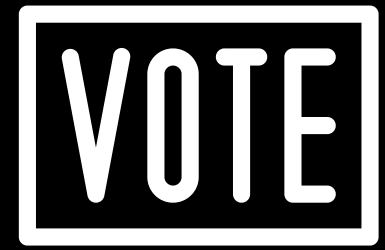


NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION



NOVEMBER 8, 2022

VOTING IS EASY

The Independent School District No. 271 (Bloomington Public Schools) special election will be held in conjunction with the City of Bloomington municipal election. Any eligible voter may vote at the polling place designated for the precinct in which he or she resides. Polls will be open at 7 a.m. and will close at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

Applications for absentee ballots and early voting may be completed at Bloomington Civic Plaza (City Clerk's Office), 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Individuals can register to vote at the polling places on Election Day or during early voting at Bloomington Civic Plaza.

More info: bloomingtonmn.gov/cl/voting-information

1350 West 106th Street
Bloomington, MN 55431-4126



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

As superintendent, I truly enjoy connecting with students, staff, families and community residents. In the weeks since the new school year began, I've taken time to visit schools, engage with students, cheer on our home teams, attend fall activities and connect with business, community and civic leaders.

In addition to sharing our school success stories, I've also raised awareness of the safe and innovative schools levy renewal that is on the November ballot. I was asked recently, "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 numerous. 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.

We know school safety remains a top of mind concern for our community. It is why we are sharing information about the importance of renewing the capital projects levy that supports school safety and security systems, and classroom technology.

We have the responsibility to provide the community with facts about renewing the Safe and Innovative Schools Referendum. The information in this notice, along with other details, is available on the district's website, bit.ly/bps-2022-referendum, and at all schools and offices.

Eric Melbye, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

■ WHY IS THE DISTRICT HOLDING A REFERENDUM?

We are seeking approval to renew the expiring capital projects levy approved in 2013 to continue to fund School Safety & Security that will better prepare for, protect against and respond to school emergencies and threats, and to support and maintain Education Technology for students and staff.

■ WHAT WILL THE MONEY BE USED FOR?

A safe learning environment is essential for all students to promote social and creative learning. We've significantly upgraded physical and security hardware, software, and training as part of a multi-layered approach to school safety. A renewal of the levy will enhance and expand security measures, including upgrades to alarm, video and emergency communications, and expanded training.

The Next Technologies for Learning plan shifted schools to one-to-one learning and put a structure in place to close the Digital Access Gap. Reinvestment is needed to expand anytime/anywhere learning solutions, improve classroom technology and digital learning platforms, and empower teachers with technology integration skills and tools.

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.

- ☐ **YES** 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?
- ☐ **NO**

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

■ HOW WILL THIS AFFECT PROPERTY TAXES?

The levy renewal can be accomplished with a no tax increase on property owners as a whole, unless property values increase in the future. If approved, the levy authorization at the current tax rate of 5.858 percent (net tax capacity of the district) will fund approximately \$9.8 million the first year (\$1,014 per student), and is renewed for 10 years, from 2025-2034.