

A Message from Superintendent Eric Melby



Connections between strong schools, strong community



One of the joys of being superintendent is to connect with students, staff, families and community residents. I had plenty of opportunities during the first weeks of school, cheering on our home teams, attending fall activities, and reconnecting with business, community and civic leaders.

I love sharing our school success stories. They reflect the authentic experiences taking place within our classrooms and schools. I hope they provide insights about what schools are today, and a sense of pride about being a member of our school community.

I've also been taking time to talk about the safe and innovative schools levy renewal that is on the November ballot. On a recent occasion, I was asked, "Why should I care about the upcoming levy request if I don't have children in school anymore?"

It's a good question. After all, schools are for children and families. But are they just for children and families?

Studies show that strong communities and strong schools are co-equal partners. The benefits of a strong school district are crystal clear. Quality schools maintain and increase property values, provide a qualified workforce, lower crime rates, create a strong sense of community, support more stable families, and enhance public services with less demand on social programs.

Bloomington has a long history - over 100 years - of having a strong school district and strong community.

We are not without challenges. Teacher turnover, mental health and behavioral issues, increase in violence and division pose a very real threat of compromising students' ability to learn and thrive.

As leaders, it is our responsibility to maintain our strong tradition of academic achievement under complex changes and challenges. With this cornerstone of belief, I've worked with our leaders and employees to prepare for the safe and innovative schools levy renewal, along with a new strategic plan process to prepare us to grow and change to meet the needs of our students and families.

We've made a commitment to maintain the great and invest further in our schools and our students because it is important for our community. Our students today and tomorrow will have a better opportunity for success so long as we join together in ensuring a strong school district and strong community.

Superintendent Eric Melby walks with the Bloomington community during Heritage Days parade

CAST YOUR Vote



Voting is easy!

Early voting is now open, and Minnesota allows legal residents to vote early. This is a convenient option for busy parents, caregivers, residents and college students.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Are you registered? Check your registration status and register to vote online at mnvotes.org or register in person when you vote early or on Election Day.

Voter registration applications for non-English speaking residents are available at bit.ly/register-on-paper.

ABSENTEE AND EARLY VOTING

Vote early in person:

Bloomington Civic Plaza
1800 W Old Shakopee Road

Regular hours:

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Extended hours:

Saturday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 7, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Vote early by mail:

bit.ly/vote-early-by-mail

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Students attending college who wish to vote must complete an absentee ballot application at bit.ly/vote-early-by-mail. An absentee ballot with a postage-paid envelope will be mailed to the student's college residence address.

Absentee ballots must be received on or before Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 8

Applications may be returned by mail (City Clerk's Office, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington, MN 55431), or in person. Students who have a fall break or are home for a visit may also vote in person at Civic Plaza during the early voting hours listed above.

ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 8

Polls are open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

See page 3 for Election Day polling locations.

Referendum Feature

REFERENDUM 2022

SAFE & INNOVATIVE Schools

School Board favors renewal of capital projects levy

When our community comes together to embrace and support the mission of schools, it is a tribute to the families and residents that live here. That was the case in 2013 when voters approved the Safe & Innovative Schools capital projects levy to fund \$6 million a year for 10 years.

To date, funding targeted safety and security projects to prevent, prepare for, protect against and respond to potential school emergencies, and educational technology has prepared students to compete in a global economy.

With the levy set to expire in 2024, the School Board is seeking community support to renew the school safety and technology levy for another 10 years. The funding is a reinvestment in school safety and security, and Next Technologies for Learning.

If voters approve the levy renewal, homeowners would not see a tax impact unless the individual property value changes. The levy is based on a percentage of the net tax capacity - currently 5.858 percent - of all Bloomington properties.

A loss of this current revenue will result in significant budget reductions that would impact staffing, intervention and prevention programs, improved security measures and technology systems.

Proposed 2025-2034 Renewal Funding



SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY

- Visitor authentication technology
- Maintenance, replacement and expansion of access management, alarm, video and radio communications systems
- Training in threat/risk assessment, incident command protocol
- New initiatives based on best practices



NEXT TECHNOLOGIES FOR LEARNING

- Investment in 1:1 Chromebooks, closing the internet access gap, software, data systems to support learning
- Expanded access through digital, online and blended learning options
- Create opportunities to explore computer science, connect with a global community

Why reinvest in educational technology?

Bloomington Public Schools has a long history of innovative, future-focused thinking and planning. With the 2013 voter-approved referendum funding, we've emerged as a leader in school safety and technology for learning.

When the district proposed the Safe & Innovative Schools capital projects levy in 2013, few could have predicted the circumstances we were preparing for. When schools were required to close in March of 2020, the district already had the technology, systems and training in place to quickly implement remote learning plans. Students had Chromebook devices and were experienced using them as a learning tool. Teachers were familiar and practiced at creating digital lessons and activities. The referendum investment helped ease the transition to distance learning.

Our Next Technologies for Learning plan continues to meet the increasingly diverse needs and learning styles of today's students, and prepares our youngest students with transferable skills, creative thinking, and for jobs that have yet to be created.

Funds from the 2013 levy helped schools move to one-to-one learning (a device for each student), and prioritized closing the Digital Access Gap for students with limited or no internet at home. Teachers digitized coursework so learning platforms, online tools and digital content were ready when the district moved to remote learning. Families were more connected and could better support students because of the teacher's experiences with online learning platforms.

"I built surprisingly strong relationships with my class despite being fully online," said Alicia Ringer, a first-grade teacher at Westwood Elementary School. "That's in part because of our district's prior investment in technology devices and support staff."

Every student learns differently, and students learn best when instruction is personalized to each student's diverse and unique needs. Bloomington Public Schools uses the power of technology to support every student.

A reinvestment in Next Technologies for Learning is needed to keep this foundation strong and to build upon it. A renewal of the levy will allow for growth of anytime/anywhere solutions such as improving digital learning platforms and teaching resources, and expanding blended and online learning options. Students will have more opportunities to explore computer science, connect with local and global communities and to become creative and active problem solvers.

Next Technologies for Learning 2024-2034



FOUNDATIONS

Continued investment in...

- ✓ 1:1 Chromebooks
- ✓ Closing the Internet Access Gap
- ✓ Software and Data Systems that support learning



ANYTIME, ANYWHERE LEARNING

Expand access through...

- ✓ Digital Learning Platforms
- ✓ Online Learning options
- ✓ Blended Learning options



OPPORTUNITIES

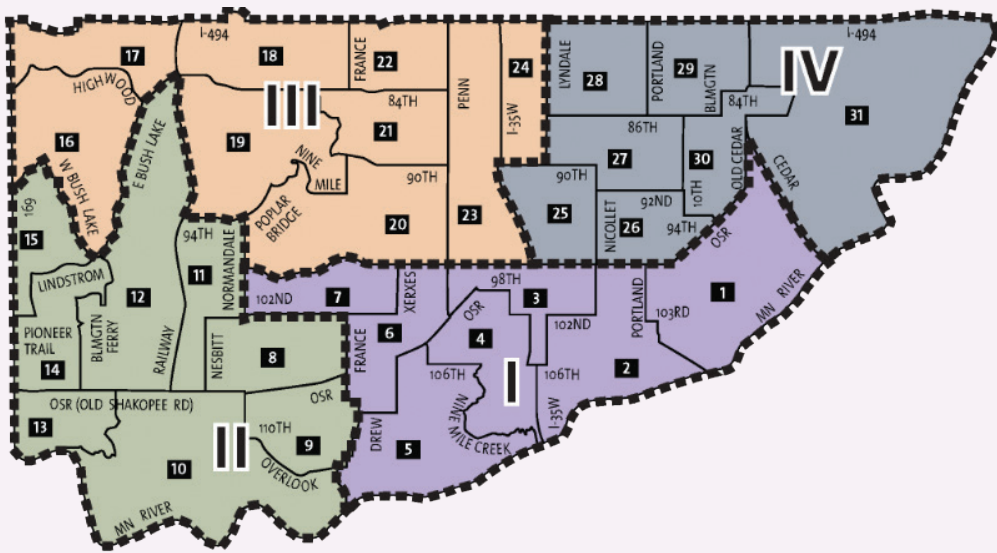
Create Opportunities to...

- ✓ Connect with a Global Community
- ✓ Become Creative Problem Solvers
- ✓ Explore Computer Science

Precinct & Polling Place

Find your precinct polling place:

bit.ly/blm-polling-locations



COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

- 1 **Atonement Lutheran Church**
601 E. Old Shakopee Rd.
Southwest entrance, South lot
- 2 **Grace Covenant Church**
10201 Nicollet Ave. S.
Southeast entrance, East lot
- 3 **St. Luke's Lutheran Church**
1701 W. Old Shakopee Rd.
Northeast entrance, North lot
- 4 **Oak Grove Presbyterian Church**
2200 W. Old Shakopee Rd.
Main entrance, Northeast lot
- 5 **MN Valley Unitarian**
Universalist Fellowship
10715 Zenith Ave. S.
Main entrance, North lot
- 6 **Mount Hope Lutheran Church**
3601 W. Old Shakopee Rd.
Main entrance (S), South lot
- 7 **Crosspoint Church**
9801 France Ave. S.
Main entrance, East lot

COUNCIL DISTRICT 2

- 8 **Bloomington Covenant Church**
10150 Xerxes Ave. S.
Main entrance (E),
East and North lots
- 9 **Transfiguration Lutheran Church**
11000 France Ave. S.
Main entrance (W), West lot
- 10 **Minnesota Masonic Heritage Center**
11411 Masonic Home Dr.
Main entrance (W), West lot
- 11 **Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church**
9920 Normandale Blvd. S.
Northeast entrance (left doors),
North lot
- 12 **Community of the Cross Lutheran Church**
10701 Bloomington Ferry Rd.
Main entrance (N), North lot
- 13 **Bethany Church**
6900 Auto Club Rd.
West entrance,
West and North lots
- 14 **Bloomington Lutheran School**
10600 Bloomington Ferry Rd.
Main entrance (S), South lot
Disabled entrance East side
- 15 **Hyland Vistors Center**
10145 Bush Lake Rd.
West entrance, West lot

COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

- 16 **Peace Lutheran Church**
8600 E. Bush Lake Rd.
Main entrance, North lot
- 17 **Westwood Community Church**
6301 Cecilia Cir.
Main entrance (W), West lot
- 18 **St. Stephen Lutheran Church**
8400 France Ave. S.
Main entrance (W), West lot
- 19 **The Church of St. Edward's**
9401 Nesbitt Ave. S.
SW entrance - upper level,
Southwest lot
- 20 **St. Michael's Lutheran Church**
9201 Normandale Blvd.
East entrance (E), East lot
- 21 **St. Mark's United Church of Christ**
8630 Xerxes Ave. S.
South entrance, Southwest lot
- 22 **Southtown Baptist Church**
2600 W. 82nd St.
Main entrance (W), Northwest lot
- 23 **Bloomington City Hall**
1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd.
East entrance, East lot
- 24 **Christ the King Lutheran Church**
8600 Fremont Ave. S.
Southwest entrance

COUNCIL DISTRICT 4

- 25 **Oxboro Evangelical Free Church**
9431 Nicollet Ave. S.
North entrance, North lot
- 26 **Bloomington Lutheran Church**
9350 Portland Ave. S.
Main entrance, North lot
- 27 **St. Bonaventure Catholic Church (Social Hall)**
901 E. 90th St.
Main entrance, East lot
- 28 **Unity South Church**
7950 1st Ave. S.
Main entrance, South lot
- 29 **Portland Avenue United Methodist Church**
8000 Portland Ave. S.
Main entrance, West lot
- 30 **Cedar Valley Church**
8600 Bloomington Ave.
West entrance (Door 4), South lot
Disabled: East entrance (Door 1)
- 31 **MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge Building**
3815 American Blvd. E.
West entrance, Visitors' lot (W)

Sample Ballot

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 271 (BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS) STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 271 (Bloomington Public Schools), Minnesota, on November 8, 2022, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. to vote on the following question:

School District Question Renewal of Expiring Capital Project Levy

The board of Independent School District No. 271 (Bloomington Public Schools), Minnesota has proposed to renew its capital project levy authorization expiring after taxes payable in 2023 in the maximum amount of 5.858% times the net tax capacity of the school district to provide funds for the acquisition, installation, support and maintenance of software and technology and the acquisition, installation, support and maintenance of safety and security improvements to school district facilities and equipment. The proposed tax rate is not being increased from the previous year's rate. The proposed renewal of the expiring capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$9,810,844 for taxes first levied in 2023, payable in 2024, and will be authorized for ten (10) years. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$98,108,440.

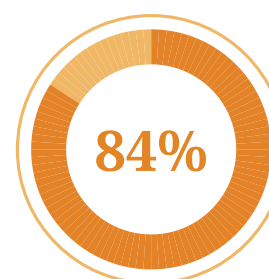
Shall the renewal of the expiring capital project levy proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 271 (Bloomington Public Schools), Minnesota be approved?

YES NO

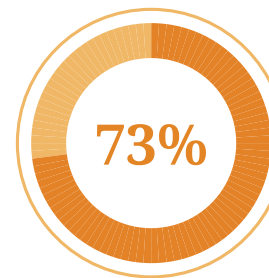
BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING TO RENEW AN EXISTING CAPITAL PROJECTS REFERENDUM THAT IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE.

Community Survey Results

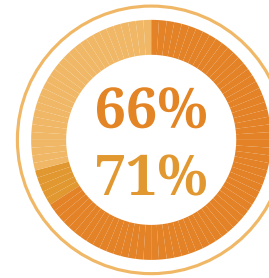
In a recent survey of district households:



84 percent of residents believe BPS is a well run district with a focus on quality education for every student.



73 percent of residents believe the community receives good value from its investment in our schools.



66 percent of all residents and 71 percent of parents gave a high favorable rating of the district's financial and economic management.

To learn more about the Capital Projects Levy, visit bit.ly/bps-2022-referendum

Performing Arts Calendar



Oct. 10	7 p.m.	JHS band concert
Oct. 12	7 p.m.	JHS choir concert
Oct. 14-16		JHS Theatre Company: "Tinkerbell"
Oct. 27-30		Kennedy Theatre Company musical: "Mamma Mia!"
Oct. 28-30	2, 7 p.m.	JHS indoor marching band concert
Nov. 3-4	6:30 p.m.	OLM theater performance: "The Quest for Quasi"
Nov. 10	7 p.m.	JHS/KHS combined orchestra concert
Nov. 15	6, 7, 8 p.m.	OLM 6-8th grade choir concert
Nov. 17	5:30, 6:30, 7:30 p.m.	OLM 6-8th grade choir concert
Dec. 1	6, 7, 8 p.m.	OLM 6-8th grade band concert
Dec. 1-3	7 p.m.	KHS holiday choir concert
Dec. 1-4		JHS Theatre Company: "Miracle on 34th Street"
Dec. 6	5:30, 6:30, 7:30 p.m.	OGM 6-8th grade band concert
Dec. 8	6:30 p.m.	VVM 7-8th grade band concert
Dec. 8	7 p.m.	OGM orchestra concert
Dec. 12	6:30 p.m.	VVM 7-8th grade orchestra concert
Dec. 13	7 p.m.	JHS winter band concert
Dec. 15	6:30 p.m.	VVM choir concert
Dec. 15	7 p.m.	KHS winter band and orchestra concert
Dec. 15	7 p.m.	OLM orchestra concert
Dec. 16	7 p.m.	JHS winter choir concert



IN THE KNOW

DISTRICT AWARDED GRANT FOR GIFTED & TALENTED PROGRAMS

Bloomington Public Schools was awarded one of 13 grants from the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) for gifted and talented programs. The first-year award is for \$403,753 renewable for five years for a total of over \$2.5 million dollars. The funding will be used to increase equity and access to gifted and talented programs for underserved elementary students.

bit.ly/bps-javits-grant

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Public Schools

POINTS OF PRIDE



New Code Academy Middle School health and phy ed teacher **Sheila Berg** was named 2021-22 Teacher of the Year by the Minnesota Wild: bit.ly/bps-nhl-toty



Mary Klempke and **Allie Kalkman** were recognized at the annual Seesaw Ambassador training for contributing lessons to the Seesaw Activities library for educators to use, helping more than 2 million students worldwide.



Olson Middle School 8th grade student **Jaired Munar** received two third-premium art awards from the 2022 Minnesota State Fair Art Exhibit. Munar's artwork is currently displayed in the

Educational Services Center.

Computer Science and Technology teacher **Frederick Ballew** is a Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert (MIEE) Fellow for the 2022-23 school year. MIEE recognizes educators working together to change students' lives with innovative teaching practices.



Kennedy senior **Ahmed Dualeh**, junior **Sadia Mohamud** and Jefferson seniors **Gabrielle Denniston**, **Amal Mohamed** and junior **Kayla Garrett** earned The College

Board National African American Recognition award for academic achievements and outstanding scores in Advanced Placement (AP) exams. Garrett also received the National Indigenous Award.



Jefferson seniors **Charlie Grant**, **Adam Lueth** and Kennedy senior **Maisie Pederson** are semifinalists in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program. The students are

candidates for a merit scholarship: bit.ly/bps-merit-semi22

Bloomington students earning National Merit Commended Student status for outstanding academic promise are Jefferson's **Aidan Busse**, **Colin Carnish**, **Benjamin Lodwick**, **Ellie Paulson**, **Abigail Pearson**, **Tiffany Tian**, **Irene Zheng**; and Kennedy's **Siri Anderson** and **Audrey Crippen**.



Poplar Bridge and Ridgeview Elementary developmental phy ed (DAPE) teacher **Justin Lund** was named Teacher of the Year. The news will be

announced at the annual Minnesota SHAPE conference, Nov. 7. He serves as a region 11 representative for the DAPE state committee.

Justin has served as a leader in the DAPE department, by forging collaborative relationships, creating online content during COVID for New Code Academy and initiating unified P.E. classes for Normandale Hills and Washburn Elementary.

Seven former athletic standouts from Jefferson and Kennedy High School were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame. Jefferson's **Haley Bodway** (2012), **Kari (Henningsgaard) Bollum** (1975) and **Britney Scherber** (2012); and Kennedy's **Debbie Driscoll** (1973), **Robin (Smith) Hanson** (1998), **Kristine (Kruger) Kading** (2000) and **Jenna Smith** (2006) were this year's honorees: bit.ly/bps-ahof2022

Olson Middle School social studies teacher **Laurie Bohn** won a teacher video challenge, showcasing how she uses ArcGIS Online technologies within the classroom: bit.ly/bps-arcgis

Bohn's 8th-grade Dimensions Academy students placed first in the Minnesota on the Map ArcGIS student competition and represented the state in the national competition in June.