



REFERENDUM FAST FACTS

EVERY VOTER SHOULD KNOW

On November 8, Appleton Area School District residents will vote whether to approve a referendum that will benefit every student, every day.

ON NOVEMBER 8, VOTERS WILL BE ASKED TO APPROVE A REFERENDUM

A referendum is a voter-approved resolution authorizing a school district to exceed the state-imposed revenue limit. The Board of Education voted unanimously to include two questions on the November 8 ballot. The first is a **capital referendum** question that will ask for approval to issue bonds in the amount of **\$129.8 million** for capital projects:

- Complete individualized projects at each elementary school to create a STEM space, improve security as needed, and update available spaces
- Build a new elementary school on district-owned property to accommodate enrollment growth on the north side, allow for reduction of Kindergarten-2nd-grade class sizes, to facilitate the transition of 6th grade to our middle schools
- Modernize our four middle schools, add capacity and update Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) area
- Build additions and complete renovations at our three high schools

The second question is an **operational referendum** and will ask for approval to exceed the revenue limit by **\$5 million** annually.

- STEM staffing, which will include twelve elementary teachers and four middle school paraprofessionals
- Kindergarten-2nd-grade class size reduction to reduce average class sizes from 25 to 1 to 20 to 1
- Staffing for newly created spaces, the new elementary school, and ongoing utility, cleaning, and maintenance costs for those spaces

A SUCCESSFUL REFERENDUM WOULD IMPACT ALL SCHOOLS & ALL STUDENTS

A successful referendum would positively impact every student, at every level, and at every school.

OUR PLAN RESULTED FROM COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

This referendum is the result of a nearly **3-year-long** planning process that included a 75-member Future Needs Advisory Committee composed of families, students, staff, and community members established in the fall of 2019 that provided direction to District administration. After a pause, in winter 2021, we held five focus group meetings with families, staff, and community members. In spring 2022, a survey was sent to all 44,000 District households.

22 OF OUR 27 SCHOOLS ARE AT LEAST 50 YEARS OLD

Our oldest school was built in 1894, the newest was built in 1995 and the **average building age is 66 years**. We've maintained our facilities and want to continue to invest in them. A successful referendum would allow us to expand, renovate and modernize our schools.

A SUCCESSFUL REFERENDUM WOULD ADDRESS STUDENT NEEDS FOR YEARS TO COME

An approved referendum on November 8, would

- Reduce class sizes Kindergarten-2nd-grade throughout the district,
- Create flexibly-designed, STEM-focused learning spaces that support student-centered instruction more fully at the elementary, middle, and high school levels
- Provide modernized safe, secure, and healthy learning environments for all students through investments in aging facilities and infrastructure,
- Accommodate enrollment growth on the north side

THE AASD IS A GOOD STEWARD OF THE COMMUNITY'S INVESTMENT

Over the past five years, we have prepaid on our 2014 referendum debt, which has allowed us to pay it off nine years early, saving taxpayers approximately \$4.5 million in interest. AASD prides itself on being fiscally responsible while also meeting the educational needs of our increasingly diverse student population. We've reduced our tax rate in each of the past six years. Our 2021 rate of \$7.66 on \$1,000 of property is more than \$1.00 less than the current state average.

NOW IS THE TIME

Due to smart fiscal management and old debt being paid off, it creates an optimal time for the district to invest in our facilities with minimal tax impact. A **\$129.8 million capital referendum**, as well as a **\$5 million operational referendum**, will result in an **average increase to a taxpayer's annual property tax of no more than \$4 for each \$100,000 of their home's value**.

OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTS EDUCATION

Results of the recent community survey, sent to all 44,000 District households, showed that over **60%** of our community supports a capital referendum, and over **70%** support an operational referendum.

Prepared by the AASD. This publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot question.



Learn more at: https://www.aasd.k12.wi.us/district/fall_2022_referendum