

2023  
**BOND**  
Buckley Community Schools

## FAQs

### What is a bond proposal?

A bond proposal is how a public school district asks its community for authorization to borrow money to pay for capital expenditures.

### What can Buckley Community Schools spend voter-approved funds on?

Voter-approved bond funds can be spent on new construction, additions, remodeling, site improvements, athletic facilities, playgrounds, buses, furnishings, equipment, and technology.

### What can't the district spend funds on?

Funds raised through the sale of bonds cannot be used on operational expenses such as employee salaries and benefits, school supplies, and textbooks. Bond funds must be kept separate from operating funds and must be audited by an independent auditing firm.

### What is Buckley Community Schools requesting?

On August 8, 2023, Buckley Community Schools will ask community voters to consider a bond proposal that would generate approximately \$7.4 million for district-wide facility improvements. The district's debt millage will not increase from the 2023 debt millage rate.

#### PRIMARY INVESTMENTS:      WHY WE NEED IT:



#### CAPACITY INCREASE

A replacement preschool building and expansions at the K12 building will accommodate a projected 20% increase in enrollment over the next five years.



#### SAFETY

More robust security measures at the K12 building will give students, staff, and community members peace of mind.



#### TRANSPORTATION

As the district's buses age, two new buses will enable the BCS to continue providing safe, reliable transportation for students.



#### GENERAL UPKEEP

Remodeling the existing facilities, including replacing the fieldhouse roof, will keep students warm, safe, and dry.

## How was this bond proposal developed?

The district used the strategic action plan process to gather stakeholder input. The process included round table meetings, community surveys, and planning meetings. Stakeholders included students, parents, staff members, as well as community members. The district also hosted a community meeting to gather feedback and make changes to the original bond proposal.

## How will the district increase capacity?

The district anticipates enrollment growing by 100 students over the next five years, a 20% increase. Our current facilities are not equipped to support the larger student population. If approved, the bond program will fund a replacement preschool building, plus three new classrooms and a cafeteria expansion at the K12 building.

## Where would the replacement preschool be built?

The replacement preschool facility will be constructed adjacent to the existing preschool building.

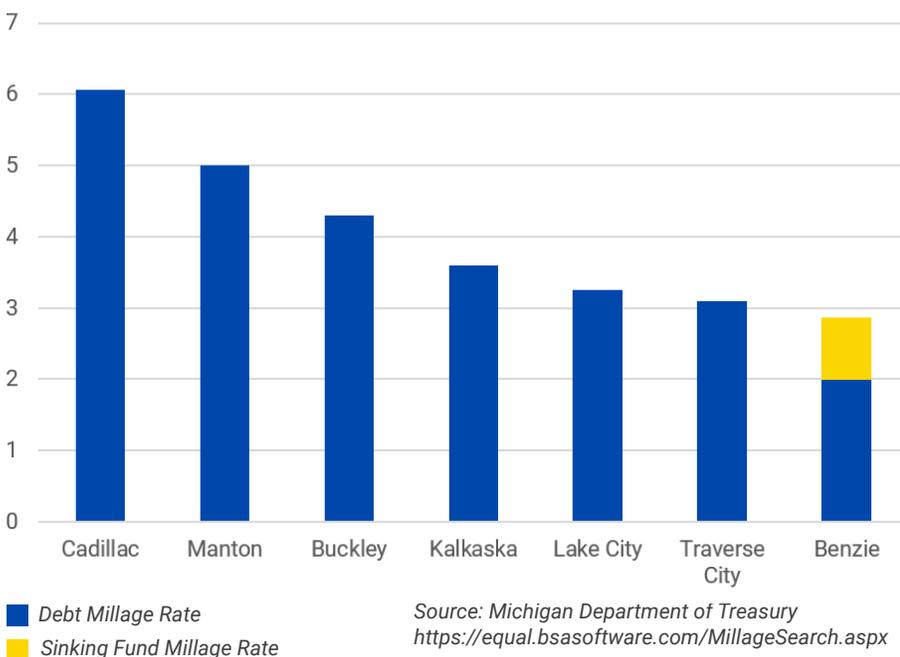
## How will the district oversee the use of these dollars?

If the bond proposal is approved by the voters, the money and projects will all be overseen by a bond steering committee. This committee would report to the Board of Education, which would approve and relay all recommendations to the full board at their regular public meetings.

## What happens if voters do not approve this bond?

Enrollment is projected to increase regardless of the August 8 election results. Without increasing the district's capacity, the number of students per classroom will most likely rise.

## What is Buckley's overall capital millage rate compared to other districts?



## How will this impact my taxes?

If approved, the \$7.4 million bond proposal is not expected to increase the tax rate above your current tax rate.

Market Value	Taxable Value	Millage Increase Over 2023 Rate
\$75,000	\$37,500	0
\$100,000	\$50,000	0
\$125,000	\$62,500	0
\$150,000	\$75,000	0

## **How is a mill calculated?**

One mill is \$1 for every \$1,000 of taxable value. If you are a property owner and your property has a taxable value of \$50,000, you will be taxed \$50 per mill.

## **If the bond issue passes, when will work begin?**

Work funded by the bond could start as soon as spring of 2024 and extend through 2025.

## **How can a bond be passed without increasing the current tax rate?**

A bond can be passed without increasing current tax rates through a combination of two conditions: existing debt is retired and the state equalized value (SEV) increases across the district.

## **Will I be able to vote on this bond proposal?**

If you are a registered voter within the Buckley Community School District, which is comprised of Grant, Green Lake, Mayfield, Hanover, and Wexford Townships, you will be able to vote in this election.

## **Where can I learn more about voting?**

To register to vote or to confirm your voter registration status, visit the Michigan Voter Information Center at [Michigan.gov/vote](https://Michigan.gov/vote)

## **Can I vote absentee?**

Yes. All registered Michigan voters can vote absentee. You may mail or hand-deliver your ballot to your township clerk's office by 8 p.m. on August 8. If you are submitting your ballot by mail, the state recommends sending your ballot at least two weeks before Election Day to avoid postal delays.

## **I have more questions. Who can I talk to?**

Superintendent Jessica Harrant can discuss your questions, concerns, and ideas in more detail. Give Jessica a call at (231) 269-3325 or send a message to [jharrant@buckleyschools.com](mailto:jharrant@buckleyschools.com).