

Union Grove Elementary School Referendum 2018
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *When was the last time the School District went to referendum?*

A: 2001

Q: *What improvements are proposed as part of this referendum?*

A: This referendum addresses two primary facility needs; existing maintenance needs and improved space to meet the needs of current and future teaching and learning. Maintenance projects will address systems that have exceeded their expected life span. In addition, a floor classroom addition will be constructed to allow the Fifth Grade to be relocated back to the elementary school side of the building. As a result of the additional space, several areas of the existing building will now be able to be repurposed as flexible, collaborative learning spaces that meet the needs of today's students.

Q: *Why is the district proposing this plan now?*

A: The District finds itself at a crossroads. Construction costs and interest rates remain low now but are rising. The District has debt set to retire in the near future which allows for minimal long term tax impact to property owners.

Q: *Why do we need a referendum? Why can't the District pay for these projects out of its normal budget?*

A: The District maintains a responsible and efficient operating budget. Every year, money is allocated for planned maintenance needs however, as larger and more costly systems come due for replacement, the annual budget is not sufficient without taking money from the classroom.

Q: *What happens if the referendum fails?*

A: If the referendum fails, the District will continue to prioritize the highest level maintenance projects but will have to put off some other projects until funds are available. Deferring these projects may result in more costly repairs in the future. The proposed improvements to the learning environments would also be deferred and spaces would continue to function with their current limitations.

Q: *What is the tax impact? Why not wait two years so we have no tax impact?*

A: If the referendum is successful, it is estimated that there will be a 93 cent increase in the mill rate for debt payments beginning in 2019-20. This equates to approximately \$93 on \$100,000 property. After two years, the mill rate is estimated to decrease by \$2.14 or \$214 on \$100,000 property.

Q: How long is the loan for?

A: 20 years

Q: Is this referendum being proposed because of Foxconn or open enrollment?

A: The proposed projects at Union Grove Elementary are positioned to address some needs: long term maintenance and increased need for flexible, collaborative learning spaces. As teaching and learning practices have changed over time, additional space for students to work together and with staff outside of the traditional classroom has become a necessity. By adding four classrooms to the building, existing spaces can be reorganized and reconfigured to meet this need while improving student traffic flow and access to age appropriate facilities. The resulting building will support today's learning environments while providing the needed flexibility for future programming development.