



MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# REFERENDUM UPDATES

Important information about the Milwaukee Public Schools Road to Referendum

February 2020

**District Highlights**

**HOME TO 5** OF THE STATE'S TOP HIGH SCHOOLS  
According to *U.S. News & World Report* 2019

**7** more schools in the **TOP 3** WI State Report Card categories 2018-19

**4** more schools approved to pursue **IB** authorization

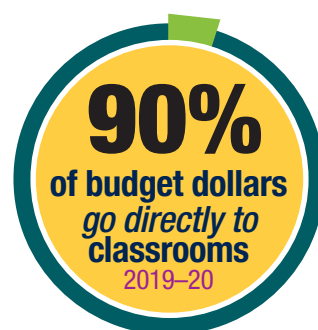
On Tuesday, April 7, 2020, voters in the city of Milwaukee will see a referendum question on the spring ballot regarding an increase in revenue for Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). This newsletter provides important information about the referendum that will impact MPS and city of Milwaukee residents.

### How will increased funding support students?



### Sustain and expand educational programming

- To compete after graduation, students need greater access to high-quality career and technical education and advanced educational opportunities.
- MPS will ensure that students across the city have access to Advanced Placement (AP) classes, International Baccalaureate (IB) coursework, Montessori programs, and college and career readiness.



### Expand library services, art, music, physical education, and language programs

- Students need opportunities to develop curiosity, creativity, self expression, discipline, and cultural awareness in order to perform at a high level inside and outside the classroom.
- MPS will have the ability to expand programs such as arts, music, physical education, ethnic studies, bilingual education, language immersion, and world language offerings that attract families and foster personal excellence.

### Attract and retain certified educators to strengthen our workforce and our classrooms

- Students learn most effectively within appropriate class sizes under the guidance of committed, caring educators who are supported in growing their knowledge of their subject area and the craft of teaching.
- MPS will have the resources to recruit, develop, and retain staff, including more certified educators, school counselors, psychologists, social workers, nurses, and special education teachers who are essential to a quality K-12 education.

**DID YOU KNOW?** **97%**

**410 out of 421**  
Wisconsin school districts  
have passed a  
referendum since 1993.

### **Why is this referendum necessary and why pursue this now?**

The state limits how much money school districts can raise through a “revenue limit.” MPS’s revenues have been stagnant since 2010–11.

As every family knows, the cost of living has gone up in the last ten years. That same reality is true for MPS. Revenue has not kept pace with increased costs, making it more difficult to provide students with the best educational experience they deserve.

### **The spring 2020 election is during MPS spring break!**

Election day is Tuesday, April 7, 2020, and falls during Milwaukee Public Schools spring break. If you will be out of town on election day, the City of Milwaukee offers early voting or you can request an absentee ballot.

Early Voting is available Monday, March 16 through Sunday, April 5, 2020.

- Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Saturdays & Sundays (March 28–29 and April 4–5 ONLY): 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

<b>Early Voting Locations</b>		
<b>Zeidler Municipal Building</b> 841 N. Broadway, Room 102	<b>Midtown Center</b> 5700 W. Capitol Drive <i>(located west of Pick ‘n Save)</i>	<b>Zablocki Library</b> 3501 W. Oklahoma Ave

Download a copy of the Early Voting/In-Person Absentee Voting Schedule in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

\*Early voting information was taken from the City of Milwaukee [website](#).

### **Step Inside Our Schools!**

Watch our latest video and learn how students at Golda Meir School are taking part in robotics and STEM programming that is preparing them with real-world skills.

[LEGO Junior Coding Club at Golda Meir](#)

### **Learn More!**

Visit [mpsreferendum.com](https://mpsreferendum.com) to find detailed information about the referendum.

To learn more about [registering to vote](#), [where to vote](#), or [absentee ballots](#), please visit [My Vote Wisconsin](#).

See what the [referendum question](#) will look like on the ballot.

[Take our survey](#) and tell us how you think additional dollars should be spent if the referendum passes.

### **About Milwaukee Public Schools**

Milwaukee Public Schools is committed to accelerating student achievement, building positive relationships between youth and adults, and cultivating leadership at all levels. The district’s commitment to improvement continues to show results:

- Ninety percent of 2019-20 budget dollars go directly to classrooms;
- Four more MPS schools have been approved to pursue IB authorization;
- The MPS Class of 2018 earned \$86.2 million in scholarships; and
- MPS is home to five of the top high schools in the state and nation according to *U.S. News and World Report*.

Learn more about MPS by visiting our [website](#). More news is available at [mpsmke.com/news](https://mpsmke.com/news).

