

VOTE ON THE 2022 REFERENDUM TUESDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2022

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a bond referendum?

A bond referendum is the mechanism the State has established to provide an opportunity for voters to decide if a school district will be authorized to raise funds for renovations, repairs, replacement and/or new construction.

Why must the District borrow all of the money? Hasn't the New Providence Board of Education saved money over the years for school renovations?

Although State regulations do permit a school district to build a reserve fund over the course of a number of years for capital improvements, the District chooses to use the bond referendum mechanism to fund major capital improvements. This mechanism gives the District the ability to issue debt and spread the costs of a capital project over time instead of electing pay-as-you-go financing, which would lead to a sufficient need for tax revenue that is not always feasible. The District does fund minor capital improvements on a yearly basis that is part of the annual school budget.

When will the vote on the bond referendum take place?

The public will have the opportunity to vote in-person on the proposed bond referendum on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Polls will be open from 6 am to 8 pm. Also, there will be early voting opportunities. Information regarding early voting can be found at <https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-how-to.shtml>.

How much will the proposed project cost?

The total cost for the project is \$22,191,122.00. That figure includes all projects at the three (3) buildings.

Is the District receiving state aid for the proposed project?

The Board of Education is extremely pleased to report that the State of New Jersey has awarded the District debt service aid towards the referendum.

How much will it cost me?

The total project cost is \$22,191,122.00 and the State will allocate \$6,836,081.00 plus interest towards the total project cost in the form of debt service aid that will be paid on a yearly basis. The 2022 average home in New Providence is assessed at \$303,167.00, which has a market value of \$643,803.00. The estimated average tax increase over the life of the bond issue is \$18.08 per month or approximately \$217.00 per year. When factoring in retired debt (bond issue that will end in August 2025), the average increase over the life of the bond issue is **\$4.32 per month** or approximately **\$52.00 per year**.

Why do we need to undertake this project?

The High School/Middle School was built in 1957, A.W. Roberts in 1962 and Salt Brook in 1968. Certain parts of a building, such as roofs, unit ventilators, floors, bleachers and rooftop units, although maintained and frequently repaired, have a limited useful life before they need to be replaced. Many of these units are original that date back to when the schools were built. Replacing the ventilation units with HVAC units will increase fresh air flow as well as air conditioning into all instructional spaces. The addition of fresh air and air conditioning coupled with new mobile and flexible-use furniture will support the continued work of the District's Think Tank Classroom Environment and SEL committees and provide teachers with increased opportunities to create environments more conducive to optimal learning for the Gen Z student.

How were the proposed project items selected?

The proposed projects were developed through a comprehensive process which included a review of an interior room mechanical ventilation assessment, meetings with building principals, staff, community members, and ongoing Board review of the proposed projects and its impact on the community.

What does the bond referendum do for those residents who do not have children in the schools?

The conditions and quality of local schools affect everyone in terms of property values and resale possibilities. The proposed projects will allow New Providence schools to maintain their excellent reputation, a reputation that directly protects the relative value of homes.

What happens if the bond is defeated?

The work that the Board of Education is proposing in this bond referendum needs to be completed. Certain things, such as the replacement and repair of the high/middle school roof and districtwide ventilation units, cannot be delayed. If the bond doesn't pass, the Board will have to come back to the public with another referendum in an effort to raise the money for the revised referendum.

How can I learn more about the conditions of our schools and this bond referendum?

To assist you with making an informed decision about the referendum, the Board of Education will be providing information to the community through the District website (www.npsd.k12.nj.us/referendum), direct mail, social media, and through District communication. The Board of Education will also be making presentations to numerous community groups beginning in September, a schedule of which may be found on the website. Any additional inquiries should be addressed to James Testa, School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary at 908-464-9050 Ext. 4223, or jtesta@npsdnj.org.

