



# **SOUTH RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS REFERENDUM FAQ**

**Project Costs:** \$5,475,000.00 bond over ten years

**Average Tax Impact:** \$10.63 per month

**Vote November 7, 2023**

**Questions or Comments? Email: [referenduminfo@srivernj.org](mailto:referenduminfo@srivernj.org)**

## **WHAT IS A BOND REFERENDUM?**

A bond referendum is a special election held by a Board of Education when seeking voter approval for funding to undertake large capital improvement projects and to finance such projects through a long-term loan (a bond).

## **BUILD A NEW DENNY STADIUM**

Our community treasures the history and tradition represented by Denny Stadium. But the old structure is in significant disrepair. Recent inspections indicate the stadium “is at the end of its lifespan.” The stadium also can't safely accommodate people with disabilities, in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. A new stadium is needed and, for our student-athletes, is well deserved.

## **INSTALL A SYNTHETIC MULTI-PURPOSE TURF FIELD AT DENNY STADIUM**

A new synthetic turf field would allow our robust athletic program to meet the growing demands of multiple sports and teams throughout the community. Synthetic turf fields provide improved safety, durability, and playability. The fields would also allow the school district to be environmentally conscious by eliminating the need for fertilizers and irrigation that are required for grassy fields, while reducing ongoing maintenance costs.

## WHY DOES SOUTH RIVER NEED THIS REFERENDUM NOW?

### Stadium and Turf Field

- An independent inspection report shows the "stadium is at the end of its lifespan" and should be replaced for the health and safety of the community
- Smart, energy-efficient construction design and maintenance results in lower ongoing costs
- A multi-purpose turf field can be used throughout multiple seasons and sports, benefitting programs offered around town
- Provide enhanced community access to modern, safe athletic fields

## Denny Stadium

### WHAT IS THE PLAN?

The stadium project calls for new bleachers, an updated press box, repairs and expansion of the existing concession stands and new, fully-accessible restrooms. The stadium would accommodate 1,000 fans. All aspects of the new stadium would be ADA compliant as per federal law.

### WHY IS THE DISTRICT PURSUING A TURF FIELD?

## Synthetic Turf

A new synthetic turf field would allow our athletic program to meet the needs of multiple sports. It also provides improved safety, durability, and playability while allowing the school to be environmentally conscious by eliminating the need for fertilizers and irrigation that may be required to maintain a grass field, with less maintenance costs. The typical lifespan of a turf field ranges between 8-10 years. Afterwards, refurbishment costs are considerably less than the initial installation.

### WHICH SPORTS WOULD THE NEW FIELD ACCOMMODATE?

The new field would be able to accommodate football and soccer at all levels. The field would also accommodate field hockey and lacrosse if the district decided to offer such programs.

### WHAT MAINTENANCE IS REQUIRED FOR A TURF FIELD?

Typically, school districts purchase a grooming machine to "stir" the rubber infill in the turf. That process is done regularly by district maintenance personnel. Restoration or repairs to the turf would be undertaken by outside contractors, likely covered by warranty.

### DO MANY SCHOOLS IN OUR AREA HAVE TURF FIELDS?

Currently 19 schools in the Greater Middlesex Conference have a synthetic turf field. Only St. Thomas, Middlesex, Spotswood (currently undergoing a referendum that includes a turf field), South Plainfield and South River still play on grass.



