

REFERENDUM FAQs



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE APRIL 2 REFERENDUM

The referendum plan involves safety and security improvements.

What does this mean?

If Question #1 passes, the district will renovate and improve secure entrances at Atwater Elementary School, Lake Bluff Elementary School, and Shorewood Intermediate School; replace exterior doors and locks for monitoring access, as needed; upgrade fire alarm systems; and improve emergency lighting.

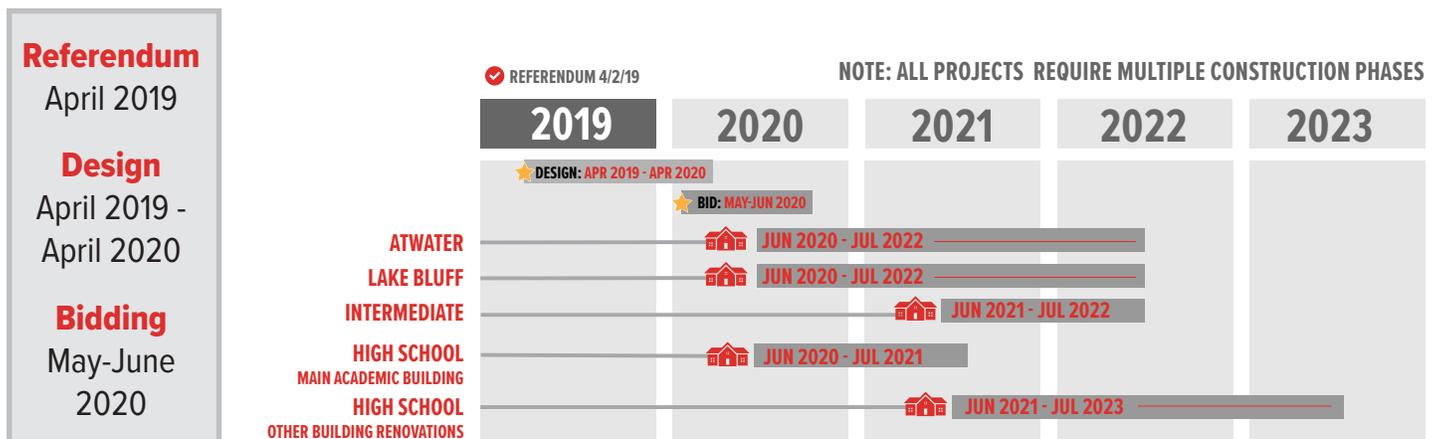
At Shorewood High School, the district will implement a new automatic locking system that will make it possible to immediately and efficiently lock down all buildings through an automated process.

What are the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) projects included in the proposed project?

Referendum Question #1 includes \$8.7M to address the most urgent ADA issues prioritized for all four of our school campus facilities. The majority of district-wide projects fall into these four major categories of ADA needs:

- » Replace/repair existing exterior ramps, stairs, and sidewalks (eliminate non-compliant surfaces, handrails, and slopes)
- » Restroom renovations (eliminate steps, modify entrances widths, provide compliant stalls and fixtures)
- » Floor modifications for better access to existing classrooms, common areas, etc. (eliminate steps, provide compliant ramps)
- » Classroom door modifications (entrance widths, compliant hardware)

If the referendum questions are approved, what is the estimated construction timeline?



FINANCIAL FAQs

What is the difference between the estimated tax impacts generated by the District Calculator presented by the School District and other estimated tax impacts?

The District Calculator answers our community’s most common question: **“How much will my taxes increase from their current level if the referendum questions are successful?”** This calculates the net tax impact (how much more you will pay) if the referendum questions are approved by voters. This translates to an estimated increase of \$31 per every \$100,000 of fair market property value.

Other alternative estimates have attempted to calculate the gross tax impact (current debt payment, plus the increase) of the referendum questions. The chart at right shows the **difference between a net and gross calculation of tax impact.**

Note: Assumptions used to calculate the above impact can be found under the “Financial Information” FAQs, “If approved, what is the maximum annual tax impact?” Prior to the 2018-19 tax rate being finalized (pre-survey), the estimated gross impact was \$2.44; the decrease in the tax rate for current debt was estimated at \$2.13; the net tax impact for Question 1 + Question 2 was always estimated to be \$0.31 per \$1,000 of fair market property value.

Property Fair Market Value (FMV)	Gross Tax Rate Impact	Less: PROJECTED Tax Rate DECREASE in 2020 for Current Debt	NET Tax Rate Impact Question 1 + Question 2
	\$2.27 <i>per \$1,000 FMV</i>	(\$1.96) <i>per \$1,000 FMV</i>	\$0.31 <i>per \$1,000 FMV</i>
\$100,000	\$227	(\$196)	\$31
\$300,000	\$681	(\$588)	\$93
\$500,000	\$1,135	(\$980)	\$155

What will happen to the school tax rate if the referendum questions are not approved?

If the referendum questions are not successful, the school district tax decrease would range from \$0 to \$196 per \$100,000 of fair market property value. The actual amount will depend on multiple factors including, but not limited to, changes in the revenue limit formula, state aid, tax base growth, and approaches to proactive debt management (defeasance). The Board could decide to continue to levy for the prepayment of existing debt. In recent years, the Board has maintained a consistent tax rate by levying additional dollars for the prepayment of debt.

How is the district planning to ensure oversight of the funds should the referendum pass?

Oversight will be coming directly through the District Superintendent’s Office and Business Manager’s Office. They will be directly overseeing the process of design, competitive bidding, and project management through the completion of all facilities improvements. The School Board will receive regular updates on the progress of the facilities improvements and communicate that progress to the community at their regular school board meetings. The Board is also considering an Owner's Representative to help oversee the projects.

