



Brighton Area Schools Places a ZERO Mill Tax Rate Increase Bond on the November 2026 Ballot

8/11/2026

Dear Brighton Voters,

The following letter is an official announcement that the Brighton Board of Education has placed a “ZERO Mill Tax Rate Increase” bond on the ballot for November 2026. Our district has heard the feedback from the community following the narrow defeat of the May bond proposal, and significant adjustments have been made based on this feedback. The following are key facts about the upcoming proposal:

1. **“ZERO Mill Tax Rate Increase”** – With this proposal, the tax rate will drop from 2.92 mills to 2.73 mills and is projected to remain at 2.73 mills for six years before it begins to drop again. The drop to 2.73 mills would keep Brighton’s millage rate at the lowest level in the county (Howell is the second lowest at 5.5 mills), the lowest in Brighton since at least 1987, and among the lowest rates anywhere in the State of Michigan.
2. **Reduced Scope to Needs Only** – To accomplish a bond with a “ZERO Mill Tax Rate Increase,” the previous proposal has been trimmed by approximately 40%. While the May bond included enhancements for our students, this proposal focuses on needs only.
3. **Safety, Space, and Replacement Only** – Based on the surveys and considerable community feedback received, this proposal will emphasize student safety, academic learning spaces, and infrastructure replacements. Signature projects include a district-wide safety lockout system, secure vestibules, investments in safer traffic flow, roofs, HVAC, mechanical systems, elementary classroom space expansion, performing arts classroom space expansion, science classroom improvements, elementary gymnasiums, and technology.

Other Important Information

1. **Detailed Bond Information** – The bond website is:
<https://www.brightonk12.com/district/bond-information>

This site will have more information added soon, but we wanted to get you this initial information as soon as we could. There will be a community Q&A session around the third week of September, but feel free to contact me with any questions at outlawm@brightonk12.com at any time.





2. **Voting Information** – Election Day is November 3, and absentee voting begins on September 24. If you are not registered to vote, you can do so at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/register voter>, and you can request an absentee ballot at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/AVApplication/Index>.
3. **Source for Accurate Information** – During bond campaigns, there are typically advocacy groups that share their opinions either for or against an initiative. Unlike advocacy groups, the school district is required by law to provide vetted facts for those who will ultimately make these decisions. This is something that the district takes very seriously, which is why the facts provided in our communications, materials, and website are provided by or verified by independent industry experts. Additionally, all district financial information is audited by third-party financial experts and is readily available on our district website, as it always is.

Thank you so much for your time and careful consideration of this proposal for our current and future students. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions that you may have about the upcoming bond proposal.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Matthew S. Outlaw

Matthew S. Outlaw, Superintendent of the Brighton Area Schools

