

Bentley Community Schools
2020 Bond Proposal
Frequently Ask Questions (FAQs)



1. When is the election?

Tuesday, May 5, 2020. The polls will be open 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Absentee ballots will be available after March 21st and can be cast through Election Day.

2. What is on the ballot?

Voters will vote on a \$2.24 million bond proposal designed to fund improvements at all Bentley Community Schools' facilities. If approved by voters, there will be a \$0 tax increase from the current levy as a result of a decrease in bond payments from the existing debt.

3. What is a bond proposal?

A bond is a State-approved funding process for a set scope of projects. When voters approve a bond proposal, the school district sells bonds in the authorized amount and uses the proceeds of the sale to pay for those projects in the bond proposal. Bonds are usually paid back in 20-30 years. In many ways, the bonding process is like a homeowner obtaining a mortgage and making payments over a period of years.

4. How was the bond proposal developed?

The bond proposal was developed following a comprehensive facility assessment. The facility assessment process led to development of the bond proposal. Two Community Forums were held to solicit feedback from the community on district priorities. If approved by voters, the bond proposal will provide revenue for addressing short- and long-term facility needs. Every project in the bond proposal was reviewed and approved by the Michigan Department of Treasury.

5. What is the purpose of the bond proposal?

Our facilities were originally constructed in the 1950's and early 1960's. A recent facility assessment suggests we have more than \$11.2 million dollars in facility needs. The critical needs include roofing, electrical infrastructure, boilers, and building automation controls. Additionally, our goal is to improve the learning environment for students by remodeling the HS media center into a collaborative technology driven learning space, renovate an existing science classroom to offer students more learning experiences, and upgrade our track infrastructure so we can host future track meets.

6. What is the schedule for bond proposal projects?

Work on the bond proposal projects will begin immediately after voter approval of the May 5th bond proposal. The plan is to have all work completed within 2 years.

7. Will all bond proposal revenue benefit Bentley Community Schools?

Yes. All revenue from the bond proposal will benefit Bentley Community Schools. None of the revenue will go to Lansing or to any other school district or political entity.

8. What will the bond proposal cost?

If voters approve the May 5th bond proposal, there will be no change in the current tax rate because a previously approved bond has been paid off and this new bond will replace the old. If approved, the table below reflects the approximate financial impact for taxpayers.

Home Value	Taxable Value	Annual Impact	Monthly Impact	Daily Impact
30,000	15,000	\$9.00	\$0.75	\$0.03
45,000	22,500	\$13.50	\$1.13	\$0.04
60,000	30,000	\$18.00	\$1.50	\$0.05
75,000	37,500	\$22.50	\$1.88	\$0.06
90,000	45,000	\$27.00	\$2.25	\$0.08
110,000	52,500	\$31.50	\$2.63	\$0.09
125,000	60,000	\$36.00	\$3.00	\$0.10
150,000	67,500	\$40.50	\$3.38	\$0.11

9. What is included in the bond proposal?

Bentley High School

- Replace sections of roof
- Remodel existing media center into a technology driven learning space
- Renovate science classroom
- Update track infrastructure
- Replace section of parking lot
- Add technology
- New classroom and media center furniture

Bentley Middle School

- Replace sections of roof
- Replace water heater
- Replace exterior access ramp
- Install new building controls
- Remodel stage and adjacent area

- Add technology
- Add classroom furniture

Barhitte Elementary

- Install new boilers and pumps
- Install new fire alarm head end system
- Install new building controls
- Install intercom system
- Install drinking fountains

Districtwide Improvement

- Install security system upgrades

10. What technology is included in the bond proposal?

All technology upgrades included in the proposal are designed to support classroom instruction and enhance the learning environment. A primary focus of the proposal is to provide current technology for students and teachers and to equip instructional areas with up-to-date instructional technology.

11. If the bond proposal is approved by voters, will property values be affected?

Research indicates that real estate values tend to be higher in communities with school districts that are perceived to offer a quality educational program and have up-to-date school facilities. All Bentley Community Schools bond proposal projects are designed to reflect positively on homeowner property values and the school district's reputation for effectiveness and efficiency.

12. Bonds can be used for:

- Constructing new school buildings
- Constructing additions to existing school buildings
- Remodeling existing school buildings
- Energy conservation improvements
- Land purchases
- Site development and improvements
- Athletic and physical education facility development and improvements
- Playground development and improvements
- Refunding debt (if new present value savings can be demonstrated)
- Direct bond program costs such as professional fees, election fees, issuance costs, qualification fees, insurance fees, and final audit costs
- School bus purchases

- Purchasing loose furnishings and equipment (including administrative technology)
- Technology purchases limited to hardware and communication devices that transmit, receive, or compute information for pupil instructional purposes only. The initial purchase of an operating system and customized application software is allowed if purchased with the initial hardware.

13. Bonds cannot be used for:

- Salaries, service contracts, lease payments, installment contracts, and supplies
- Repairs, maintenance, or maintenance agreements
- Purchasing automobiles, trucks, or vans
- Portable classrooms purchased for temporary use
- Uniforms
- Textbooks
- Upgrades to an existing computer operating system or application software
- Computer training, computer consulting, or computer maintenance contracts

14. Can any of the bond proposal funds be used for employee salaries or operating expenses?

No. Bond proposal funds cannot be used for employee salaries. They also cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs or other operating expenses. Bond proposal funds must be used only for purposes specified in the ballot language, and, as required by State law, they must be independently audited.

15. What will appear on the May 5th ballot?

Here is the exact ballot wording:

BUILDING AND SITE BOND PROPOSAL Shall Bentley Community School District, Genesee County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Two Million Two Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$2,240,000) and issue its unlimited tax general obligation bonds therefore, for the purpose of defraying all or part of the cost of:

Remodeling, or equipping or reequipping school buildings, including structures, athletic fields, playgrounds, or other facilities, or parts of or additions to those facilities, including security upgrades; furnishing or refurnishing remodeled school buildings; preparing, developing, or improving sites, or parts of or additions to sites, for school buildings, including structures, athletic fields, playgrounds, or other facilities, including track upgrades; acquiring, installing, or equipping or reequipping school buildings for technology?

YES

NO

The following is for informational purposes only: The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in the year 2020, under current law, is 0.60 mills (\$0.60 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a -0- mill net increase over the prior year's levy. The bonds may be issued in series, with seventeen (17) years as the maximum number of years that any series of the bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 1.29 mills (\$1.29 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation). The school district currently has \$7,395,000.00 of qualified bonds outstanding and \$0.00 of qualified loans outstanding under the State School Bond Qualification and Loan Program. The school district does not expect to borrow from the program to pay debt service on these bonds. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances. (Pursuant to State law, expenditures of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

16. A YES vote typically means that a voter supports a proposal. Is that the case in this election?

Yes. Voters who support Bentley Community Schools bond proposal should vote YES. Voters who oppose the bond proposal should vote NO.

17. What will happen if voters do not approve the bond proposal?

The bond projects cannot be addressed as proposed.

18. Who can vote in the bond proposal election?

Residents of the Bentley Community Schools who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day and are registered to vote.

19. Where can I get information about voting (such as how to register, where to vote, and absentee voting)?

Go to the City of Burton Michigan—City Clerk--Elections Division website ([City of Burton Absentee Voting](#)) or call 810-743-1500 Ext 1401, 1402 or 1403

20. Do I need to update my voter registration?

You need to update your voter registration if you have changed your name or address since the last time you voted. You can do this at any Secretary of State Office or at the Clerk's Office where you reside.

21. Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Yes. Since voter approval of Proposal 3 in November 2018, registered voters do not need a reason to vote by absentee ballot. You can request an absentee ballot application form your Clerk's Office or by going online to www.michigan.gov/vote and clicking on Absentee Voting in the left column. Absentee ballots will be available to voters after March 21st, and can be cast through Election Day.

22. What is the process for projects that may need to be cut?

These decisions will be made in consultation with the Board of Education. We will prioritize all projects that pertain to safety and maintaining the integrity of our existing assets. Then we will look at remaining projects, keeping education as a high priority as well as how many students would be impacted by a decision. Every single person is interested in maximizing our opportunities for students.

23. Is there a future plan in place to make the additional millions of dollars of upgrades that are needed in our district?

We will use some of the rebate money we receive from the energy conservation project to start a savings plan for future projects. Beyond that, school districts are dependent on the local community to maintain and grow a thriving infrastructure.

24. To get more information and answers to your questions about the bond election

- Go to <http://www.bentleyschools.org/> click on BOND 2020
- Call any Bentley Community Schools principal
- Call Superintendent Kristy Spann at 810.591.9121 or email her at kspann@bentleyschools.org

This document was prepared to provide factual information about the Bentley Community Schools May 5, 2020 election and was paid for by Bentley Community Schools, 1170 N. Belsay Road, Burton, MI 48509