

Bozeman School District #7
Election Information
May 6, 2014



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 21, 2014 – Ballots mailed by County Election Office.
- May 6, 2014 – Election Day – Ballots due by 8:00 pm.

Ballots may be returned to the following locations:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Office Hours</u>	<u>Election Day Hours</u>
County Election Office 311 West Main, Room 103	8:00 am–5:00 pm Monday – Friday	7:00 am–8:00 pm
Bozeman School District Business Office 404 West Main, Room 127	7:30 am–4:30 pm Monday – Friday	7:00 am–8:00 pm

Ballots may be returned in person or by mail (49 cent or Forever stamp). Please allow enough time for delivery prior to the May 6, 2014 deadline.

For More Information

Visit our website: www.bsd7.org/district/2014election

- 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

What Issues Will Appear on the Ballot?

On May 6, Bozeman School District voters will decide on trustee candidates, General Fund levies and the acquisition of an additional high school site. This brochure explains the details of each issue.

Trustee Election

There are two Elementary and one High School Only Trustee seats open this year. Incumbents Heide Arneson and Gary Lusin and challenger Marty Livingston have filed for the two open Elementary seats. Cynthia Bradford Lencioni 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 (\$145,500)

Tax increase would be approximately \$0.75 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 (\$451,300)

Tax increase would be approximately \$3.46 annually for a home with an assessed market value of \$100,000.

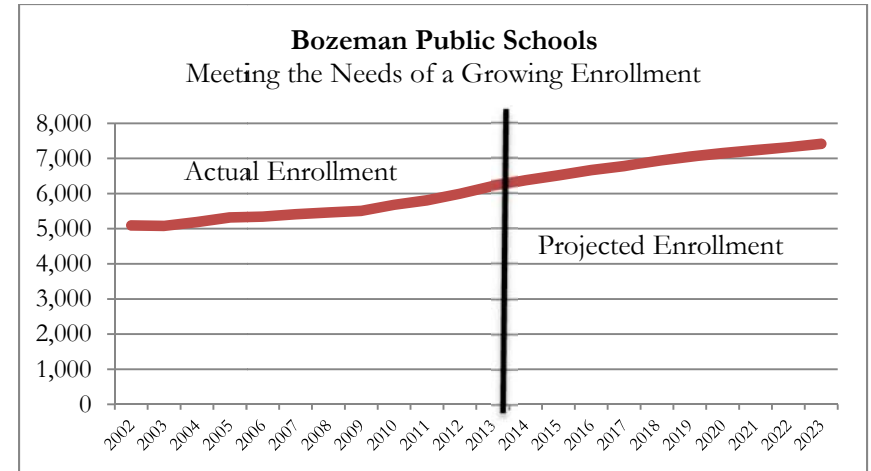
Estimated Total Tax Impact

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)	0.57	\$0.75
Elementary General Fund Over-Base (Voted)	2.64	\$3.46
Subtotal - Voted Levies on May 6 Ballot	3.21	\$4.21

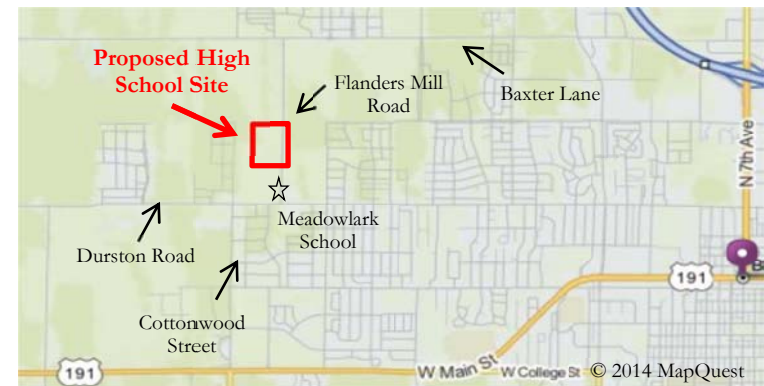
Offsets Not Shown on Ballot:

Although it cannot be stated on the ballot, the District expects changes in other funds to largely offset this proposed General Fund increase. Growth in the District’s tax base and expiration of a voter-approved \$220,000 annual Building Reserve levy will result in a total tax impact less than that shown on the ballot. The exact impact cannot be calculated until the district tax base is known in August.



High School Site Acquisition

The Trustees have identified an additional location to potentially construct a second high school. As the map below shows, the proposed 37-acre site lies north of Durston Road between Flanders Mill Road and Cottonwood Street, just north of the new Meadowlark Elementary School:



This land will be purchased with existing district resources. 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.

The District currently owns property at the southeast corner of Stucky and Cottonwood that was purchased for a second high school. Because of the direction of population growth and infrastructure development, the Trustees believe it is prudent to pursue a second site. At the time a second high school is started the Board will make a decision on which site is best and whether to keep the unused site for future schools or dispose of it.