



Brighton Area Schools Press Release

Date: 3/25/2026

Topic: Brighton Area Schools provides factual information and helps battle misinformation

Important Information:

- **Event** - BAS hosted a community question and answer event on Monday, March 23 at Brighton High School. Our superintendent, Dr. Outlaw, began by providing a factual overview of the bond. This was followed by a question and answer session that included the district's third party financial advisor, construction and design experts, board of education members, and members of the administration. Approximately 45 people were in attendance.
- **Beyond factual events like the Q and A, what is BAS doing to combat misinformation?** The Brighton Area Schools has added a "fact or fiction" section to the district's bond webpage. BAS voters can click on the link and share a rumor, a statement that they feel may be misleading, or questionable information for verification.. Responses to submitted bond-related questions will be posted on a link that will be right below the "fact or fiction" link on the website. This will be updated daily. Many voters have been reaching out with questions and the district continues to respond with factual information.
- **Motivation for the Fact of Fiction section of the bond webpage** - During bond elections, inaccurate, misleading, and/or conflicting information can be shared with community members. Some may stem from rumors or gaps in understanding, while others may be intentional efforts to mislead voters. The Brighton Area Schools is committed to providing voters with factual information so that informed decisions can be made at the polls.
- **Has there been misinformation shared about the May bond election?** Yes. A former Brighton board of education member shared an anti-bond post that unfortunately included inaccurate and misleading information. Additionally, social media forums have been another source of misinformation. If details are needed on this topic, please reach out to board of education members.

- **How does the Brighton Area Schools ensure that information shared is factual in nature?** All financial information shared on the Brighton bond website and in district

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communications has been reviewed by third party financial experts and/or is backed by publicly available financial information as part of the State's financial reporting requirements. Furthermore, district legal counsel reviews our materials and communications.

- **Where should voters go to get verified, factual information regarding the Brighton Area Schools bond?** Our bond website houses factual information regarding the ballot, finances, taxes, projects, and more. As mentioned above, information on this site is backed by third party experts and/or official documents. Additionally, voters can reach out to our Superintendent, Dr. Outlaw at outlawm@brightonk12.com.
- **What are some of the key facts that voters want to know about the bond?** Most questions thus far have been about projects and taxation. This is some of the key information that we have provided to those questions:

The following is a historical look at the Brighton Area Schools capital millage rate over the past four decades. **It is the lowest it has been since at least 1987**

- Prior to 1987 - Tax records were not available
- 1987-88 - 4.36 mills
- 1988-1996 - 4.74 mills
- 1996-97 - 5.28 mills
- 1997-2001 - 5.64 mills
- 2001-2003 - 5.6 mills
- 2003-2009 - 5.2 mills
- 2009-2010 - 5.8 mills
- 2010-11 - 5.7 mills
- 2012-2023 - 7.19 mills
- 2023-2025 - 6.19 mills
- **2025-26 - 2.92 mills**
- **2026 to 2032 (Proposed) - 4 mills**

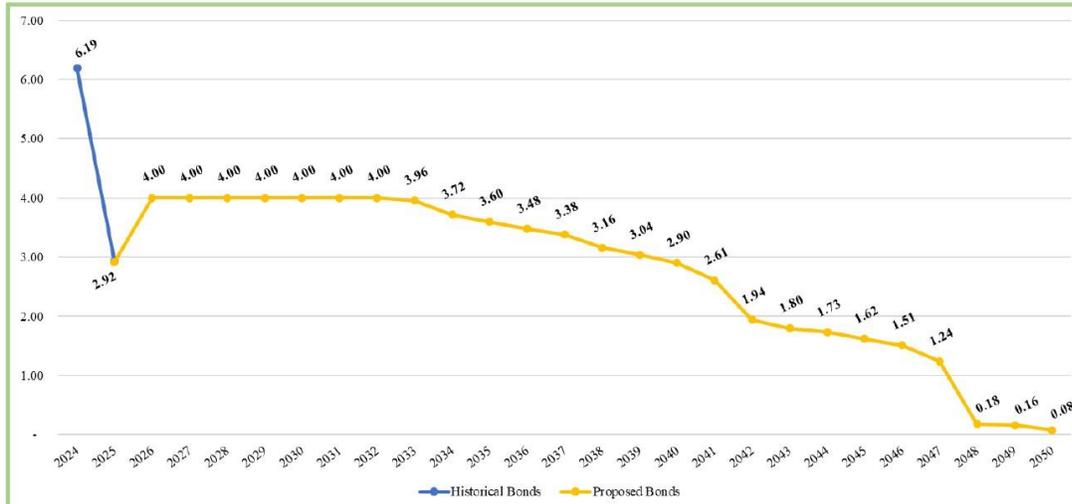
What is being requested? Increase of 1.08 mills from 2025-26 (2.92 mills + 1.08 mills = 4 mills). Below is the historical and projected millage rate chart:





Historical / Estimated Proposed Millage Rates

(Assumes Taxable Value Growth of 2.72% - 3.00%)



The following is a chart with samples of the millage rates in real dollars:

Home Market Value	Home Taxable Value	Yearly Cost 2012 to 2023 (7.19 Mills)	Yearly Cost 2023 & 2024 (6.19 mills)	Yearly Cost 2025 (2.92 Mills)	Requested Yearly Cost (2.92 + 1.08 = 4 mills)
\$200,000	\$100,000	\$719	\$619	\$292	Add \$108
\$300,000	\$150,000	\$1,078.50	\$928.50	\$438	Add \$162
\$400,000	\$200,000	\$1,438	\$1,238	\$584	Add \$216
\$500,000	\$250,000	\$2,157	\$1,547.50	\$876	Add \$270

How do Brighton's tax rate compare to other areas - Brighton has the lowest capital millage rate in the county at the current 2.92 and at the proposed 4 mills. Howell is the next closest at 5.5 mills.

"Why bonds" or "why now" - In this State, bonds and millages are the primary source of funding for large-scale school construction like this. Since 1964, the Brighton Area Schools (BAS) has had 11 successful bonds with an average of five years between bonds. BAS has targeted a seven year cadence in recent years with 2012, 2019, and 2026.

What are the primary projects? There are over 170 items on the list with safety and security, learning space, and infrastructure being the primary areas of investment. Some of the larger safety and security projects would be a new access road to and from the Maltby/Hornung site, drive loop and parking lot improvements at Hilton and Spencer, a [secure lock-out system](#) district-wide, secure vestibules, and walkways to certain elementary classrooms. In the area of learning spaces, elementary space is a primary focus with additional classrooms, office/workspace for specialists like speech and OT, parent meeting rooms, friendship



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center/latchkey spaces, and gymnasiums. At the secondary level, science room renovations are included as well as performing arts spaces for the growing orchestra program that began in 2017, climate-controlled instrument storage, and addressing acoustic issues for our high school band room. Additionally, the Brighton Center for Performing Arts is 32 years old and is in need of TLC. Our third large bucket of projects are infrastructure projects throughout the district. This includes the Maltby roof, significant HVAC work, boilers, and much more. Finally, as part of an effort to improve the quality of food for our students, this bond proposal includes the introduction of a central kitchen to provide a wider variety of healthy option and scratch made meals for students more healthy, scratch meals for our students. The attached document shares a school-by-school summary, but this is an overview of the entire project.

Quotes:

- From Superintendent, Dr. Outlaw
 - “As a district, we are committed to providing our residents with the factual information necessary to make informed decisions. I would encourage any BAS voter to visit our bond webpage or reach out to me directly with any questions about the bond.”
 - “It is disappointing when you see people sharing inaccurate information about the bond or our district, but that is why we are working so hard to ensure that voters have the facts.”

