

FORT WAYNE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



WE ARE YOUR SCHOOLS

SAFETY & WELL-BEING REFERENDUM

Board Meeting 6-12-23
Dr. Mark Daniel, Superintendent

**NEED FOR
SCHOOL SAFETY &
WELL-BEING
FUNDING**



CURRENT SITUATION

- **DATA:** Our students and families see our buildings as safe*
 - 79% of parents said their child's school is safe
 - 80% of students say staff members know safety procedures
- **GOAL:** Desire to provide more proactive safety measures

**2022-23 student and family School Quality & Culture Survey*





COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

- **Convened Community Safety Committee**
 - City and County law enforcement, judicial, ministers, mental health professionals, Fort Wayne United, Ten Point Coalition, FWCS Board member, Fort Wayne Education Association (FWEA) and community advocates
- **Recommendations from Community Safety Committee**
 - Increase personnel +
 - Invest in advanced security technology =

Safety & Well-Being Referendum for funding



IC 20-40-20 SCHOOL SAFETY REFERENDUM TAX LEVY FUND

- (1) To employ or compensate a school resource officer or school resource officers.
- (2) To establish or fund a school safety office.
- (3) To conduct a threat assessment of a school building.
- (4) To create or update a school safety plan.
- (5) To develop or update school emergency response systems.
- (6) To purchase equipment to improve the safety of a school building, school grounds, or school buses.
- (7) To pay capital expenses to improve the safety of a school building.
- (8) To establish and administer programs to address youth specific mental illness, addiction, anger management, bullying, and school violence.
- (9) To develop and administer professional development programs for teachers, administrators, and other school employees designed to improve school safety and reduce violence.

If approved, funds are available for 8 years

SAFETY REFERENDUM RECOMMENDATION



SPENDING PLAN – RESOLUTION SUMMARY

		2024
Revenue:		
Levy		11,398,218
Tax Rate		\$0.1000
Miscellaneous revenue		805,854
		12,204,072
Expenditure Budget:		
	Staff	
Security Personnel	3	344,919
School Resource Officers	12	689,160
		1,034,079
Student Advocate Personnel	56	4,041,728
Mental Health Therapist Personnel	18	1,299,127
Additional Mental Health Supports		2,500,000
Alive Community Outreach		500,000
Safety and Security Equipment and Technology		2,829,138
	89	12,204,072



POTENTIAL RATE INCREASE

Average homestead property value in FWCS	\$167,325
Estimated maximum cost/year	\$76

SAFER Schools = \$76
\$6/month



BALLOT LANGUAGE

Shall the Fort Wayne Community Schools, Allen County, Indiana, increase property taxes paid to the school corporation by homeowners and businesses for eight (8) years immediately following the holding of the referendum for the purpose of funding salaries and benefits for security, mental health and support personnel and costs for services from third-party providers and acquisition and/or installation of safety and security equipment and technology used in connection with the operation of one or more school buildings? If this public question is approved by the voters, the average property tax paid to the school corporation per year on a residence would increase by 12.74% and the average property tax paid to the school corporation per year on a business property would increase by 11.96%. The most recent property tax referendum proposed by the school corporation was held in 2020 and passed.



TIMELINE

- 6/12 - School Board adopts resolution including 2024 spending plan
- 6/13 - File Board approvals with DLGF
- 6/23 - Final day for DLGF approval of language
- 6/27 - Copies filed with DLGF approval to Allen County Circuit Court Clerk and Allen County Council (deadline 8/1)
- 10/9 – School Board adopts 2024 budget including 2024 safety referendum budget (may be same or lower than 2024 spending plan)
- **11/7 – Election**
- Subsequent spending plans and budgets approved each year during budget process

