



MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

REFERENDUM UPDATES

Important information about the Milwaukee Public Schools Road to Referendum

January 2020

On 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.

What is the proposed referendum?

The referendum will seek an increase in revenue limits for Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). If passed, this will result in a four-year phase-in revenue limit increase for a total of \$87 million.

Year 1: \$57 million

Year 2: \$77 million

Year 3: \$84 million

Year 4 and beyond: \$87 million per year

How much will the proposed referendum impact property taxes?



\$50,000 property



22¢ per day



\$100,000 property



44¢ per day



\$150,000 property



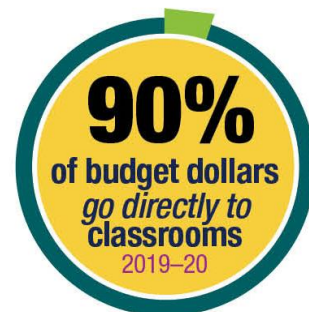
66¢ per day

Based on estimated calculated tax impact of \$160 per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

How will this funding be spent?

MPS is committed to providing the best possible education for every student. Currently, 90 cents of every dollar is spent in the classroom.

Through input from our community, MPS has identified areas that will be helped by additional funding if the referendum passes.



- Attract and retain high-quality, certified educators.
- Offer students more career and technical education programs.
- Expand library services, art, music, physical education, and language programs

**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 **WORLD SCHOOL**
ib
more schools
approved to pursue IB
authorization

What will the ballot question look like?

Voters will see the following question on the ballot on April 7, 2020.

"Shall the Milwaukee Public Schools, Milwaukee and Washington Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$57 million for the 2020-2021 school year; by an additional \$20 million for the 2021-2022 school year; by an additional \$7 million for the 2022- 2023 school year; and by an additional \$3 million (for a total of \$87 million) for the 2023-2024 school year and thereafter, for the recurring purposes of sustaining and expanding educational programming, including, offering more career and technical education programs, attracting and retaining certified educators, and expanding art, music, physical education, and language programs?"

Download a copy of this [Ballot Question in Spanish](#).

Descargue una copia de las [Preguntas sobre la Papeleta de votación en español](#).

Take Our Survey!

Tell us how you think additional dollars should be spent if the referendum passes. [Take our survey](#) and rank the areas that would benefit from increased funding.

- Provide more high-quality early childhood education.
- Attract and retain certified educators.
- Provide more support services such as school counselors, psychologists, social workers, nurses, and special education instructors.
- Increase library services, art, music, and physical education.
- Expand access to world language programs, Advanced Placement (AP) classes, and International Baccalaureate (IB) coursework, along with ethnic studies, bilingual, language immersion, and Montessori programs.
- Increase access to high-quality career and technical education.
- Reduce class sizes.

[Find more information on our Referendum Priority Survey page.](#)

Step Inside Our Schools!

Watch our video and learn how students at Milwaukee High School of the Arts are taking part in arts experiences that make a difference in their lives.

Learn More!

Visit 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](#).

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.

