



## Levy FAQs

On December 16, 2024, the Bay Village Board of Education unanimously voted to place a [Permanent Improvement \(PI\) Levy on the ballot for the May 6, 2025, primary election](#). If approved, the new, **no tax increase** Permanent Improvement Levy will generate funds for building improvements, technology, textbooks and transportation. The proposed Permanent Improvement Levy will serve as the foundation for the district's Finance + Facilities for the Future Plan, a post-Facilities Audit initiative created by the community-led Facilities Advisory Committee.

Here are some frequently asked questions about the May 6, 2025, Permanent Improvement Levy.

***Note: Bay Village Schools will add new questions to the top of the page, as they are received.***

**Content Updated: 4-18-25**

**Q. Why does my absentee ballot language look different from the information I've heard?**

- A. The district cannot control the official language that is on the ballot. This is a new tax, but it is not a tax increase. The new permanent improvement levy replaces the two expiring bond issues, so your taxes remain the same as what you have been paying since 2012. [This ENews](#) went out to our *One Rocket Nation ENews* subscribers, and does a great job explaining what the words mean on the actual ballot you will see on your absentee ballot and in the voting booth. If you still have questions, please call 440-617-7300 or email [photos@bayschoolsohio.org](mailto:photos@bayschoolsohio.org).

**Content Updated: 4-14-25**

**Q. Do other public school districts in Ohio have permanent improvement levies?**

- A. They do. In fact, 499 of the 607 public school districts in Ohio already have permanent improvement levies in place, or 82%. If you look at comparative school districts in Ohio that already have permanent improvement levies in place, that number increases to 85%.

**Content Updated: 3-16-25**

**Q. Will the public be able to see the renderings for the proposed improvements at the school buildings?**

- A. For those who were not able to attend the Wednesday, April 2, Rendering Viewing Open House, [please click here](#) to see the proposed conceptual renderings.

**Content Updated: 3-14-25**

**Q. How does the Glenview Center for Child Care & Learning fit into the proposed permanent improvement levy plan?**

- B. Superintendent Scot Prebles and Treasurer Meghan Rohde asked Glenview Center Director Alexa Davey to join them for a Q & A about the Glenview Center, the district's self-funded and Gold-rated preschool and child care program. [Here is that conversation](#) in document form, which talks about Glenview, the building's age, why Glenview is important to the district and what the proposed plan is.

**Content Updated: 2-7-25**

**Q. Is it true my yearly tax bill will not increase if this plan is approved? And if so, how can that be?**

- A. That is true; your school tax bill will not increase. Bay Village Schools has a unique financial stewardship opportunity to take advantage of combining two bond issues that are expiring to fund the Finance + Facilities for the Future Plan without increasing taxes. The district's plan asks residents to consider paying what they currently are paying for these two bond issues; the first from 2000 and the second from 2012. Residents continue paying the same amount they have been since 2012. Simply stated – your net tax bill will not increase.

**Q. What cuts will be made if this Permanent Improvement Levy is not approved by Bay Village residents?**

- A. None. This is a Permanent Improvement Levy, not an Operating Levy. The downfall, however, to the Permanent Improvement Levy not passing is that due to inflation, costs related to postponed construction and renovation projects will likely exceed revenue generated by the combined 2000 and 2012 bonds.

If the district doesn't seize this opportunity, it will expire and we may instead be asking for a tax increase in the future.

**Q. If the Levy does not pass, will the life expectancy of each building be affected?**

- A. Yes. The Finance + Facilities for the Future Plan will extend the lifespan of our elementary school and high school by nearly 30 years, and the Glenview Center for as many as 70 years. Additionally, for safety purposes, the plan includes dedicated resources to conduct a parking lot traffic study and possible parking lot update at Bay Middle School.

**Q. It looks like the Glenview Center for Child Care & Learning will receive the most renovations if this plan passes; why do we need to support the Glenview Center?**

- A. Glenview plays a significant role in the early education of Bay Village students. Nearly 100% of Glenview Preschool students advance to our Normandy Elementary School Kindergarten program.

Additionally, regarding the Glenview Childcare experience, instruction is taking place, socialization is happening and the district's children have access to a 5-Star-Rated facility. Pre-kindergarten teaching and learning is attractive to families looking to move into Bay Village; sought after services that help maintain property values.

It should be noted, the Glenview Center is a year-round, self-supporting facility, meaning the costs of the program operations are covered by fees, not the district's general fund. The Glenview Center will not close during the renovation process.

**Q. We just received a property reassessment tax increase...Why put the levy on in May?**

- A. It is true that all Bay Village residents received a tax increase because home values increased. However, only 11% of your increase will be sent to the schools. The rest of your tax increase will be disbursed to other county agencies.

If approved, projects will not start immediately. Final architectural edits and an open construction bid process, followed by contract agreements, need to be Board approved prior to construction. The sooner the levy is approved, the sooner the work can begin.

Additionally, one of the district's primary goals is to ensure that the financial health of the district remains strong. By continuing your current "bond-related" tax contribution, four significant financial stewardship goals can be met:

- By 2029 (5 years early), both bonds will be paid in full, saving taxpayers \$780,000 in interest payments.
- Absent of any unforeseen state or national budgetary reductions, money currently being spent from the district's general fund to pay for yearly capital improvements will shift to a dedicated permanent improvement account, which will extend the life of the current operating levy.
- Nearly \$28 million of upgrades and renovations, most of which will address school building safety and security, will be completed.
- No tax increase for Bay Village residents.

**Content added: 1-15-25**

**Q. Why doesn't the district consolidate schools; wouldn't that save money?**

- A. As part of the community-led Facilities Advisory Committee post audit process, consolidation options were reviewed inclusive of estimated costs. Because the cost to consolidate (demolition, and the construction of what would effectively be a brand new

building) would require a significant increase in taxes, consolidation is not recommended. It should also be noted that a consolidation plan would greatly reduce the ability to implement improvements at all of the district's buildings.

**Q. What about selling the Community Garden property; wouldn't that generate income?**

- A. Although the sale of district property was discussed, one-time sales of open space parcels without structures on them will not provide the funds needed to complete the comprehensive list of building improvements in the proposed plan. Therefore, this option was not deemed practical for this use at this time. Additionally, the district incurs minimal upkeep costs for open space currently used in multiple ways by the community.

**Q. Will this Permanent Improvement Levy be used for teacher salaries?**

- A. No. Per Ohio Revised Code, Permanent Improvement Levy funds may only be used for long-term capital investments such as building improvements, technology, textbooks, large equipment, vans, trucks and buses; capital improvements with a lifespan of five or more years.

**Content added: 1-9-25**

**Q. What is the Finance + Facilities for the Future Plan?**

- A. The Proposed Permanent Improvement Levy serves as the foundation for the district's Finance + Facilities for the Future Plan. This plan was created as a result of a year-long Strategic Plan discussion that included a review of district finances and a facility audit conducted by the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC). Assistant Superintendent Aaron Ereditario enlisted Bay Village residents to serve on a Facilities Advisory Committee, which recommended during the November 2024 State of the District Board Meeting, that the district's five school buildings need improvements and upgrades to extend their lifespans, and to improve safety and security.

**Q. How will the Finance + Facilities for the Future Plan be funded?**

- A. The Finance + Facilities for the Future Plan presents a unique opportunity for Bay Village Schools to combine funds from the 2000 Bay Middle School Bond and the 2012 Construction Bond to permanently generate approximately \$2.9 million annually, **at no additional cost to residents**. As these bonds are paid off, the proposed Permanent Improvement Levy will take their place. If approved, taxes currently collected for these bonds will continue, **keeping the tax amount stable**. These funds will be redirected to ongoing capital improvements and updates across the district, as outlined in the Finance + Facilities for the Future Plan.

The goals of the Finance + Facilities of the Future Plan are to: 1) Decrease stress on the district's general fund to create long-term financial stability; 2) Push out the 2022 operating levy cycle; 3) Create annual capital investment sustainability; and 4) Generate funds to pay for Bay Village Schools' Finance + Facilities for the Future Plan.

The district also plans to pay off the 2012 Construction Bond early, saving approximately \$790,000 in interest payments.

**Q. What are some of the school building improvements and upgrades that will happen?**

- A. If approved, approximately \$27 million in renovations will be made to all five academic buildings, including safety, security and ADA updates; enhancements to educational spaces to improve student learning opportunities; and capital improvements to extend building lifespans. ([Please click here](#) for specific improvements at each building.)

Additionally, the Permanent Improvement Levy will provide annual funding for the maintenance of the district's facilities and projects outlined in the district's five year capital plan (this plan is updated annually and lists facilities and transportation projects and purchases over a five-year period). Currently, these projects are funded with the district's operating budget from the general fund.

**Q. Didn't Bay Village Schools pass a levy in November of 2022?**

- A. Yes. Thanks to our residents, Bay Village Schools passed a 7.2 mill Operating Levy in November of 2022. Operating Levy funds are used for the day-to-day operations of the district, including personnel, benefits, utilities and supplies. This is different from the proposed Permanent Improvement Levy, which will be used for building improvements, technology, textbooks and transportation; capital improvements with a lifespan of five or more years. If approved by voters – with no unforeseen state or national budgeting reductions – the new Permanent Improvement Levy will extend the current levy cycle (pushing out the date of the next operating levy on the ballot).

**Q. What about the recent property assessment tax increase? Won't the school district get more money due to that increase?**

- A. Even though your property value may have increased, the school district's voted levy taxes do not increase due to House Bill 920, which prevents those taxes from rising with property values. Bay Village Schools only sees an increase in revenue from unvoted levies. Of the total increase in your property tax bill for the 2024 property reappraisal, Bay Village Schools will receive just 11%. The remaining 89% is allocated to Bay Village City Government, Cuyahoga County, Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County Public Library and the Cleveland-Cuyahoga Port Authority.

Bay Village Schools is mindful of the recent property value increase, and that is another reason the district is not looking to increase your school-related tax bill.

**Q. I see the word "Permanent" in the name of the levy...Doesn't this mean forever, and isn't accountability reduced for taxpayers since we won't have a say in future funding?**

- A. The name Permanent Improvement refers only to the levy's purpose. In this case, if approved, resources collected will be earmarked for assets deemed by the auditor of state as permanent, like buildings and equipment. That being said, the proposed

Permanent Improvement Levy will provide a constant amount of resources for a continuing amount of time.

As a matter of fact, since 1975, all of the district's operating levies are ongoing, or permanent. It is financially prudent to have funding that is ongoing to support the upkeep and maintenance of our facilities, especially as they increase in age. All of Bay Village Schools' levies have been community approved as continuing for more than 50 years.

Our Board and administration are being upfront. These are funds the district will always need to maintain facilities at the level residents expect – without increasing your current tax contribution.

The district's overall financial accountability and trust of stewardship is evaluated each time an operating levy is proposed. Historically, a new operating levy is brought to the community every 3.8 years. This Finance + Facilities for the Future Plan will extend the length of time to five, potentially six years.

Treasurer Rohde created a document that is updated every year of all of the district's levies, and this document is posted on the district's Treasurer's web page. For the most current levy list (tax year 2024), please see the following link: [Tax Levies & Rates Tax Year 2024](#); [Treasurer's Page](#).

**Q. And how can you do all this without increasing my taxes?**

- A. Instead of allowing the 2000 and 2012 bond issues to expire, Bay Village Schools has the unique opportunity to simply keep the tax amount stable and redirect these funds to capital improvements and updates across the district's five academic buildings. The May 2025 Permanent Improvement Levy is new, but it will not be an additional cost to residents. *(Additional dollar amount breakdowns added on 1-22-25.)*

**If approved by voters, you will continue to pay the same amount, which is listed below, based on different home values.**

*(Note: \$381,000 was the median home value in Bay Village in October of 2024.)*

• **Based on a \$100,000 home**, Bay Village residents currently pay:  
\$4.96 per month for the 2000 Bay Middle School Bond  
\$4.23 per month for the 2012 Construction Bond  
\$110.25 per year for both.

• **Based on a \$200,000 home**, Bay Village residents currently pay:  
\$9.92 per month for the 2000 Bay Middle School Bond  
\$8.46 per month for the 2012 Construction Bond  
\$220.50 per year for both.

• **Based on a \$400,000 home**, Bay Village residents currently pay:

\$19.83 per month for the 2000 Bay Middle School Bond  
\$16.92 per month for the 2012 Construction Bond  
\$441.00 per year for both.

• **Based on a \$600,000 home**, Bay Village residents currently pay:  
\$29.75 per month for the 2000 Bay Middle School Bond  
\$25.38 per month for the 2012 Construction Bond  
\$661.50 per year for both.

• **Based on an \$800,000 home**, Bay Village residents currently pay:  
\$39.67 per month for the 2000 Bay Middle School Bond  
\$33.83 per month for the 2012 Construction Bond  
\$882.00 per year for both.

***If approved by voters, you will continue to pay the same amount.***

**Q. Where can I learn more?**

- A. Glad you asked! You can visit <https://bit.ly/BVCSDFinanceFacilitiesFuture>. We are also available to answer questions at 440-617-7300, and welcome the opportunity to speak with residents at in-home coffee chats and at community meetings. If you would like to host an event in your home where Superintendent Prebles and Treasurer Rohde answer questions for you and your friends and neighbors, [please click here](#).

For a list of public info sessions that residents can attend between now and the May 6 primary election, [please click here](#).

If you have a levy question you would like to see answered on this document, [please click here](#) to send an email with your question.



**Note!** The following Board of Education Meetings will have time allotted on the agenda for public Q & A about the Finance + Facilities for the Future Plan and the proposed Permanent Improvement Levy. All community members are encouraged to attend.

- Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 6:30 p.m., Board of Education
- Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 6:30 p.m., Board of Education
- Monday, March 17, 2025, 6:30 p.m., Board of Education
- Monday, April 14, 2025, 6:30 p.m., Board of Education