

SECURE  
THE NEXT **GENERATION**  
**REFERENDUM RENEWAL**  
NOVEMBER 3, 2026

A renewal of the existing one-mill property tax



## *A Message from Superintendent Dr. Howard Hepburn*

Dear Broward County Voters,

At Broward County Public Schools (BCPS), everything we do comes back to one thing: our students. Every decision we make and every dollar we spend should make BCPS safer, stronger and better for students who depend on it.

Since voters approved the Secure the Next Generation Referendum renewal in 2022, approximately 13,400 teachers receive Referendum supplements each year, reflecting the District's continued investment in instructional staff. Today, more than 224 mental health professionals support our students and families, and approximately 393 safety personnel protect our campuses every day.

The results of that investment are visible in our classrooms and in our data. Since voters approved this funding, Broward County Public Schools has earned consecutive A District ratings from the Florida Department of Education — the first in over a decade — and reached a 97.5% graduation rate across traditional District high schools — outcomes made possible by the teachers, safety personnel, and mental health professionals this referendum helps us recruit and retain.

The Secure the Next Generation Referendum will appear on the November 3, 2026, general election ballot. We are committed to making sure every dollar goes where it is supposed to go: to our teachers, school safety, and to support the mental health of our students – and that is our continued commitment.

Broward County voters trusted us with this investment before and we do not take that lightly. Our job, and yours, is to make sure every voter has the honest, accurate information they need to make this decision.

As a voter, you are part of our school communities. Without this renewal, BCPS would lose approximately \$358 million annually currently funding safety and mental health positions and supplements.

Thank you for helping us share accurate information with Broward County voters.

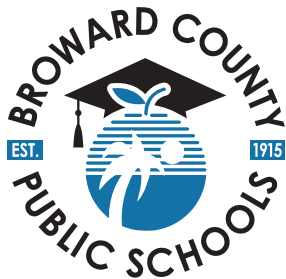
Sincerely,

**Dr. Howard Hepburn**

Superintendent of Schools

**Please Note:**

District employees, while in their official capacities and roles, can only educate and share information regarding ballot initiatives. Employees are not permitted to tell anyone how to vote in their official District capacity. However, employees can share what will happen if the referendum does or does not pass voter approval.



SECURE  
THE NEXT

# GENERATION REFERENDUM

RENEWAL

NOVEMBER 3, 2026

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) is presenting voters with a referendum renewal that will appear on the **November 3, 2026, general election ballot**.

**On the ballot:** *Fund School Employee Pay, Safety, and Mental Health through a One-Mill Property Tax Levy*

**This is not a new tax or a tax increase. It is a renewal of the one-mill property tax voters approved in 2022.**

If renewed,  
**\$358<sup>M</sup>**  
received annually

**The Secure the Next Generation Referendum renewal would continue funding for all Broward County public schools — including charter schools — to:**

- Recruit and retain high-quality teachers and eligible staff by continuing compensation supplements
- Maintain and enhance School Resource Officers (SROs) and school safety staff
- Maintain and enhance essential programs, such as mental health services for students and families

**The current Secure the Next Generation Referendum, approved by voters in 2022, is set to expire. Those funds currently support:**

- Approximately \$173 million annually in compensation supplements for teachers and eligible staff
- Over 393 school safety personnel and \$1.7 million in state-of-the-art software providing all staff with wearable panic-buttons for immediate security response
- More than 224 mental health professionals

Since voters approved this funding, BCPS has earned consecutive A District ratings — the first in over a decade — and recorded a 97.5% graduation rate across traditional District high schools — results driven by the teachers and staff this referendum helps the District attract and keep.

**If not renewed, BCPS would lose approximately \$358 million annually** currently funding safety and mental health positions and supplements.

The School Board voted to approve and present this referendum on the November 3, 2026 general election ballot for voters to consider investing in BCPS.

This renewal would allow BCPS to remain competitive with neighboring school districts that are presenting or renewing similar referendums during this same election cycle.

### How will referendum funds be allocated, and who decides?

The School Board of Broward County, FL, retains the authority to vote on the intended allocation of referendum funds each year through its formal budget adoption process. Final funding decisions are made through the Board's formal approval process.

During the current referendum period, a small portion of funds were allocated to compensation for certain District administrators. The Board has since adopted a restriction ensuring referendum funds will not be used for top administrator compensation going forward.

### What is a mill or millage rate?

The mill or millage rate is the amount of property value used to calculate local property taxes. One mill equals \$1 in taxes for every \$1,000 of taxable property value (or \$100 per \$100,000).

### What to expect for the 2027/28 school year:



The average homeowner with a home market value of \$652,756 and a School Board taxable value of \$417,877, would invest approximately \$418 that year or \$35 per month, similar to what they currently invest.\*

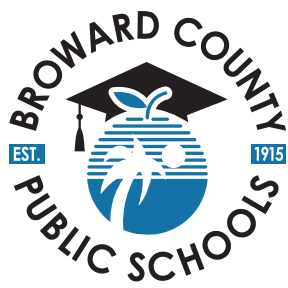


The average condo owner with a condo market value of \$296,524 and a School Board taxable value of approximately \$230,002, would invest approximately \$230 that year or \$19 per month, similar to what they currently invest.\*



If approved by voters, the referendum would generate approximately \$358 million annually — including \$283 million for District-operated schools and \$75 million for charter schools. The referendum renewal would cover four school years beginning with the 2027/28 school year.

\*A homeowner's/condo owner's investment varies based on their School Board taxable value as determined by the Broward County Property Appraiser, and may be subject to change annually.



# SECURE THE NEXT **GENERATION** **REFERENDUM** **RENEWAL**

NOVEMBER 3, 2026

## Information on the Secure the Next Generation Referendum



### This includes:

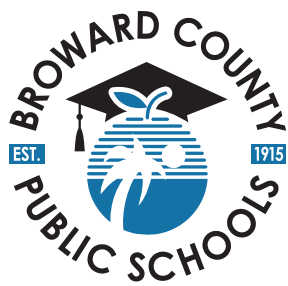
- Informational one-page flyer to print and distribute
- Answers to Frequently Asked Questions to inform and educate
- Social media message templates

### Official Ballot Language

#### Fund School Employee Pay, Safety, and Mental Health through a One-Mill Property Tax Levy

To enhance school safety and mental health services, recruit and retain highly qualified teachers and essential employees, improve student achievement, and support critical school operations, shall the School Board of Broward County continue to levy a one-mill ad valorem property tax from January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2030, to fund school safety personnel, mental health services, increased compensation for teachers, and school-based support staff for public and charter schools?

|                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Election Date</b>           | November 3, 2026 — General Election                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>What It Is</b>              | A renewal of the existing one-mill property tax — not a new tax or a tax increase                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Duration</b>                | Four school years beginning with the 2027/28 school year                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Annual Revenue</b>          | Approximately \$358 million across all Broward public schools, including charter schools                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>What It Funds</b>           | Teacher and staff compensation supplements, school safety personnel, and mental health professionals                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Safety Staff Funded</b>     | 393 referendum-funded safety personnel, including 185 security specialists, 201 contracted school resource officers, and 7 contracted armed guardians                                                                                               |
| <b>Mental Health Staff</b>     | 224 mental health professionals serving students and families                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>What's New</b>              | Approximately \$25 million more annually would be available to support students in District-operated schools compared to the previous referendum cycle, as retroactive charter school payment obligations from the prior cycle have been completed. |
| <b>If Not Renewed</b>          | The District would lose approximately \$358 million annually currently funding safety and mental health positions and supplements.                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Cost to Property Owners</b> | Because this is a renewal at the same one-mill rate, costs remain the same. The average homeowner would invest approximately \$418/year (\$35/month); the average condo owner approximately \$230/year (\$19/month).*                               |



# SECURE THE NEXT **GENERATION** **REFERENDUM** **RENEWAL** NOVEMBER 3, 2026

## Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the Secure the Next Generation Referendum?

The Secure the Next Generation Referendum is a one-mill property tax renewal that funds teacher and staff compensation supplements, school safety personnel and mental health professionals across all Broward County public schools, including charter schools. Voters first approved this investment in 2018 as a half-mill under the name Secure the Next Generation Referendum, then renewed and increased it to one mill in 2022 under the same name. The current referendum expires at the end of 2026, and the School Board has placed this four-year renewal, again named the Secure the Next Generation Referendum, on the November 3, 2026, general election ballot.

### Is this a new tax or a tax increase?

No. This is a renewal of the existing one-mill property tax that voters already approved. If renewed, the millage rate stays the same. This is not a new tax, and it is not an increase.

### When will Broward County vote on the referendum?

The referendum will appear on the November 3, 2026, general election ballot.

### What is a mill or millage rate?

The mill or millage rate is the amount of property value used to calculate local property taxes. One mill equals \$1 in taxes for every \$1,000 of taxable property value (or \$100 per \$100,000).

### Why does BCPS need to renew the referendum?

The current Secure the Next Generation Referendum, approved by voters in 2022, is set to expire. Without renewal, Broward County Public Schools will lose \$358 million annually — funding that currently supports over 393 school safety personnel, more than 224 mental health professionals, and compensation supplements for teachers and eligible staff.

Since voters approved this funding, BCPS has earned consecutive A District ratings — the first in over a decade — and recorded a 97.5% graduation rate across traditional District high schools — results driven by the teachers and staff this referendum helps the District attract and keep.

Outside of the legislative process, a referendum is the School Board's only option to raise additional funds for these priorities.

### The referendum renewal would continue securing funds for all public schools — including charter schools — to:

- Recruit and retain high-quality teachers and eligible staff through compensation supplements
- Maintain and enhance school resource officers and school safety staff
- Maintain and enhance essential programs such as mental health services



### How will referendum funds be allocated, and who decides?

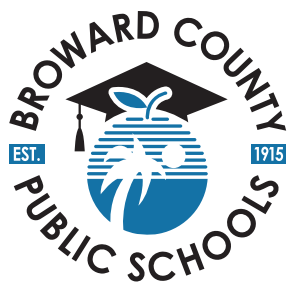
The School Board of Broward County, FL, retains the authority to vote on the allocation of referendum funds each year through its formal budget adoption process. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the allocation of funds prior to distribution.

During the current referendum period, a small portion of funds were allocated to compensation for certain District administrators. The Board has since adopted a restriction ensuring referendum funds will not be used for top administrator compensation going forward.

### The referendum renewal would continue securing funds for all public schools — including charter schools — to:

- 90% or more to provide compensation supplements to recruit and retain teachers and eligible staff
- Up to 10% to provide funding for school resource officers and school safety staff, and to preserve important programs, such as mental health services and personnel.

All compensation will be subject to collective bargaining. These funds will not be available until the 2027/28 school year.



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## *Safety and Security*

**17% of referendum funds collected (\$39 million) were invested in safety and security with approximately 393 positions, and software including the following:**

### **Personnel (393 positions):**

- Security Specialists – 185
- School Resource Officer Contracted Services – 201
- Armed school safety officers – contracted guardians – 7

### **Safety Technology and Services:**

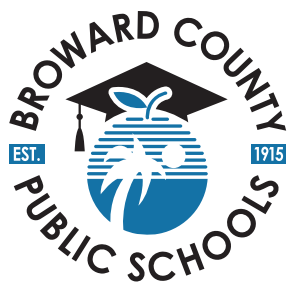
- Centegix and SaferWatch software licenses – \$1.7 million

**Mental Health 8% of collected referendum funds (\$18 million) were invested in mental health with approximately 224 positions, including the following:**

- Behavior Intervention Specialists – 11
- Family Counselors & Therapists – 30
- Guidance Counselors (Elementary) – 30
- Guidance Directors (High) – 5
- Mental Health Support Positions (Admin Assistant) – 24
- School Nurses – 17
- School Psychologists – 16
- School Social Workers – 14
- Teachers (includes Hospital Homebound/Suicide Prevention) – 77

### **How does BCPS compare to neighboring districts?**

Broward County competes directly with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the School District of Palm Beach County for teachers and staff. Both neighboring districts levy a one-mill property tax for similar purposes. Without this renewal, BCPS would be at a significant competitive disadvantage in recruiting and retaining qualified educators and staff.



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## *Social Media Message Templates*

Sample messages are provided below for sharing information about the referendum. Content from the District's official accounts – Facebook @BrowardCountyPublicSchools, Instagram @browardschools and X @browardschools – may also be shared, using hashtags #BCPSSecure and #BCPSReferendum.



### **Facebook**

Broward County Public Schools is presenting voters with a referendum renewal on the November 3, 2026, general election ballot. If approved, the renewal would continue funding for teacher supplements, school safety staff, and essential mental health programs in each of our schools. Learn more at [browardschools.com/referendum2026](https://browardschools.com/referendum2026).  
**#BCPSReferendum**



### **Instagram**

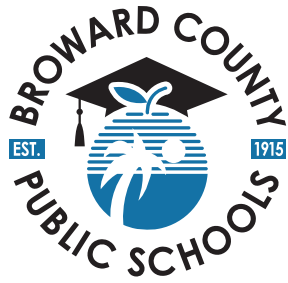
Teacher compensation supplements, school safety staff and mental health services in BCPS are funded through the Secure the Next Generation Referendum. The renewal is on the Nov. 3, 2026, general election ballot. If approved, funding for these programs would continue. Visit the link in bio to learn more.



### **X**

The Secure the Next Generation Referendum renewal is on the November 3 ballot. If approved, it would continue funding for teachers, school safety, and mental health programs across Broward County Public Schools. Learn more: [browardschools.com/referendum2026](https://browardschools.com/referendum2026).

**BCPSReferendum**



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### Logos



For more information or to schedule the Superintendent or his designee to speak to your group, please complete a [Presentation Request Form](#) or call the Legislative Affairs office, at 754-321-2608.