

Bennington Schools Bond Election

Actual Wording	Background and Explanation
<p style="text-align: center;">SCHOOL BOND ELECTION BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, March 10, 2020</p> <p>“Shall Douglas County School District 0059 (Bennington Public Schools), in the State of Nebraska, issue the bonds of said District in the principal amount of not to exceed Seventy Two Million Dollars (\$72,000,000.00) for the purpose of paying the costs of constructing a new elementary school building, a new middle school building, addition to and renovation of existing high school, middle school, and elementary school buildings and sites, addition to and renovation of District offices, the construction of improvements to the existing high school softball and football stadiums and the middle school track, construction of improvements related to a new school bus facility, and the acquisition and preparation of sites for future school building purposes, providing for necessary furniture and apparatus for such school buildings and additions, and providing for technology updates in existing school buildings; said bonds to be issued from time to time as may be determined by the Board of Education, to bear interest at a rate or rates to be determined by the Board of Education and to become due at such time or times as may be fixed by the Board of Education; and</p> <p>“Shall the District cause to be levied and collected annually a special levy of taxes against all the taxable property in said District sufficient in rate and amount to pay the interest and principal of said bonds as the same become due?”</p> <p><input type="radio"/> FOR said bonds and tax</p> <p><input type="radio"/> AGAINST said bonds and tax</p>	<p>Simplistically speaking, schools borrow large sums of money and over time, taxpayers pay it off gradually including the interest accrued. It's called a bond election, because the voters are asked permission to have their property taxed in order to pay off those bonds. It is expected to be a 25-year commitment.</p> <p>School Districts operate with a General Fund that pays salaries, benefits, and general school expenses. This comes from the “normal” taxing. To build new buildings requires more money upfront so bond issues are used and that money is administered from a Building Fund.</p> <p>Along with other information, details of the plans for the \$72 million dollars are listed at http://www.benningtonschools.org/homeT954/documents/FAQ%20on%202020%20Bond.pdf</p> <p>The simple summary is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build new K-5 and 6-8 school buildings - Add classrooms at Pine Creek elementary - Add to the district office - Renovate high school outdoor stadium, including 2-story press box - Facility repairs (including parking lots) - Buy land for future school sites. <p>Doing the election as a mail-in ballot now, instead of waiting until the May election allows for getting construction underway during optimal building time.</p> <p>Those who favor this bond issue point out that the growth in the district that drives the need for new schools makes it possible to keep the bond levy at the same level it is now. However, if the growth rate does not increase at its current rate, there may need to be a slight increase in the tax. They predict the worst-case scenario of a four-cent levy increase meaning an extra \$80 for the year for a house valued at \$200,000.</p> <p>Because of no expected increase in tax, there are not many who oppose, but those who do would prefer to spend less on non-academic expenses.</p> <p>This vote is to be done ONLY by mail-in ballot. How to do the mail-in vote is at http://www.benningtonschools.org/homeT954/documents/Mail-In%20Ballot%20PPT%202020%20(2).pdf</p> <p>The official election day is March 10th. It is strongly encouraged that you put the ballot in the mail by no later than March 6th.</p>