

Safe Schools, Safe Community Bond Election

Questions and Answers

Q: What is a bond election?

A: A bond election is a community vote on whether to give a school district permission to borrow money to make improvements. Just like people take out a mortgage to buy a house, school districts borrow money for construction, renovation, equipment, buses, etc., and then repay that money over time. Most school districts in Oklahoma and across the nation use funds generated by the sale of bonds to pay for needed improvements.

Q: Will this bond proposal increase property taxes?

A: If voters approve the \$6.5 million bond proposal, property taxes will rise slightly. The cost will vary for each individual household based on the value of the home. For example, people living in a home valued at \$100,000 would pay an extra \$79.80 a year in property taxes – about \$6.65 a month.

Q: If voters approve this bond proposal, when will we see improvements?

A: If voters approve the bond proposal, construction is expected to begin in June 2021 and be complete by August 2022.

Q: When did we last vote on a school bond proposal?

A: The most recent bond election was in May 2015, when more than 95 percent of voters said “yes” to a \$5 million Bethany Schools’ bond proposal. The funds generated from the sale of bonds paid for additional high school

classrooms, expanding the high school auditorium, constructing new elementary small group classrooms, constructing a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) classroom building, and adding security and technology as needed in district buildings. Those improvements have all been completed and are in use daily by students and teachers.

Q: Can bond funds be used to pay teacher salaries?

A: No. By law, bond funds can only be used for purposes like building construction or renovation, and purchase of equipment, technology, textbooks, buses, etc. Bond funds may never be used for salaries.

Q: Why is voting for a bond important even if I don’t have children attending school in the district?

A: Good schools and good communities go together. A strong school system increases property values and is a reflection of the community as a whole. Bethany schools are a valuable community resource, even for people without children attending those schools.

Q: What happens if the bond proposal is not approved by voters?

A: In the 110-year history of Bethany Schools, voters have approved every bond election brought to them. Should a bond election not be successful, funds to make improvements would not be available.

Bethany Schools’ Excellence

Bethany Schools is one of Oklahoma’s finest and most recognized school districts. Consider:

- Rated as the third-best school district in Oklahoma by niche.com
- Named the state’s number one workplace for midsize organizations by the Oklahoman.
- Bethany Elementary School in 2017 and Bethany High School in 2014 each received the prestigious Blue Ribbon School Award from the U.S. Department of Education.
- Bethany Elementary School has earned an A on Oklahoma’s school report card for the two most recent years.
- Bethany Middle School and Bethany High School each earned a B on the two most recent Oklahoma report cards, far outpacing the average Oklahoma school on academic achievement and earning a score that keeps them among the most accomplished in the state.



VOTE
Tuesday, Aug. 25

www.bethanyschools.com/bond