

## TO OUR PATRONS

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### School Finance Fundamentals

Our district operates on an annual budget of approximately \$24,000,000. Of that money, more than 80% goes to wages and benefits. Roughly 95% of our funding comes from the state, who collects it from sales tax and other sources besides our county's tax base.

When more money is needed beyond what the state provides, districts can generate money on the local level for facilities and operational expenses through levies and bonds.

### FACTS CONCERNING THE LEVY

The total school levy taxes will remain the same as previous years.

**\*Supplemental Levy:** Runs for 1 or 2 years and requires a 50% majority to pass. Money from a supplemental levy can be used for operational and/or building expenses.

**\*Plant Facility Levy:** Runs for up to 10 years and can only be used to pay for building maintenance and repair. Our plant facility levy requires a 55% majority to pass and the monies are distributed to the district annually after local taxes are assessed.

**\*Bonds:** A bond functions much like a loan. The bond is sold on the open market, the district gets the entire balance up front, and then pays the debt back annually. Interest accrues, but the State Department of Education assists in offsetting some of those expenses.

The Bond for the BPAC and the new gym will be paid in full August 2022.

## CURRENT VS. PROPOSED LEVIES

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### Current Levies

Supplemental Levy = \$2,600,000  
2 year term (2015-2016)

Bond Levy = \$982,220  
20 year term (2002-2022)

Plant Facility = \$0

**Total: \$3,582,220**

### Proposed Levies

\$2,150,000 (2 years)  
2 year term (2017-2018)

\$825,000 (20 years)  
20 year term (2002-2022)

\$600,000 (10 years)  
10 year term (2017-2027)

**\$3,575,000**

The proposed levies **decrease** the current amount by \$7,220.

### Proposal Summary

- The district is asking to decrease the supplemental levy by \$450,000.
    - Why?** The district has demonstrated fiscal responsibility and has improved its financial stability over the past 18 months, thus enabling the district to reduce the supplemental levy tax on district patrons.
  - The district is asking to decrease the bond levy by \$157,220.
    - Why?** The district is ahead on the bond re-payment schedule and can therefore reduce the bond tax requirement on district patrons.
  - The district is asking for a \$600,000 annual plant facility levy.
    - Why?** To establish funds dedicated solely to maintain and improve district facilities. This will improve safety, learning environments, and foster feelings of security and pride.
- What does a "YES" vote mean for you as a taxpayer?**
- The total amount the district is asking for is slightly lower.
  - As a tax payer, your property taxes levied by the district will not increase.

## PROJECT PRIORITY LIST

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Effective planning, forecasting, and cost savings has enabled the Blackfoot School District to reduce the total amount levied/bonded by the district benefiting the taxpayer.

The plant facility levy will affect school facilities in several areas requiring either immediate repairs or preventative maintenance including:

- Improve student drop off safety zones at schools
- Modular classrooms as needed
- Repair BHS Track
- Complete renovation of BHS cafeteria & commons
- Single Point of Entry at schools to enhance student safety
- Surface Parking Lot at Independence High School
- Upgrade district phone system to VOIP
- Heating and ventilation systems
- Upgrade lighting
- Playground walk paths
- Repair/Replace roofs

Passing this Plant Facility Levy enables the district to provide preventative maintenance now, avoiding costly ongoing deterioration and future rising costs. In the long term, this will be a cost savings.

## VOTING INFORMATION

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### Who?

Any person who meets the following conditions may vote:

1. Be a qualified elector of School District No. 55.
2. Be eighteen (18) years of age or older.
3. Be a citizen of the United States.
4. Be a resident of the State of Idaho and the School District for at least thirty (30) days, preceding the bond election. Blackfoot School District must be your primary place of residence.

### When?

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### Where?

Vote at your election polling places that you use to vote for all other elections.

### Early Voting:

Early voting begins at the Bingham County Clerk's office approximately two weeks prior to the Election date, March 14, 2017. Early voting will be advertised in the newspapers.

### Absentee:

If you would like to vote absentee please call Bingham County Elections, 782-3164, to request a form to fill out to Absentee vote. To vote absentee they must receive your Request for Absentee Ballot form no later than March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Absentee Request Form is also on the Bingham County website at [www.co.bingham.id.us](http://www.co.bingham.id.us).

**Blackfoot School District Levy Election**  
**Tuesday, March 14, 2017**

## Finance Advisory Committee

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Chris Cannon (Committee Chairman)  
Brian Kress (Superintendent)  
Rich Woodfin (Assistant Superintendent)  
Ashley Bartauskay  
Rick Bigler  
Sarah Buck  
Bob Cannon  
Lynette Carter  
Sharon Hoge  
Chuck Jensen  
Richard Johnson  
Dean Jones  
Joy Mickelsen  
Hal Silzly  
Bobbie Steffensen  
Mike Torgerson  
Mike Virtue  
Ryan Wilson

Thank you to our patrons for  
your continued support.

For more information please visit

[www.d55.k12.id.us](http://www.d55.k12.id.us)

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## Blackfoot School District No. 55

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***Blackfoot School  
District Plant  
Facility Levy***



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Kids Are Our Core  
Teachers Are Our Foundation  
Parents, Families, and Community  
Are Our Partners

*Communication~Collaboration~Innovation*