

Bozeman School District #7
Election Information
May 8, 2018



On behalf of the students in Bozeman Public Schools and our Board of Trustees, we hope you will study the issues and cast your ballot.

Quality Bozeman Education!

Voter Information

- April 23, 2018 – Ballots mailed by County Election Office.
- May 8, 2018 – Election Day – Ballots due by 8:00 pm.

Ballots may be returned to:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Office Hours</u>	<u>Election Day Hours</u>
County Election Office 311 West Main, Room 210	8:00am–5:00pm Monday – Friday	7:00am–8:00pm

Ballots may be returned in person or by mail (50 cent or Forever stamp). Please allow enough time for delivery prior to the May 8, 2018 deadline.

What Issues Will Appear on the Ballot?

On May 8, Bozeman School District voters will decide on trustee candidates, General Fund levies, and the acquisition of additional elementary school sites. This brochure explains the details of each issue.

For More Information

Visit our website: www.bsd7.org/our_district/2018election
- or contact -

Superintendent Robert Watson at Robert.Watson@bsd7.org 406-522-6001
or Deputy Superintendent Operations Steve Johnson at
Steve.Johnson@bsd7.org 406-522-6042

Paid for by
Bozeman Public Schools
District Clerk Mike Waterman, Treasurer
404 West Main Street, Bozeman, MT 59715

Trustee Election

There are three Elementary and one High School Only Trustee seats open this year. Incumbents Douglas Fischer, Gary Lusin, and Wendy Taje along with challenger Gary “Bullybuster” McGowan have filed for the three open Elementary seats. Incumbent Sandra Kline Wilson is the only candidate who filed for the High School District seat.

Annual General Fund Operating Levies

Montana law requires voter approval for any increase to the amount of “over-base” taxes levied, regardless of the impact on the number of mills levied. The Trustees are requesting General Fund operating levy increases that allow the greatest purchasing power (budget authority) for programs and personnel.

High School Annual General Fund Operating Levy (\$163,000)

Tax increase would be approximately \$0.74 annually for a home with an assessed market value of \$100,000. (Assessed market value is generally less than the market price of a home in the Bozeman area.)

Elementary Annual General Fund Operating Levy (\$291,000)

Tax increase would be approximately \$2.16 annually for a home with an assessed market value of \$100,000.

Estimated Total Tax Impact

Pursuant to law, the ballots indicate the expected isolated cost of each individual levy request. However, factors in addition to these requests determine the net taxpayer impact:

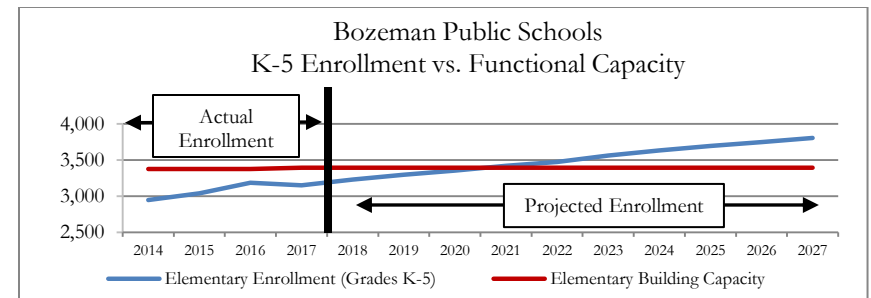
<u>As Stated on the Ballot:</u>	Est. Mills	Annual Tax Impact on a \$100,000 home
High School General Fund Over-Base (Voted)	0.55	\$0.74
Elementary General Fund Over-Base (Voted)	1.60	\$2.16
Subtotal - Voted Levies on May 8 Ballot	2.15	\$2.90

Offsets Not Shown on Ballot:

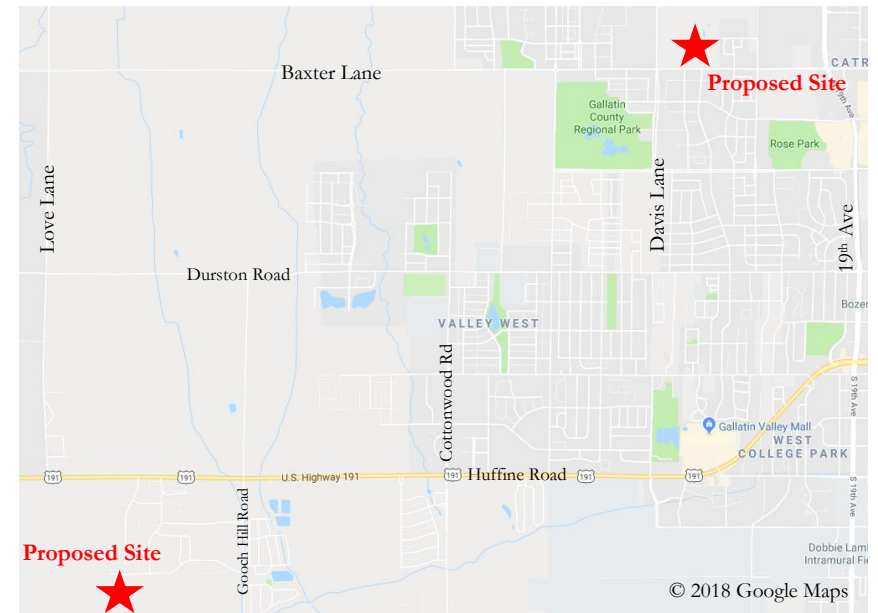
Although it cannot be stated on the ballot, the District expects other changes will offset this proposed General Fund increase. Specifically, the threshold for the state’s Guaranteed Tax Base Aid subsidy will increase next year. This change will reduce the local taxes needed to support the General Fund BASE budgets. As a result of this change and growth in the District’s tax base, the District does not expect an overall net increase in the General Fund levies next year.

Elementary Site Acquisitions

The Bozeman School District’s enrollment continues to grow. Projections indicate K-5 enrollment will exceed our current facility capacity in 2021:



To accommodate anticipated enrollment growth, the Trustees have identified two locations for potential future elementary schools. As the map below shows, one 20-acre site lies near the northeast corner of Baxter and Davis Lanes; the second 10-acre site lies south of Huffine between Gooch Hill Road and Love Lane (extended) in the Woodland Park subdivision:



These sites will both be purchased with existing district funds obtained from the sale of other district property. Even though we will not be asking the taxpayers for funds, Montana law requires schools to obtain voter approval prior to purchasing a new school site.