

The Weekly Comet

From Dr. Tom Meyer, Superintendent of the Bellevue Community School District

Believe In The Blue! Believe In Bellevue!

Upcoming Events, Early Dismissals, and "No School" Days

- February 15 - Bellevue CSD Community Open House about the Referendum
- February 20 - No School President's Day
- March 7 - Bellevue CSD Special Election for Bellevue Elementary School - Polls open from 7 AM - 8 PM
- March 8 & 9 - Parent/Teacher Conferences ; 2-Hour Early Dismissal
- March 10 - No School

Bellevue CSD Community Open House

The Bellevue CSD is hosting a "Community Open House" on **Wednesday, February 15 from 6:30-8:00 PM at the Bellevue Elementary Gym.**

This span of time will feature an opportunity for stakeholders to gain knowledge about the upcoming referendum on March 7 including information on the **"Plan and Process"** for this upcoming proposed project, **"Project Funding and Tax Impact"** for stakeholders, along with small group tours if desired by those in attendance. People are welcome to come any time during this time span to gain information.

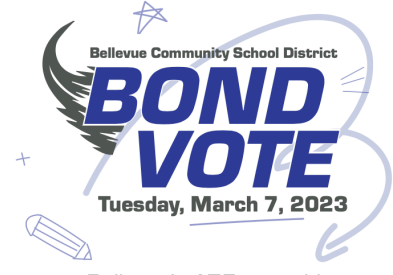
Bellevue CSD Referendum Information

As the district moves closer to the date of the March 7 referendum for a new 3-5 elementary building, check out further information on the following website connected to the district website: <http://www.bellevue.k12.ia.us/bondlandingpage>

Upcoming Student Events

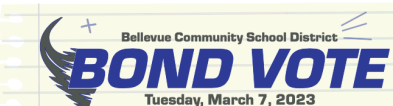
Several Bellevue High School teams will be participating in post-season action in the upcoming days next week (and beyond hopefully). Some of these include the following:

- Saturday**
District Wrestling @ Wilton
- Sunday**
Bleacher Blowout - Cheer and Dance Teams
- Monday**
Girls State Qualifying Bowling @ Camanche
Boys District Basketball - Home vs Springville
- Tuesday**
Boys State Qualifying Bowling @ Camanche
Girls District Basketball - Home vs Northeast
- Thursday**
Boys District Basketball (if win Monday) - Home



Bellevue Community School District
BOND VOTE
Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Bellevue's 175-year-old elementary school is **out of space and time**. In order to provide equitable educational spaces for Bellevue's youngest learners, the Bellevue Community School District is asking voters to approve a \$13.1 million general obligation bond during a special election on **March 7, 2023**.



Bellevue Community School District
BOND VOTE
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WHAT'S DIFFERENT THIS TIME?
Following the last two bond votes, the district and community-based committee went back to the drawing board to come up with a plan that responded to community concerns. The final plan is a phased approach that costs less (despite current inflation) and will impact property taxes less.

- + Phased Approach**
 - Phase 1 (Bond Referendum)**
 - PK-2 stays in the existing elementary school
 - 3-5 move to a new building at the middle/high school site
 - Phase 2 (District-Funded)**
 - Renovations and improvements to the high school's fine arts and CTE spaces
 - Other facility projects to address space needs based on enrollment, including a potential addition to the 3-5 building for PK-2
- + Lower project cost**
 - \$13.1 million compared to \$16 million (2018) and \$14.5 million (2019)
- + Less property tax impact**
 - \$2.70 per \$1,000 of property tax valuation compared to \$4.05 (2018) and \$3.75 (2019)
 - The project cost will be supplemented by PPEL and SAVE funds which will not raise property taxes additionally.



BELIEVE IN OUR FUTURE

Believe in the Blue. Vote March 7, 2023.

HOW WILL THE BOND AFFECT MY PROPERTY TAXES?

The \$13.1 bond is less than both of the prior two proposals in 2018 and 2019. By using multiple funding sources over a period of five to eight years with phased construction, the committee was able to minimize the tax impact. Property taxes will increase \$2.70 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation. The final taxable value of your property is a percentage of its assessed value after credits. Below are examples of how taxes will be affected for both residential and agricultural land.

Residential							
Assessed value	Rollback	Taxable value	Homestead credit	Net taxable value	Levy Rate change per \$1,000	Monthly tax change	Annual tax change
\$100,000	54.1302%	\$54,130	\$4,850	\$49,280	\$2.70	\$11.09	\$133.06
\$200,000	54.1302%	\$108,260	\$4,850	\$103,410	\$2.70	\$23.27	\$279.21
\$300,000	54.1302%	\$162,390	\$4,850	\$157,540	\$2.70	\$35.45	\$425.36

Agricultural Land					
Average assessed value	Rollback	Taxable value	Levy Rate change per \$1,000	Monthly tax change	Annual tax change
\$1,208/acre	89.0412%	\$1,076/acre	\$2.70	\$0.24	\$2.90

By being fiscally responsible, the district has been able to keep Bellevue's levy rate low compared to peer districts. After the bond passes, Bellevue's rate will still be lower than many of the districts in the River Valley Conference and other area school districts.

COMPARABLE DISTRICT LEVY RATES

Anamosa.....	\$16.07
Camanche.....	\$15.34
West Branch.....	\$15.21
Northeast.....	\$14.87
Wilton.....	\$14.66
Easton Valley.....	\$14.61
Monticello.....	\$14.12
West Liberty.....	\$14.23
Dubuque.....	\$14.56
Bellevue (after bond).....	\$13.57
North Cedar.....	\$13.44
Mid Prairie.....	\$13.22
Maquoketa.....	\$13.00
Tipton.....	\$11.85
Andrew.....	\$11.61
Cascade.....	\$11.26
Bellevue (current).....	\$10.87
Durant.....	\$10.33



WHAT WILL THE BALLOT SAY?

On March 7, 2023, a date pre-determined by state law, Bellevue Community School District will hold a special election. Sixty-percent of voters must approve the question for the bond to pass.

Shall the Board of Directors of the Bellevue Community School District in the County of Jackson, State of Iowa, be authorized to contract indebtedness and issue General Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$13,100,000 to provide funds to build, furnish, and equip a new elementary building and improve the site?

HOW DO I VOTE?

EARLY



Vote early in person at the Jackson County Courthouse Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. February 15 through March 6.

ABSENTEE



Scan me

Request an absentee ballot from the Jackson County auditor by February 20 (15 days prior to the election). Ballots must be received to the auditor by 8 p.m. on election day. **Print an absentee ballot request form online: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/absenteeballotapp.pdf>**

ELECTION DAY: MARCH 7, 2023

On election day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., eligible voters may vote at:

Bellevue Community Center
1700 State Street
Bellevue, Iowa 52031

