

Shullsburg School District Referendum



WHY NOW?

The Shullsburg School District has a long history of fiscal responsibility and sound financial management as we strive to improve our educational organization and analyze operational efforts to maintain a system where students have an optimal learning environment. This statement is proven by the fact that our district has needed to pass only two referendums in the past twenty-three years. Both of those referendums were situations where the district asked to issue debt and then paid it off, like a mortgage on your home, over a period of time. In 1994 the district passed a referendum to issue debt in the amount of \$5,200,000 to build on to the school and to remodel and update the remaining portions of the PK-12 facility. The other referendum was in 2012 for the amount of \$1,375,000 for roof replacement and repairs. As of this coming April 1, 2018, the district will make a final installment and will have repaid all of the outstanding debt from these referendums.

For the past few years, the School Board and Administration have been discussing plans for school and facility improvements. In its current situation, the district now has a window of opportunity to take advantage of current debt being retired and new capital being put into the education system without putting an additional burden on local property taxpayers. In the easiest to understand format, the district will retire all current referendum debt with a final total payment of \$391,738 in 2018, and we will be asking the voters within the Shullsburg School District to approve a referendum on April 3, 2018, allowing for up to an additional \$400,000 levy starting with the 2018-2019 school year. For all practical purposes, the amount that we have been paying for the past 23 years to retire debt is basically the same amount that we are now asking taxpayers for the authority to continue to levy for operational, deferred maintenance, curriculum and technology purposes.

In future articles, I will go more into detail about the specifics of the referendum, the different types of referenda and why the School Board chose this option, specific purposes and use of this levy, the projected impact on the school budget and the school tax levy portion of your property tax bill, and perhaps most importantly, the potential impact this referendum will have on the programs and ultimately the students of this district.

We are striving to make this process as open and transparent as possible for the taxpayers of the Shullsburg School District. It is critical that as informed citizens and voters, you understand the district needs and how we propose to use taxpayer money to improve our educational organization.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the School Board Members or Administration for additional information regarding the April 3, 2018 referendum.



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