

## Twin Falls School District Board of Trustees

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Twin Falls School District 411  
201 Main Avenue West  
Twin Falls, ID 83301  
208.733.6900  
www.tfsd.k12.id.us

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Twin Falls, ID  
Permit No. 162

## Board Calendar

March 10, 26  
April 14, 23  
May 12, 28

Please contact the Clerk of the Board, Michelle Lucas, at 733.6900, or visit our website at [www.tfsd.k12.id.us](http://www.tfsd.k12.id.us), for more information

## Superintendent of Schools

Wiley J. Dobbs, Ph.D.

## Associate Superintendent of Schools

Patti O'Dell

[www.tfsd.k12.id.us](http://www.tfsd.k12.id.us)

# C A L E N D A R

## March

11 Plant Facilities Levy Voting  
14 Early dismissal at 1:15  
No school for 1/2 day Kindergarten  
End of 3rd quarter  
17-21 No School - Spring Break  
24 School resumes

## April

3-4 No school for all grades  
Senior and Junior High registration  
Elementary and Secondary  
Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences

## May

26 Memorial Day - No school  
29 MVHS Graduation  
TFHS Baccalaureate  
30 Last day of school - early dismissal at 1:15  
No school 1/2 day Kindergarten  
TFHS Graduation  
End of School Year



Set a good example for our students

Please Vote

March 11, 2008

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Vote at any school except the Bridge Academy



## In this issue...



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



10-YEAR SCHOOL PLANT FACILITIES RENEWAL LEVY INFORMATION

VOTING INFORMATION

CALENDAR

○ SPRING 2008

# Twin Falls School District focus

TO PROVIDE A QUALITY EDUCATION NECESSARY FOR STUDENTS TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE

Dear TFSD #411 Parents, Students, Patrons and Staff:

The TFSD #411 is seeking renewal of the 10-year plant facilities levy that has been in existence in the district for the past 50 years. **This proposed levy will not increase the current tax rate for property owners, a tax rate that ranks 60<sup>th</sup> out of Idaho's 115 districts.** The plant facilities levy is a means for a school district to fund facility maintenance, technology upgrades, remodeling and additions. Over the years our patrons have seen the wisdom in supporting the maintenance and upkeep of our buildings. That effort has resulted in our ability to utilize our buildings effectively for longer periods of time when compared to other school districts. The TFSD is known around the state for having some of the best-kept facilities in Idaho.

This edition of the *District Focus* is dedicated to the effort to provide the information our patrons will need to cast an informed ballot. Thank you for taking the time to read it. On March 11, 2008 registered voters residing in the Twin Falls School District will have the opportunity to participate in this decision. On-site voter registration and absentee voting are available. Voting will be held at all schools except the Bridge Academy from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and a 60% voter approval is required for passage. If you would like additional information or a presentation to a group, please contact members of the TFSD Team or visit the following web site: <http://www.tfsd.k12.id.us/tfsd/PFLvideo.html>.

Did you know?

- **Bickel Elementary** was first built in 1905. After a fire in the 1930's it was rebuilt and opened in 1938.
- The **District Office Building** was built around 1918 and originally served as the post office for Twin Falls. The district purchased the building from the federal government for \$1 in the early 1960's.
- **Lincoln Elementary** was originally built in 1909. No part of the original building remains, but the major portions of the current buildings are over 70 years old. The newer part was added in 1975. The pre-1960 Twin Falls High School football teams played their games on the current Lincoln play field.
- **Harrison and Morningside Elementary Schools** are both over 51 years old. Both received additions in 1975 and 1980.
- **Twin Falls High School** opened in 1953 and celebrates its 55<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. The high school has had additional construction in 1956, 1963, 1974, 1989, and 1993.
- **Robert Stuart Junior High School** opened for business in 1963. RSJH had major additions in 1970, 1975, 1981, and 1993.
- **O'Leary Junior High School** is fast approaching 30 years of age.
- **Sawtooth Elementary School** opened the doors to students in 1975, and is now over 30 years old.
- **Magic Valley High School** started in a wing of the Twin Falls County Hospital in the late 1980's. The school was moved to the Presbyterian Church, then to the Seventh Day Adventist Church, before moving to the current location in the former Safeway building on Main Street. Major remodeling was required to transform the former grocery store into a school in 1997.
- **Perrine Elementary School** is nearly 25 years old, and **Oregon Trail** is pushing 15 years of age.
- **Bridge Academy** started in a 4-room modular unit in front of MVHS on Main Street in the late 1990's. It was relocated to its current site on the corner of Elizabeth Blvd. and Eastland Drive in 2006.
- **Canyon Ridge High School** will open its doors in the fall of 2009 and add over 200,000 square feet of space to the district facilities bringing the total to well over 1 million square feet of maintenance responsibilities in the entire district.



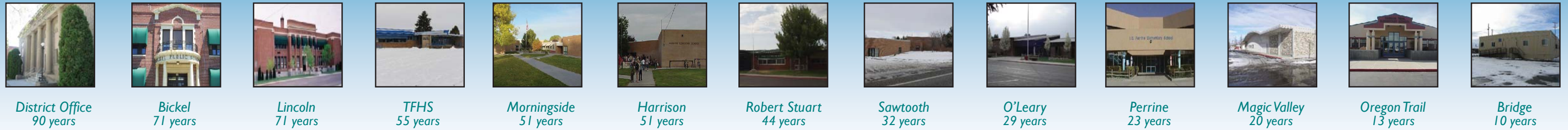
The facilities in the district are very well kept and are a source of great pride to our community. We have plans to utilize even the oldest of our buildings well into the future. The patrons in our district have, for the past 50 years, provided the district with the necessary funds to keep our facilities attractive and up-to-date. The district now needs that support for another 10 years to continue to protect the investment in our facilities.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Wiley Dobbs,*  
Superintendent of Schools

For more on what's happening in the TFSD, visit us online at [www.tfsd.k12.id.us](http://www.tfsd.k12.id.us)

The district saves money maintaining existing buildings with continued necessary maintenance and upkeep, and we plan to utilize all of our buildings well into the future.



### What is the plant facilities levy?

There are different types of tax levies associated with school finance. The plant facilities levy is a means for a school district to fund facility maintenance, technology upgrades, remodeling, additions, etc.

**Note:** Plant facility funds cannot be used for employee salaries or benefits.

The Twin Falls School District's plant facilities levy was first approved by patrons in 1958, with approval for renewal in 1968, 1978, 1988, and 1998.

### Will the proposed plant facilities levy increase the tax rate?

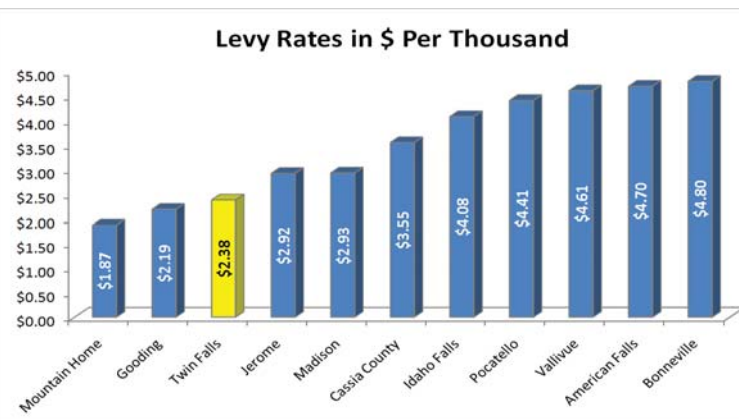
No, the renewal **will not increase** the combined bond and plant facilities tax rate (currently \$2.38 per \$1,000 of net assessed value).

The combined bond and plant facilities levy rate will remain the same over the next 10 years.

### How does the Twin Falls School District tax levy rate compare with other district rates?

The graph below is comprised of some districts from our region and from around the state that are comparable size, and have a bond, plant facilities levy, and a supplemental levy. The Twin Falls School District does not have a supplemental levy.

As you can see among these districts, the Twin Falls tax rate is considerably low for a growing district.

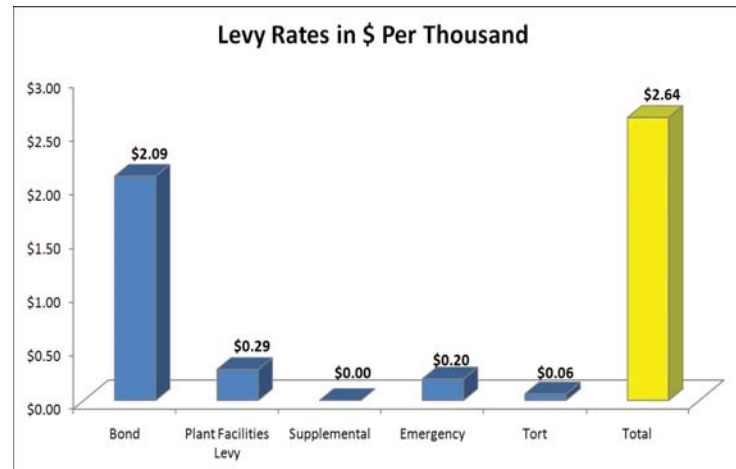


The average rate for a growing district in Idaho is \$3.25 - \$3.50

### What is the total tax rate in the Twin Falls School District, and how does it compare to all other districts in Idaho?

When you total all school tax levy sources in the Twin Falls School District (bond, plant facilities, supplemental, emergency, and tort), the total tax rate is \$2.64 per \$1,000 of net assessed value.

The Twin Falls School District's total tax rate is ranked 60th out of 115 school districts.



### Over the past 10 years, the district used plant facilities funds to:

- Repair and replace roofs
- Maintain and purchase portable buildings
- Improve heating and cooling systems
- Provide electrical upgrades
- Renovate parking, concrete, and asphalt
- Facilitate asbestos removal and inspection
- Maintain grounds and facilities
- Maintain and upgrade safety and surveillance equipment
- Meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements
- Maintain and upgrade numerous plant facility issues as they arise

### Does the plant facilities levy provide funds for all maintenance and upkeep?

The plant facilities levy will not cover all projected maintenance costs over the next 10 years, but we will continue to utilize general fund money as well.

Over the past 10 years, the Twin Falls School District has spent \$31 million on the maintenance of our facilities.

1997 - 2007 maintenance expenditures (all sources):	\$31 Million
House Bill 743 recommended 2008 - 2018 expenditures:	\$30 Million
Funds available for maintenance from proposed plant facilities levy 2008 - 2018:	\$33 Million

House Bill 743 (HB 743), a law passed through the legislature last year, recommends that the TFSD spend \$30 million over the next 10 years to maintain its facilities.

Older buildings require more upkeep and more attention. The price of building construction is going up dramatically, and these increased costs are included in our projections.

### Contact Information

If you have any questions, or would like to request additional information, please feel free to contact any member of the Twin Falls School District team:

<b>Wiley Dobbs</b> Superintendent dobbswi@tfstd.k12.id.us	<b>Patti O'Dell</b> Associate Superintendent odellpa@tfstd.k12.id.us
<b>Kirk Brower</b> Director of Assessment & Programs browerki@tfstd.k12.id.us	<b>Dale Thornsberry</b> Construction Facilities Manager thornsberryda@tfstd.k12.id.us
<b>Robert Seaman</b> Director of Fiscal Affairs seamanro@tfstd.k12.id.us	Phone: (208) 733-6900 Website: www.tfstd.k12.id.us

## Election Information

Registered voters who have resided in the district for at least 30 days prior to the date of the election can vote.

On-site voter registration is available.

Voting will be held at all schools except the Bridge Academy on:

**March 11, 2008**

**7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

A 60% voter approval is needed.

Voters do not need to report to their regular precinct. They may vote at any school that is convenient.

### Absentee Voting

Please contact Michelle Lucas, Clerk of the Board, at (208) 733-6900, or 201 Main Avenue West, for an absentee ballot application.

Absentee voting begins February 12, 2008. Ballots can be mailed to you or picked up from 2/12/08 - 3/10/08 at 201 Main Avenue West.

Absentee ballots must be returned to the clerk by 5 p.m. March 10, 2008.

Please visit our website [www.tfstd.k12.id.us](http://www.tfstd.k12.id.us) and click on the television (as shown here) to view a video presentation with more information on the proposed plant facilities levy.

