

Bozeman

Public Schools



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

Quality Bozeman Education!

For More Information

Visit our website (see QR code): <https://www.bsd7.org/election2026>

- or contact -

Superintendent Casey Bertram casey.bertram@bsd7.org

or

Executive Director of Business & Operations Mike Waterman

mike.waterman@bsd7.org (406) 522-6001

Visite nuestro sitio web (ver código QR): <https://www.bsd7.org/election2026>

Paid for by:

Bozeman Public Schools
District Clerk Lacy Clark, Treasurer
404 West Main Street, Bozeman, MT 59715



Voter Information

- April 17, 2026 – Ballots mailed by Gallatin County Election Office.
- May 5, 2026 – Election Day – Ballots due by 8:00 pm.

Ballots may be returned to:

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

Ballots may be returned in person or by mail (78 cents or Forever stamp). Please allow enough time for delivery by the May 5, 2026 deadline.

What Issues Will Appear on the Ballot?

On May 5, Bozeman School District voters will decide on trustee candidates and General Fund operating levies. This brochure explains the details of each issue.

Trustee Election

Two Elementary/High School trustee seats are open this year. Incumbents **Kevin Black** and **Greg Neil** have filed for reelection, and challenger **Patrick Zimny** also filed for a seat. The two candidates receiving the most votes will be elected to serve three-year terms as trustees.

What are the Levy Requests on the Ballot?

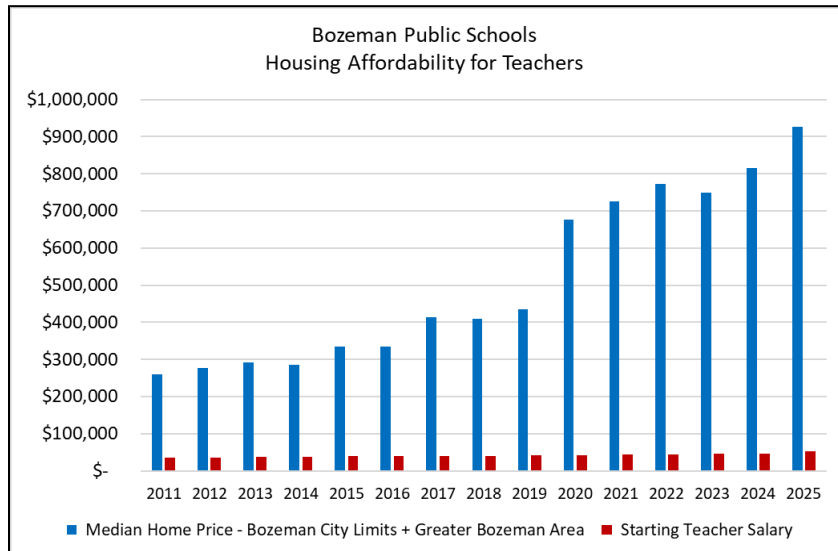
General Fund Operating Levies

Montana law requires voter approval for any increase to the amount of General Fund taxes levied. The Trustees are requesting operating levy increases to increase funding for programs and personnel. This year, the operating levy requests are:

- Elementary Annual General Fund Operating Levy \$ 1,200,000
- High School Annual General Fund Operating Levy \$ 600,000

Recruiting and Retaining Staff in Bozeman

Staff pay has not kept pace with the area cost of living, causing recruitment and retention challenges. A portion of the General Fund levy requests will specifically be used to address employee cost of living.



Source: Southwest Montana Realtors

Estimated Tax Revenue Impact

Bonds issued in 2006 to renovate Bozeman High School will be paid off this year. When those payments end, the related Debt Service taxes will also end; they cannot continue or be used to pay operating costs.

Why this matters: the expiring bond payments offset the proposed General Fund levy and reduce the overall change in District tax revenue if the levies are approved:

Issues as stated on the Ballot:	Annual Levy Amount
Elementary General Fund Over-Base	\$ 1,200,000
High School General Fund Over-Base	600,000
Total K-12 Voted Levies on May 5, 2026	\$ 1,800,000
<u>Offsets Not Shown on Ballot:</u>	
Expiring High School Bonds	(\$ 1,800,000)
General Fund Over-BASE/ High School Debt Service Net Revenue Change	- \$0 -

Residential Property Tax Impact

In 2006, Big Sky was part of the Bozeman School District, and property owners there paid on the bonds described above. Big Sky is now a separate school district, and taxpayers there will not pay on the proposed new General Fund levies. As a result, the new levies will be shared among fewer taxpayers, causing net mills to increase even though the proposal is revenue neutral.

By law, ballots must estimate the annual cost of each levy for homes valued at \$100,000, \$300,000, and \$600,000. Of these required values, \$600,000 is the closest reference point for our area. **The estimated net impact of the levy requests and the maturing bond payments is \$8.81 per year** for owner-occupied or long-term rental properties valued at \$600,000:

Issues as stated on the Ballot:	Annual Tax Impact on a \$600,000 Owner-Occupied or Long-Term Rental Home	
	Est. Mills*	Est. Dollars
Elementary General Fund Over-Base	3.63	\$ 17.68
High School General Fund Over-Base	1.46	\$ 7.11
Total K-12 Voted Levies on May 5, 2026	5.09	\$ 24.79
<u>Offsets Not Shown on Ballot:</u>		
Expiring High School Bonds	(3.28)	(\$ 15.98)
Estimated Net Annual Impact	1.81	\$ 8.81

* Assumes a 0% increase in the District's Tax Base.