



# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MONROE REFERENDUM INFORMATION



**VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6 2018!**

## QUESTION 1

Shall the School District of Monroe, Green County, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$1,500,000 per year beginning in the 2019-2020 school year and ending in the 2023-2024 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of maintaining current programming, services, class sizes and elective offerings and sustaining the current replacement schedule for technology, curriculum and textbooks?

## QUESTION 2

Shall the School District of Monroe, Green County, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$3,360,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school improvement program consisting of: HVAC improvements, safety upgrades, remodeling for ADA compliance, energy efficiency projects, and capital maintenance projects at Parkside Elementary School and at Monroe Middle School; and acquisition of related furnishings, fixtures and equipment?

## Why is the school district proposing two referendum questions?

### Question 1: Operations

- Authorizes \$1.5 million for five years
- Nonrecurring (authorization ends after five years)
- Provides funding to maintain current levels of services and staffing
- Reauthorizes the expiring 2016 referendum at the same amount
- No tax increase over current level

### Question 2: Maintenance

- Authorizes District to issue bonds (incur debt) of \$3.36 M
- Projects identified at Parkside Elementary and Monroe Middle School as these buildings will not be impacted by any potential long-term building planning
- HVAC improvements, safety updates, remodeling for ADA compliance, energy efficiency projects and capital maintenance
- No tax increase over current level

## Why can't the district fund these with its usual budget?

The state-allowed increases to the District's revenue limit have not kept up with the cost of inflation, meaning that even maintaining the current level of services requires the District to operate at a deficit. *More than 85% of all school districts in Wisconsin, and every district in Green County, have utilized an operating referendum;* this speaks to the importance of this process in funding schools in this state.

In addition, the School District of Monroe tax levy (the amount of property tax collected) has grown by less than 1% per year over the last 10 years. The District's 2017-2018 revenues were less than they were 10 years ago even with the \$1.5 million referendum dollars included.

### To reduce costs to taxpayers, the District has made significant cuts that have saved millions of dollars annually.

- 10% decline in enrollment and 20% reduction in staff since 2002-2003
- Numerous staff salary freezes since 2000
- Changes to health benefits for staff, including a current 5-year freeze on health insurance premiums
- Changes to retirement benefits for staff (saves \$1 million per year)
- Negotiated improved service contracts and leases at a savings in excess of \$140,000 per year
- Eliminated cash flow borrowing costs at a savings of up to \$300,000 per year

### DID YOU KNOW?

**If both questions are approved by voters, there will still be *no tax increase!***

## What has the community been saying about the referendum?

From mid-May through June of this year, School Perceptions, an independent Wisconsin-based firm, conducted a community survey of District residents on behalf of the Monroe School District. The purpose of this survey was to gauge early support among the community for a potential referendum question to approve much-needed funding for ongoing operational needs and deferred, urgent maintenance projects.

Allocate funding to maintain current operations, programs and services

**77%**  
**Yes**

**7%**  
**Undecided**

**16%**  
**Not now**

Allocate funding to address maintenance projects and immediate needs

**74%**  
**Yes**

**10%**  
**Undecided**

**16%**  
**Not now**

## Specifically, what projects would be funded by Question 2?

	Parkside Elementary	Middle School
Urgent Maintenance	✓	✓
HVAC Improvements	✓	
Electrical Infrastructure	✓	
Bathroom Upgrades and ADA	✓	✓
Fire Sprinkler System	✓	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3,353,250</b>

## DISTRICT FACILITIES COMMITTEE (DFC)



The District Facilities Committee, or DFC, serves in an advisory capacity to the School Board to assist with the evaluation and prioritization of capital improvements and building solutions for the District's schools.

The DFC toured the facilities, and discussed topics such as modern learning environments, grade level configurations, educational space adequacy, finance, real estate market implications, and safety and security.

### Who served on the DFC?

Tim Brown  
Ann Doyle  
John Emmons

Jason Kundert  
Nate Lancaster  
Ron Markham

Jeff Newcomer  
Ron Olson  
Andrea Sweeney

Amy Timmerman  
Rick Waski  
Rich Zentner

## WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Visit [www.monroeschools.com](http://www.monroeschools.com) or contact Rick Waski, District Superintendent at 608-328-7171 or via email at [rickwaski@monroe.k12.wi.us](mailto:rickwaski@monroe.k12.wi.us).