



**DISTRICT OFFICES**  
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## MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Katherine Schad, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Burlington  
**From:** Tom Flanagan, Superintendent  
**CC:** Miro Weinberger, Mayor, City of Burlington  
Nathan Lavery, BSD Executive Director of Finance and Operations  
**Date:** February 28, 2024  
**Subject:** Burlington School District's Budget on Town Meeting Day Ballot

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Burlington School District intends to proceed with the school budget vote scheduled to conclude on Town Meeting Day, March 5, 2024.

Currently, there is movement to allow school districts to delay school budget votes past Town Meeting Day. Burlington School District does not plan to revise our budget if changes to the law occur. That means that BSD intends to move forward with having voters vote on the budget on Town Meeting Day as currently presented.

As initially written, Act 127, the new weighted pupil law, included a provision that would cap the tax impacts of district spending at 5%. Vermont's state legislature is actively working to repeal that part of the law. However, during our budget development process, we worked very hard to keep new BSD spending at a minimum because we knew that the tax cap would eventually sunset and we would be required at some point to pay for all new costs incurred.

As a result, we presented what was essentially a budget where services were level-funded with cost increases due to wages, benefits, operating costs, and the BHS/BTC bond. If the law changes, our equalized tax rate will move from 5% (with the cap) to 6.59%, and our total rate (factoring in the substantial impact of the CLA) will move from 13.97% to 15.6%. As a result, we are working to communicate to the community that this late change in law will have a small increase in the tax impact, and we are hopeful that Burlingtonians will see that we worked hard to keep our spending decisions at a minimum.

With that in mind, we believe the best course of action is to proceed as planned and ask voters to cast their ballots to be counted on Town Meeting Day.