2027 Referendum Discussion

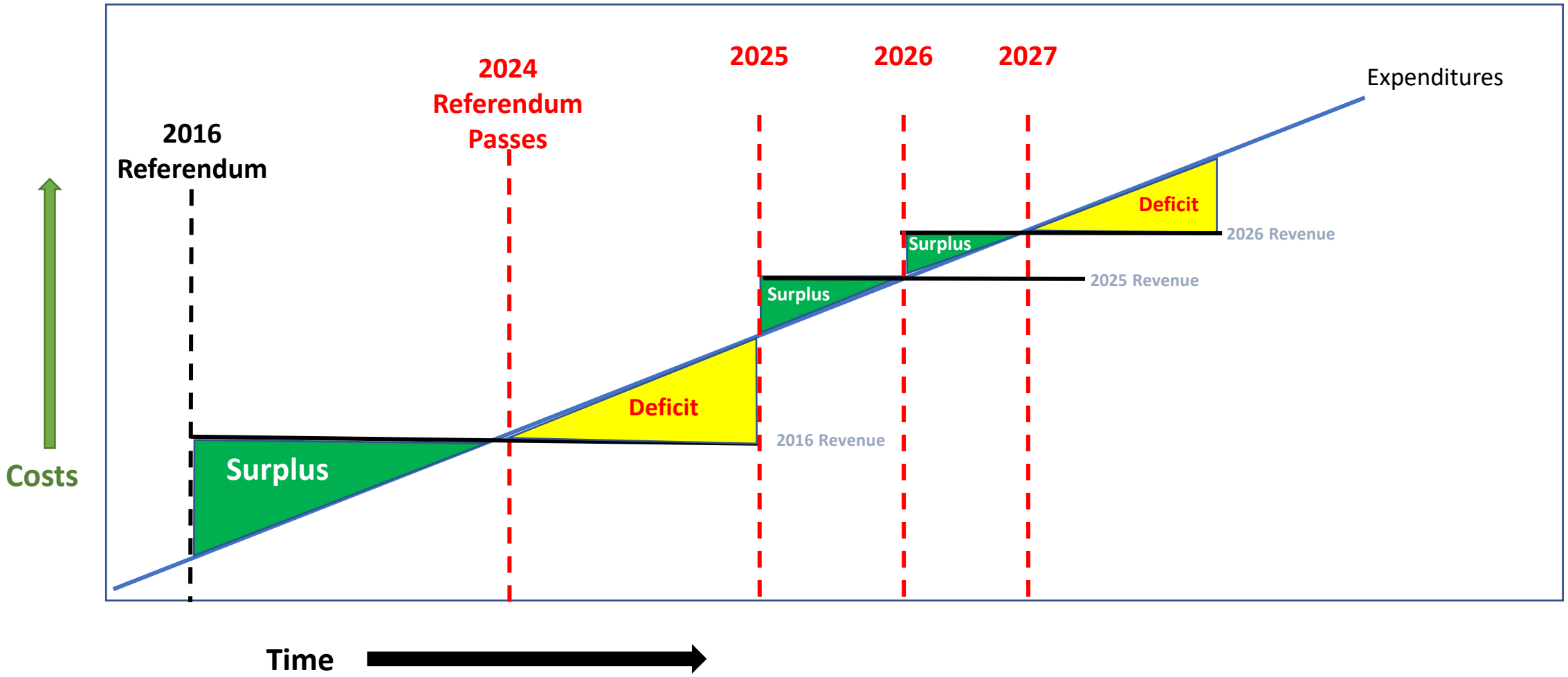
Public Board Workshop
Mount Pleasant Elementary
November 2, 2026







BSD Current Operational Referendum Cycle



Other Considerations

- **Economic factors outside of BSD's control**
  - Reassessment
  - Legislative change
  - Influx of Special Education students and needs
  - Increased cost of living
    - Negatively impacts residents and the District







Cash Balance Comparison

Cash balances as of June 30, 2026. are low, as expected

District	Cash Balance*	2025-26 Enrollment	Balance per Student
Red Clay	47,432,527.65	14,335	3,308.86
Appo	22,595,879.85	12,958	1,743.78
Christina	37,780,068.49	12,799	2,951.80
Indian River	34,314,653.25	10,620	3,231.13
Brandywine	26,553,982.52	10,070	2,636.94
Colonial	33,844,038.76	8,273	4,090.90
CR	31,999,541.02	7,868	4,067.05
Cape	37,061,666.05	6,731	5,506.12

* Excludes debt service balances

Figures pulled from the monthly interest calculation provided by the State

What makes up the ask?

	2027-2028 Cost Increase	2028-2029 Cost Increase	2029-2030 Cost Increase
Standard Operational Increases	3,439,551	3,518,378	3,749,396
Athletic Facility Modernization	2,250,000		
Required Learning Materials Refresh	2,000,000		
Obsolete Technology Replacements	800,000	600,000	
Security Technology Replacements	300,000	250,000	
	8,789,550	4,368,377	3,749,396
Total:	16,907,323		

Monetary Ask for 2027 Referendum

Operating Ask:

- Including athletic facilities modernization: $16.9M
- Excluding athletic facility modernization: $14.7M

Certificate of necessity status unknown

- Tax impact depends on scale of CN's approved
- Potential to be **Tax-Neutral**
- BSD's local portion is 34%
- Bond funds are paid back over 20 years
- BSD's current debt continues to mature
  - New payments take the place of maturing debt





Phasing Scenarios

	One Year Increase	
	2027-2028 Tax Rate Inc.	Monthly Tax Increase
Residential	0.09000	28.20
Non-Res.	0.16474	345.53

	Two Year Phase-In			
	2027-2028 Tax Rate Inc.	Monthly Tax Increase	2028-2029 Tax Rate Inc.	Monthly Tax Increase
Residential	0.05033	15.77	0.03967	12.43
Non-Res.	0.09213	193.23	0.07261	152.30

	Three Year Phase-In					
	2027-2028 Tax Rate Inc.	Monthly Tax Increase	2028-2029 Tax Rate Inc.	Monthly Tax Increase	2029-2030 Tax Rate Inc.	Monthly Tax Increase
Residential	0.05033	15.77	0.02695	8.45	0.01272	3.98
Non-Res.	0.09213	193.23	0.04934	103.48	0.02328	48.82

What does a failed referendum mean?

- **Certain items from the referendum ask are removed**
- **No local fund increases on salary schedules**
- **Need to cut approximately $5M in expenditures for FY28**
- **Additional cuts needed for each year thereafter**
- **Over 80% of BSD's budget is employee compensation**
  - Cuts can not avoid positions

Wildcard: New hybrid DE school district formula, if ready and fully funded, could help offset needed cuts

Additional Discussion Topics

- **Can a referendum wait?**
  - Can’t cut your way out of a referendum

- **Timing of potential referendum vote**
  - 2024 referendum vote was held Tuesday, February 13, 2024
  - Staying consistent:
    - Tues, Feb 9, 2027
    - Tues, Feb 16, 2027 (inclement weather date)

- **Potential Objections**


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