,551
- Against: 1,859
- Worth \$112 million

BENNINGTON HERALD

A local edition of the Douglas County Post-Gazette

Vol. 1 - No. 30 • Wed., March 12, 2025 Covering Bennington School, Community and Sports www.benningtonherald.com

Bennington community backs new high school bond with 71 percent approval

Marisa Dawson
Bennington Herald

BENNINGTON — In a resounding show of support for local education, voters approved the Bennington Public Schools bond issue with a 71% approval that will fund the construction of a second high school.

The measure, celebrated as a commitment to the future of the district's students, is set to relieve overcrowding at the current high school and expand both academic and extracurricular programs.

"This is a great day for our community, our students and our staff! This topic has been front and center of so many discussions over the last couple years, and we are thrilled to be able to move forward with a defined future for our high school students," said Dr. Aaron Plas, the district superintendent.

His remarks underscored the significance of the March 11 vote for the \$112 million school bond, noting that the community's trust has paved the way for meaningful change in the local education landscape.

The new facility is part of a broader plan to enhance the district's educational environment while maintaining responsible fiscal oversight.

District leaders have promised a transparent process throughout planning and construction, ensuring that the project meets the evolving needs of students and families alike.

Dr. Plas added, "We are so thankful for the input we have received by the community which allowed us to put together a plan that was ultimately supported. We are really grateful for their support and entrusting the district with this important change."

His comments reflect both gratitude for the community's active involvement and optimism about the benefits the new high school will bring.

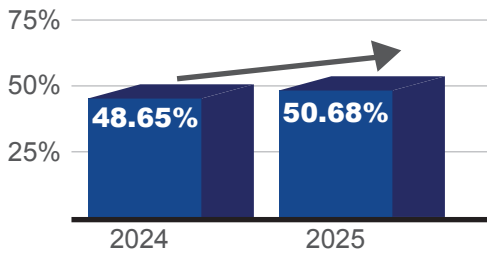
With the bond issue's passage, the district is poised to move forward with construction plans that will not only address current challenges but also set a strong foundation for future educational opportunities.

go to building second high school

4:00 VALLEY 7AM 29 | NOON 54 | 3PM 64 | 5:03 29°

voters in the district are in favor of the bond, with just over 1,800 opposed.

The final voter turnout for the election was 50.65 percent, exceeding the established objective and demonstrating strong community engagement in the decision-making process. This level of participation is notably strong for a special election.





**2025 Bond Issue Proposal:
From Feedback to Progress**

