

# F A Q ' S

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## 1 ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016, WHAT ARE WE VOTING ON?

On November 8th, residents of the Franklin Public School District will have the opportunity to vote on a referendum question regarding the construction of a new Forest Park Middle School, which is Phase 2 of the District's Facility Master Plan. **Voters may choose to vote "yes" or "no" on the question. A referendum question will only be approved if more district voters vote "yes" than those that vote "no". The question on the ballot will read as follows:**

"Shall the Franklin Public School District, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$43,300,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of constructing a new middle school on District land; tearing down Forest Park Middle School; site improvements; and acquisition of equipment, furnishings and fixtures?"

## 2 WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE FOREST PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL REFERENDUM QUESTION?

The proposed project for **Forest Park Middle School** includes the following work:

- The construction of a new Forest Park Middle School building on District-owned land adjacent to the current middle school. The project cost also includes the demolition of the current building.
- Creation of a secure entrance for further improved visitor access monitoring.
- Enlarged and up to date instructional spaces, including science labs and technical education classrooms.
- Approximately 175,000 square feet of building space that incorporates appropriately sized common spaces such as cafeteria, library, gymnasium and technology labs.
- Energy efficient building systems including mechanical, electrical, fire protection systems and HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) systems.
- Site work to increase parking and access lanes to improve traffic flow and safety.

## 3 HOW MUCH IS THE FOREST PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL REFERENDUM? HOW WILL IT IMPACT TAXES?

The total not-to-exceed project borrowing is \$43,300,000 and would be financed over a 20-year period. It is against state law for the school district to exceed a voter-approved borrowing amount. The amount borrowed would be used to pay for all the new construction, renovation, site work, furniture, fixtures, equipment, professional fees, and required project permits.

The estimated annual property tax impact is approximately \$0.65 per \$1,000 of assessed property value or \$65 more per year per \$100,000 of assessed value. Please see the chart to the right to review the potential tax impact at a broader range of assessed values.

ESTIMATED PROPERTY TAX IMPACT		
\$0.65 PER \$1,000 OF ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE		
NOT TO EXCEED TOTAL PROJECT BORROWING OF \$43,300,000		
ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE	PER YEAR	PER MONTH
\$100,000	\$65	\$5.42
\$200,000	\$130	\$10.83
\$300,000	\$195	\$16.25





# FAQ's

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## 4: Why is the Forest Park Middle School Referendum being proposed?

The district is proposing to build a new Forest Park Middle School for the following key reasons:

- In the district's Facility Master Plan, addressing immediate space and programming needs at Forest Park Middle School ranked as the third most critical issue for residents. (1 and 2 were related to FHS and were approved by community referendum in 2012).
- Forest Park Middle School's common-use spaces like the gymnasium, cafeteria and music rooms are currently overcrowded. 2015-2016 enrollment, which includes grades 7 and 8, was 687. Projections indicate our overall district enrollment will continue to increase.
- The existing gym is significantly undersized for required Physical Education classes and fails to provide adequate athletic space for the community's high demand Recreation Department programs. There is no spectator seating which limits the district's ability to host events.
- Music areas are too small to meet the growing student population. Interest in band, chorus and other music programs continue to increase.
- Forest Park's cafeteria is too crowded to serve the student population efficiently. The kitchen serving area is congested and doesn't allow for smooth student traffic circulation.
- The current main entrance is not within direct visibility of the main office. The new office location and secure main entrance will enhance student safety.
- The current site does not have efficient parking or safe traffic flow to and from Forest Hill Avenue. This project provides more parking and additional traffic lanes for access to Forest Hill.

## 5: Will the referendum include moving sixth grade into Forest Park?

Yes. Currently, Forest Park serves only grades 7 and 8, and our 6th grade students attend at our five elementary schools. The new Forest Park referendum building is designed for a 6-8 grade configuration. 6th grade students will have access to expanded course offerings in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), World Languages, and Family/Consumer Science. Additionally, 6th grade students would be able to join clubs and sports they don't have access to at the elementary level.

Removing a grade level from each of our elementary buildings also opens up classroom space for current and future growth at those schools.

## 6: What happens if the referendum questions are not approved?

The question is being proposed based on identified needs as part of the district's Facility Master Plan and prioritized through community input. If the question is not approved, the needs behind the proposal will remain unresolved. The district would likely reach back out to the community for further discussion about priorities and how to address these issues in the near future.

## 7: Is this a long-term solution to District capacity needs?

Yes. The proposed solution addresses overcrowding, educational programming access and aging mechanicals at Forest Park Middle School and will do so for several years into our future.

## 8: How long will construction take on the Forest Park Referendum?

Construction is projected to take approximately 18 months.

## 9: How will students, staff, and the community be impacted during construction?

Building a new structure adjacent to the current one is planned to avoid disruption and minimize inconvenience to instruction, school events and normal operations. Some adjustments in schedules or locations may occur during the course of the project. In addition to the normal methods of school, parent and community communication, additional notices will be used to provide accurate and timely information.

## 10: If the referendum is approved, will the expanded and renovated facilities be available for community use?

Yes. All our current facilities are used heavily by district residents as the Community Education and Recreation Department is also operated by the district. Any new or renovated facilities will continue to be available for student and broad community use.

## 11: How will the district pay for the additional operating costs?

Maintaining a larger Forest Park Middle School to meet the needs of students will increase the costs for utilities, basic maintenance, and cleaning. However these additional costs will be paid from the existing school district budget. The school district will not ask for any additional taxpayer dollars to pay for these expenses. If the referendum question is approved and the basic building system updates included in that project are completed, it is expected that Forest Park's overall energy efficiency will improve even as the facility expands.

## 12: How does the Forest Park referendum fit into the District's Facility Master Plan?

For the last several years, the district has been working to define a Facility Master Plan to address facility needs at both Franklin High School and Forest Park Middle School. Based on feedback gathered from community workshops and surveys in 2012, the Facility Master Plan identifies stand-alone facility projects that can be implemented independently, taking a phased approach to resolving our needs rather than realizing the entire plan at one time.

In the spring of 2012, district residents were asked to prioritize six potential projects at Franklin High School and two potential project options at Forest Park Middle School. Three questions (2 for Franklin High School and one for Forest Park) were placed on the November 6, 2012 ballot. Both of the FHS questions were approved and both projects were completed on budget.

## 13: What is the district's enrollment history?

A: Ten years ago in the 2006-2007 school year, the total school district enrollment was 4,126. Our official 2015-2016 school year enrollment was recorded at 4,395 students in January 2016. That represents an increase of 269 students.

