

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS NOVEMBER 8, 2022 REFERENDUM



1. Why does ECASD need to go to a capital referendum?

- ✓ To address aging infrastructure
 - This vital investment in our facilities will extend their life cycle, allow the district to continue to support the community by utilizing our facilities, and continue our strategic plan for addressing our infrastructure and growth.
- ✓ To improve the learning environment for our children
 - The facility study identified key areas to address more multifunctional areas, increased flexible learning areas, eliminate infrastructure challenges that are impacting our children's classrooms, and other key items that will improve the quality of the atmosphere in which our children learn.
- ✓ To continue the necessary reinvestment in buildings
 - ECASD community generously supported a capital referendum in 2011 and an operational referendum in 2016 that addressed deferred maintenance needs.

2. How did you plan for November 2022 referendum?

- ✓ Architects and engineers identified concerns and prioritized projects this past winter to provide guidance in a report of our facility needs in our 22 buildings for the next ten years. From January through June of this year, our Board was informed of and discussed the studies, findings, reports, and general survey feedback and data from our district stakeholders. On August 15, the Board approved the referendum question.

3. Can you share more information about the facility study?

- ✓ The Facility Study examined all 22 ECASD buildings and provided guidance on facility needs until 2032. This study helped the District prioritize required maintenance costs in the next 1-5 years (high & medium priority) and the next 6-10 years (low priority) as indicated in the chart below:

School	Overall Project Cost
Priority 1 – High	\$ 5,237,856
Priority 2 – Medium	87,185,280
Priority 3 - Low	<u>35,535,552</u>
TOTAL	\$ 127,958,688
Elementary	\$ 44,837,104
Secondary	79,804,088
Other	<u>3,317,496</u>
TOTAL	\$ 127,958,688



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- ✓ Currently the ECASD spends \$1.8M/year from its operating budget on maintenance. At this rate, it would take the District 71 years to complete all identified needs from the facility study. This does not include any new projects, new space or maintenance issues that may arise in those 71 years.
- ✓ To put this in perspective, the District maintains 2,331,326 square feet of space in 22 buildings. Comparing this to an average 2,500 square foot home, the District is responsible for the equivalent of 933 homes. In addition to the building square footage, the District maintains 360 acres of land including 67.34 acres of paved parking lots, drives, and playgrounds.

4. What buildings are included in the referendum?

- ✓ Memorial High School
- ✓ North High School
- ✓ South Middle School
- ✓ Putnam Heights Elementary School
- ✓ Northstar, Locust Lane, Manz, Meadowview, Northwoods, Sam Davey, and Sherman

5. Why does the referendum include additions to North High School and Putnam Heights Elementary School?

- ✓ The Board Demographic Trends and Facility Planning Committee, consisting of District community members, monitors enrollment trends and makes recommendations regarding school capacity and facility needs. In July 2020, the Committee recommended to the Board that additional space be considered at the elementary level with an addition to Putnam Heights. In August 2021, the Committee recommended an expansion at North High School. In November 2021, the Committee reaffirmed the recommendation that Putnam Heights Elementary School and North High School needed additions due to continuing capacity concerns.

6. What is the cost to taxpayers for the referendum?

Estimated Tax Increase Per Year for 20 Years* 2022-23 to 2042-43	Per Year	Per Month
\$ 100,000 of property Value	\$ 40	\$ 3.33
\$ 200,000 of property Value	\$ 80	\$ 6.67
\$ 300,000 of property Value	\$ 120	\$ 10.00

*Tax impact estimates have been provided by financial advisors from Robert W. Baird.

*Assumptions include 20-year bond issuance at 4.75% interest and equalized valuation growth of 11.16% in 2022 and 1.00% thereafter.

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7. What will the debt be used for?

Projects	\$ 99M
Putnam Heights	\$ 6.9M
Memorial High School	\$ 19.7M
North High School	\$ 20.9M
South Middle School	\$ 42.7M
Other	\$ 8.4M
Total	\$ 98.6M
Mill Rate Per \$ 1,000 of property value	\$0.40

Other Buildings	Projects	Estimated Cost
Northstar	High Priority	\$ 957,500
Sam Davey	High and Medium Priority	\$ 372,000
Locust Lane	High and Medium Priority	\$ 563,500
Manz	High and Medium Priority	\$ 507,500
Meadowview	High and Medium Priority	\$ 1,462,000
Northwoods	High and Medium Priority	\$ 4,309,000
Sherman	High and Medium Priority	\$ 209,000

8. How is this referendum different than the November 2016 referendum?

- ✓ The referendum in November 2016 was an operating referendum used to address deferred maintenance needs for most of our buildings in addition to some operational needs. This referendum will address overcrowding issues and remodeling buildings to address aging buildings and does not address operational needs.

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9. How have the 2016 Referendum Funds been spent?

	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Actual	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Budget
Regular Salary & Fringes	\$ 4,660,187	\$ 817,978.41	\$ 2,921,476	\$ 1,856,889	\$ 3,111,727	\$ 1,798,127
Class Size	0	1,800,000	223,200	948,600	0	0
Technology/Safety & Security	246,662	694,062.59	561,236	884,423	578,035	1,877,435
Debt Payment	<u>953,149</u>	<u>2,547,959</u>	<u>2,154,088</u>	<u>2,170,088</u>	<u>2,170,238</u>	<u>2,184,438</u>
TOTAL	\$ 5,860,000	\$ 5,860,000	\$ 5,860,000	\$ 5,860,000	\$ 5,860,000	\$ 5,860,000

10. When will the enrollment needs and deferred maintenance of the elementary schools not impacted by the referendum be addressed?

- ✓ ECASD has committed to \$ 1.8M of operating funds for deferred maintenance and ESSER funds to address some of the high and medium priority needs from the study.
- ✓ At the beginning of the 2022-23 school year, there are attendance areas the Board Demographic Trends and Facility Committee are monitoring. Furthermore, the Referendum Committee has recently charged the Board Demographic Trends and Facility Committee to review elementary populations in targeted areas and make a recommendation to the Board. Based upon their recommendation to the Board, deferred maintenance needs will then be addressed.

11. What will happen if the referendum doesn't pass?

- ✓ The Board has not identified what will happen if the referendum doesn't pass. More information will follow as the Board continues to discuss this issue.
- ✓ If the referendum fails, the current proposal would be modified, but not dismantled to address growth where it is occurring and other major renovations. Other considerations could include:
 - With North and Putnam Heights over capacity, there could be boundary changes prior to 2024
 - Higher than average class sizes in our overcrowded schools
 - Returning to voters in the future with a new capital referendum question
 - Considering alternative scheduling options for North High
 - General maintenance will continue to be deferred, which results in more costly repairs later. For example, in 2016, when a similar project was explored for South, the cost was approximately \$27 million. Now the cost is \$42.7 million.
 - Utilizing significant operational funds for urgent capital improvement which will impact our student programming



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12. Where and when can I vote?

- ✓ Election Day is November 8, 2022
- ✓ Poll locations can be found here <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>
- ✓ Mail-in Absentee Ballots can be requested here <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>
- ✓ In Person Absentee voting is available October 25, 2022 – November 4, 2022

