



BCSC Referendum Facts

VOTE ON OR BEFORE JUNE 2, 2020

What: Benton Community School Corporation (BCSC) operating levy referendum

When: JUNE 2 Primary Election (Postponed from May 4)

Ballot proposal: To increase property tax by .31 cents per \$100 assessed valuation - for 8 years.

Why: BCSC faces a \$2 million annual structural deficit, due to insufficient state funding and declining enrollment, which magnifies the state aid shortfall.

If the referendum passes: BCSC will retain teachers and support staff, maintain class sizes, and academic, agricultural, vocational and fine arts programs, and enhance student safety and security.

If the referendum fails: Benton Schools will make \$2 million in cuts to staff and programs, which will increase class size.

SURVEY SAYS:

In a survey of Benton County residents, 88% agree that school investments are a requirement for a vital community.

FINANCIAL SITUATION BEHIND THE VOTE

- **INADEQUATE STATE AID & DECLINING ENROLLMENT** – Because state funding has not kept pace with inflation and enrollment is declining (at a rate similar to the rate of the decreasing population within the county), BCSC reserves will be gone by 2022.

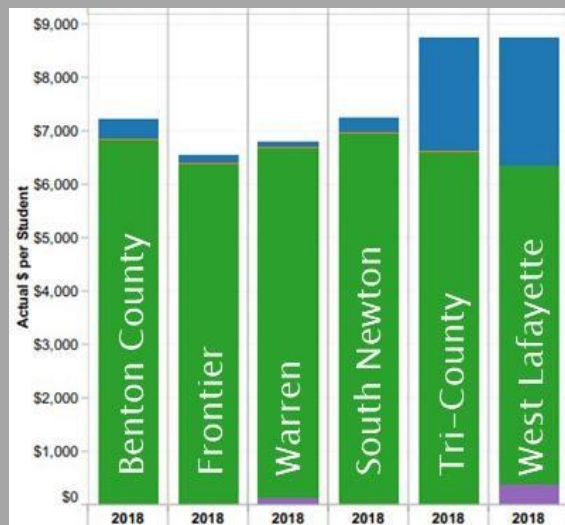
PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

SOLUTIONS – In addition to the referendum, BCSC proposes to manage its financial situation by:

- Continuing to cut expenses by reducing staff by attrition and making additional energy savings upgrades
- Creating a Long Range Planning Committee to develop a facilities plan that addresses declining enrollment
- Exploring alternative revenue sources

Area schools with referendums have approximately \$2,000 more per student to help support their schools and programs.

The blue for Tri-County and West Lafayette includes a referendum levy. Frontier's referendum was passed in 2019 so they will see their increase in revenue in 2020.



More details are at the referendum website: www.bentonlegacy.org

HOW WILL THE MONEY BE SPENT?

Revenue raised from the referendum will go toward maintaining small class sizes and our current programs. Some of the programs protected by funds provided by the referendum

- Current class sizes
- Academic support for students needing extra help
- STEM curriculum
- Band, music, choir, art
- AP and dual-credit courses
- Extracurricular programming
- Continuation of 4 current schools

The extra local revenue provided by a referendum also would provide financial stability for BCSC and the flexibility to adjust programming to benefit students.



If voters approve the referendum, Benton Community School Corporation's tax rate would still remain lower than the state average.

WHAT WILL THE REFERENDUM COST ME?

If residents approve this referendum, the tax rate would increase from \$0.59 to \$0.90 per \$100 assessed valuation. For the average value residential home in the district, which is \$94,900, property taxes would increase by \$91.25 per year, or \$7.60 per month. Agricultural property would increase by \$3.97 per year per acre. Commercial property would increase by \$310 per year per \$100,000 of value or \$25.83 per month.

TAX IMPACT

Less than **\$8/month**

A dark green box with white text and icons. The text says 'Less than \$8/month' and there are three food icons: a burger, a tray of fries, and a drink with a straw.

IS THERE TAX RELIEF FOR FARMERS?

Agricultural property tax rates will decline, beginning in 2021, due to a change in state tax law. Beginning in 2021, when the referendum would take effect, the state will assess taxes on farmland at a rate of \$1,280 per acre. This is a reduction from the 2020 rate which is \$1,560. The reduction in assessed value lowers the tax impact of the referendum for farmland from \$4.35 to \$3.97.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

"The future of our community must start with a strong school system. We need it. With us being a predominantly farming community with little industry, good public schools are a necessity to keep people here and draw new residents for the future growth of Benton County."

Marc Strasburger - Benton County farmer

Our Community, Our Schools, Our Legacy, Our Future

2020 BCSC Operating Levy Referendum

VOTING INFO

Tuesday, June 2,
6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Find your polling place at
indianavoters.in.gov/
In-person and absentee
voting:
May 5 - June 1

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