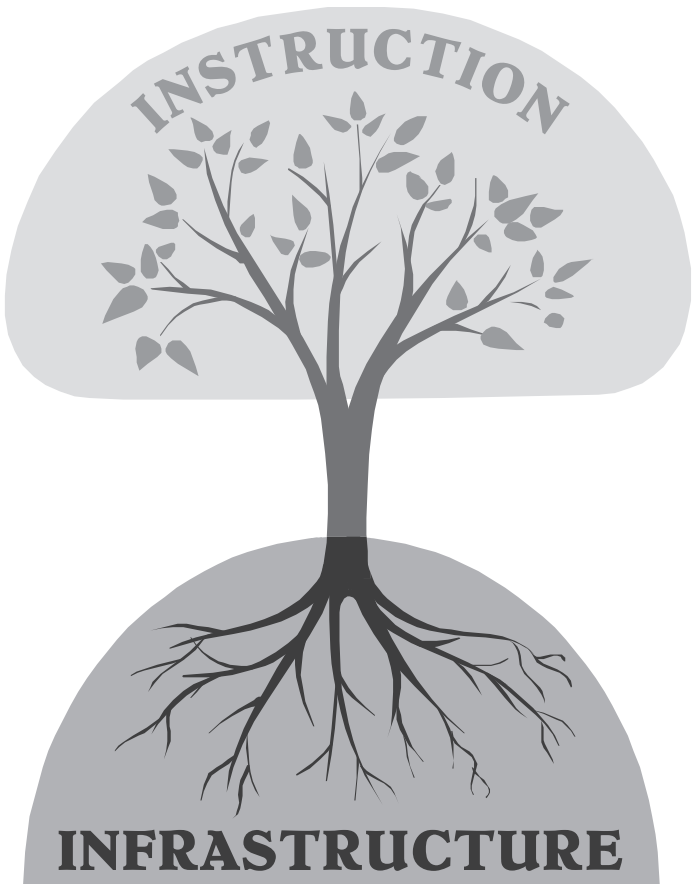


Blaine County School District #61

Plant Facility Levy Election

**PLEASE
VOTE!**



**Thursday,
October 29, 2009
12:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

Turning your vision into reality

Over the past two years our community has assisted in setting the vision for the Blaine County School District. Considering over 6,000 comments from community members, parents, and district staff, committees have recommended strategies and action plans to achieve “Ten Goals” that make up the Blaine County School District’s Strategic Plan. This plan will guide the district through the year 2020. Now the task is determining how the community’s vision for its school district will be funded.



On April 13-24, 2009 the Blaine County School Board & District Administration commissioned a random telephone survey sampling of the 11,650 registered voters in the county. This sampling polled 3.9% of those voters. The results revealed the following: **74%** of the total respondents favor the renewal of the current 10 (ten) year Plant Facilities Levy.

Three areas of the district’s Strategic Plan -- technology, safety and security, and facilities -- would be funded by renewing our current Plant Facility Levy.

What are the benefits?

1. The proposed Plant Facilities Levy will **NOT increase taxes** for any Blaine County residents, and is **projected to decrease the current tax rate.**
2. Funding these three areas of the Strategic Plan under a Plant Facility Levy would allow the district to **continue using its general operating budget solely for programs and curriculum**, rather than pitting the two needs (infrastructure vs programs) against each other.
3. A Plant Facility Levy allows the District to collect money annually, saving for anticipated future needs. When those needs become a reality the money is there with little to no interest being paid, thereby saving taxpayers a significant amount of money. **An additional benefit to a Plant Facility Levy is that if anticipated needs are not realized, the money does not need to be collected.**
4. If future needs are not funded through a plant facility levy like this one, the alternative for funding infrastructure improvements and facilities is to pass a bond referendum. A bond referendum essentially asks taxpayers to take out a 20 year loan, with the associated interest costs.

What goals will be funded by the levy?



We put into practice **state-of-the art technology** that provides students and staff with full working and learning capability.

What will the levy fund?

- Enhanced technology classrooms
- Computer rotation cycle (5 years)
- New technology in years 3-10
- Fiber optic cable between all buildings



Our schools are **safe and secure environments** that adapt to an ever-changing world.

What will the levy fund?

- Access controls on all district buildings
- Automatic lockdown capabilities at each school
- Interior/exterior hi-def security cameras at each school



Our **facilities, grounds, and classrooms** promote sustainability and provide for optimal learning.

What will the levy fund?

- Energy conservation/sustainability measures district-wide
- High efficiency heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems at the older buildings
- Fire sprinkler systems in buildings where they do not exist
- Irrigation system improvements to conserve water usage
- Auditorium improvements at the Community Campus
- Solar systems to heat paver areas
- Cafeteria addition at Bellevue Elementary
- Carey School site improvements
- New elementary school (Opening approximately 2014)
- Addition of 8 classrooms to Wood River Middle School
- A maintenance/food storage facility

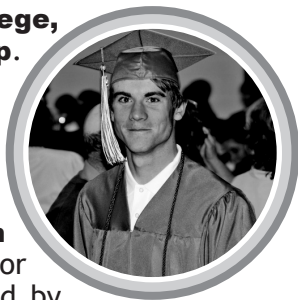


What goals will be funded by the general operation budget?

Funding the before mentioned areas of the district's Strategic Plan through a Plant Facility Levy allows the district to **continue funding the other areas of the Strategic Plan with the General Operating Budget.**



Each student demonstrates BCSD 21st Century Student Performance Indicators to ensure **preparedness for college, career, and citizenship.**



Every student receives a **rigorous curriculum** that prepares them for college and is supported by challenging, inspiring, and relevant instruction.



Our students are prepared for a **multicultural and multilingual world.**



We work as a community to develop and support **the whole child.**



Our students demonstrate **healthy social and emotional behaviors** with the support of parents and community.



We actively recruit, retain, and develop highly competent, caring, and **student focused staff.**



To enrich our children's educational experience we utilize the resources of **our community.**

Download a complete copy of the district's Strategic Plan at www.blaineschools.org or pick one up at the District Office.

Financial Facts

The district's Strategic Plan includes details defining infrastructure-related projects which will be paid for by the proposed Plant Facility Levy. Once the current levy period expires in 2010, passage of this new levy will enable the district to collect \$5,980,000 annually, and will be accomplished **without raising the tax rate**⁽¹⁾.

Passage of the levy will allow for the upgrade of the following:

- 1) Technology 2) Safety & Security 3) Facilities

The levy focus will allow the district's general operating budget to be utilized solely for curriculum and education programs.

If you are a senior citizen, disabled person or widow/widower with an adjusted gross income of \$28,000 or less per year, you may file a circuit breaker property tax exemption with the county assessor's offices, which could reduce your property taxes by as much as \$1,320 annually.

Tax Breakdown

Home Owner Example:

Total Market Value ⁽³⁾	\$ 419,610
Less H.O. Exemption ⁽²⁾	\$-(104,471)
Taxable Value	\$ 315,139

The 2010 tax rate is projected to remain at or below the current tax levy rate of approximately .00053

Current Bond/Levy Taxes for the Blaine County School District:

\$315,139 x .00053 = \$167 per year

<u>Tax Rate (per \$1,000)</u>	<u>Actual 2008</u>	<u>Preliminary 2009</u>	<u>Projected 2010</u>
Bond Tax Rate ⁽⁴⁾	\$0.18	\$0.19	\$0
Plant Facilities Tax Rate ⁽⁴⁾	\$0.32	\$0.34	\$0
Total of Above	\$0.50	\$0.53	
New Plant Facilities Tax Rate			\$0.51
Taxes on \$419,610 home value after H.O. exemption	\$158	\$167	\$160

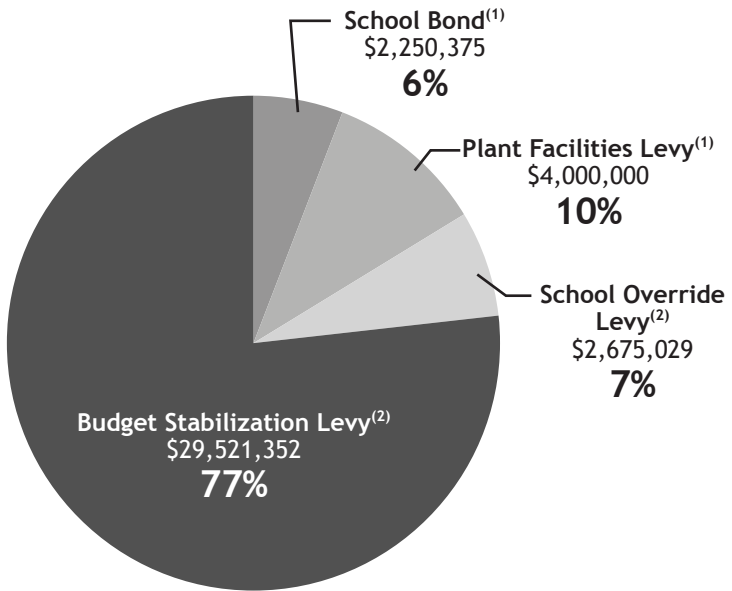
(1) Blaine County property owners benefit from one of the lowest property tax rates in Idaho, (Source: Associated Taxpayers of Idaho), while maintaining among the highest standards of education in the state.

(2) The homeowner's exemption allows an exemption of \$104,471 (maximum) or 50% of the home value (including up to 1 acre of land) whichever is less.

(3) Average 2008 sales price in Hailey. Source: Windemere Real Estate Market Review

(4) Both Bond Tax Rate and Plant Facilities Tax Rate expire this year. The new Plant Facility Levy will replace both of these amounts.

What are our current property taxes?



The School Bond Levy⁽¹⁾ was created in 1993, funding the construction of Wood River Middle School, the new Silver Creek High School, the connector hallway at Hailey Elementary, the Bellevue multi-purpose room, the Carey gymnasium and the front entrance addition to Hemingway. The amount of the Bond was \$16.5 million dollars.

The Plant Facilities Levy⁽¹⁾ was created from the Strategic Plan developed in 1999-2000. The amount of the Levy was \$40 million dollars to be collected at \$4 million dollars per year for 10 years. This levy was used to build Wood River High School, the Hemingway Childcare Facility, the Bus Maintenance Facility, site improvements at Bellevue and Hailey Elementaries, Carey High School, Woodside Elementary and the addition to Wood River Middle School.

The School Override Levy⁽²⁾ was created approximately 25 years ago to help offset the costs of salaries and benefits not being reimbursed by the State of Idaho. The last time the Override Levy increased was 1995. Since that time this levy has remained the same and will continue to until the district asks the patrons for a voter approved increase. This levy is \$2.6 million dollars.

The Budget Stabilization Levy⁽²⁾ was created by the passage of House Bill No. 1 during the Special Legislative session in August of 2006. By shifting School Districts off property tax and funding them solely with Sales and Income Tax the financial impact to Blaine County would have been devastating. This levy was created to alleviate a potential financial disaster. This levy is a fixed amount and can't be increased. The levy can be decreased by a simple vote of the School Board of Trustees.

(1) The School Bond and the Plant Facilities Levy would both be replaced by the proposed New Plant Facilities Levy.

(2) Both the School Override Levy and Budget Stabilization levy are funding the General Operational Budget and have no direct relationship with the new Plant Facilities Levy.

About Voting

Who? Blaine County residents can pre-register to vote by completing the Idaho voter registration form -- on or before October 5th or register at one of the five polling places during election hours on October 29th. Bring along your ID/proof of residence.

When? Thursday, October 29th, 2009
12:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Where? Vote at any of the five locations below:

- Bellevue Elementary School, or
- Carey Public School, or
- Hailey Elementary School, or
- Hemingway Elementary School, or
- Woodside Elementary School

Absentee Voting? If you will be gone during voting hours and qualify as an elector, you may vote absentee beginning Thursday, October 1, 2009 and ending at 5:00 pm on Wednesday October 28, 2009. To vote absentee, send in a written request to Laurie Kaufman, Clerk of the Blaine County School District, 118 West Bullion Street, Hailey, ID 83333 to receive a ballot in the mail, or telephone Ms. Kaufman at 578-5000 to arrange a time for voting absentee.

Community Information Meetings

October 5th - Hemingway Elementary - 6:00-7:00 pm

October 6th - Wood River Middle School - 6:00 -7:00 pm

October 16th - Carey School - 5:45-6:45 pm

Additional Information

Please contact any of the following individuals for further information:

School Board Members

Paul Bates	788-1206
Julie Dahlgren	726-2505
Steven Guthrie	578-5019
Mari Beth Matthews	726-4133
Daniel Parke	823-9309

District Superintendent

Lonnie Barber	578-5000
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District Treasurer

Mike Chatterton	578-5000
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District Clerk

Laurie Kaufman	578-5003
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Hawley Troxell Law Firm

Nick Miller	388-4849
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Seattle Northwest Securities

Eric Heringer	344-8561
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Levy Committee Co-Chairs

Janet & Lynn Askew	788-2950
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www.blaineschools.org