

## ELECTION INFO

### Absentee Voting:

1. Complete one absentee voter application per voter. Only fill out page 2 "Voter Affidavit" only if you do not have a valid ID.
2. You can download the application (below), fill it out, and mail it to Business Office, 806 N. Washington St., Bismarck ND, 58501 and a ballot will be mailed to you. Must be postmarked before 3/7.
3. OR: you can download the application (below), fill it out, and email it to jeni\_iverson@bismarckschools.org and she will mail you a ballot. (It cannot be emailed to you). Must postmark before 3/7.
4. OR: you can come to Hughes, 806 N. Washington St., west door 4 or 5, and fill out the application in person and receive your ballot to vote there. Absentee voting closes at 5 pm on 3/6.

For an application, go to [www.bismarckschools.org/district/growth](http://www.bismarckschools.org/district/growth).

Must bring a valid I.D. Must be a BPS resident for 30 days and age 18 or older to vote

**Tuesday, March 7, 2017**  
**ELECTION DAY**  
**Polls open 7 am-7 pm.**

- Any public school including BECEP & Lincoln Elem.
- On election day, not at Hughes or Career Academy.
- Some people won't vote at their regular precinct.
- The school district is larger than the city limits.

### More information online or contact the Superintendent:

tamara\_uselman@bismarckschools.org,  
701-323-4054, [www.bismarckschools.org](http://www.bismarckschools.org)



Prepared by Bismarck Public Schools to educate patrons on the March 7 bond.

## TIMELINE

### If bond passes:

BPS would call for bids for the five MS/HS projects within 21 days of bond approval. Bids would be opened late March and early April. Construction would begin this spring. Most middle school projects would be completed by fall of 2018; most high school projects would be done by the fall of 2019.

### If bond fails:

The Board & administrators may:

- \* buy or lease 24-to-36 portables.  
Purchase: \$90,000 each. Lease: one-time set up/tear down cost of \$50,000 each + \$1,800 per month;
- \* rent commercial space;
- \* split schedules;
- \* split feeders;
- \* temporary off-site programming at Hughes, Saxvik or other areas.

Other ideas may be explored. No final decisions have been made by the School Board pending the outcome of the bond election on March 7.

## GET THE FACTS

about the Bismarck Public School bond

Election: **Tues. March 7, 2017**



The Bismarck Public School Board is proposing a \$57.5 million bond while keeping the 2015-16 debt service mill levy flat through a "retire & replace" strategy to provide space for 1,500 students at:

**Horizon, Simle & Wachter MS**

**Bismarck & Century High Schools**



**BISMARCK  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*College, career,  
community ready*

## COMMITTEE ADVICE

## CHALLENGES

## PROPOSED SOLUTION

2015-16: 75-person committee with members from each school and the community reviewed enrollment and school facility data during 5 meetings, several school tours & 3 public forums.

2016: committee recommended the Board provide space for 1,500 more students through additions & renovations to CHS, BHS, and all 3 middle schools.

Here are the 5 proposed bond projects:

- Horizon: improve security at entrance; add classrooms, music & P.E. space. HMS has capacity for 900 students, 1,226 are expected by 2021 (30% increase). May need 9 portables (if the bond fails).
- Simle: add classrooms, science & P.E. space; create safe/secure entrance to the east. SMS's capacity is 850; expects 1,021 students by fall 2021. Has a double portable now; may need more (if bond fails).
- Wachter: add classrooms; improve security/handicap accessibility at main entry; add music & P.E. space. WMS capacity is 900; expects 1,224 students by 2021 (30% increase); could need 14 portables (if the bond fails).
- BHS: add auditorium/theatre, a gym court, locker rooms & P.E. classrooms. BHS is only Class A school in ND without a theatre/auditorium. Capacity is 1,550 with 1,465 students expected by fall 2021.
- CHS: add classrooms, music & P.E. space; build larger lunchroom/food service area; improve access & security at main entrance. CHS capacity is 1,050. With 6 portables and a metal classroom building, it now holds 1,223; expects 1,545 students in 5 years. Could need 13 more portables (if bond doesn't pass).

- BPS, the largest district in ND, expects to grow 1,900 students by 2021; 1,500 at middle/high school level.
- Elementary classes of 1,000+ reaching middle level.
- Simle & Horizon are over capacity; Wachter will be in the fall. Middle school space is most pressing need.
- Middle schools projected to increase another 530 or so students in next 5 years (2021-22 school year).
- No middle school space added in the 2012 bond election upon the advice of a community survey.
- High school enrollment expected to increase about 977 students by 2021; BHS & LHS can handle the growth; CHS has 6 portables and cannot without an expansion.
- BPS updated the above enrollment projections this fall. Planner's estimates have been 99% accurate for BPS.

- Expand and renovate 3 middle schools & 2 high schools at a cost of \$57.5 million without increasing debt service by "retiring" old bonds from former projects and "replacing" with the new bonds.
- Keep the 2015-16 mill rate flat because projects, such as the original Horizon Middle School, will be coming off tax rolls & new projects will be staggered.
- Apply for \$15 million from state school construction fund at about 2% interest for some of the project cost.
- The district must hold an election before it can sell bonds. That election has been set for Tues., March 7.

Tax Impact Calculator to compute the bond amount (plus or minus) on your property: [www.bismarckschools.org](http://www.bismarckschools.org) under green Bond Election 2017 tab.

*The chart to the right shows how BPS would finance the 5 school projects. As existing debt comes off the tax rolls, new debt would come on, which would keep debt service mills flat or slightly reduced from 2015-16 levels.*

