



RUSD Referendum: Every Student. Every School. Flat Tax Rate.

On April 7, residents of the Racine Unified School District will be asked to vote on a proposal that will impact every school and every student. The referendum would fund \$598 million of work including construction of new schools, modernization and major renovations, safety and security enhancements and upgraded technology as part of the District’s long-range facilities master plan. The work will be funded over 30 years while keeping the referendum-related tax rate flat.

Key Projects

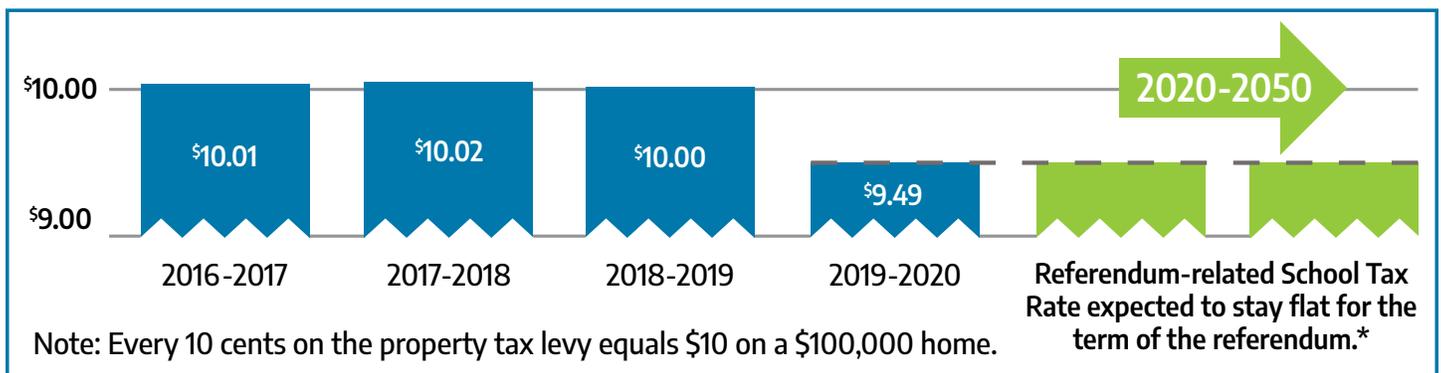
- Construct new schools, including a new K-8 campus in Sturtevant, a Starbuck International Baccalaureate K-8 and new, smaller middle schools
- Modernize schools through major renovations and maintenance
- Enhance school safety and security
- Modernize classroom technology
- Create a second early learning center
- Expand successful programs, such as the Academies of Racine
- Create schools that are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant

Holding the Line on Taxes

For the last several years, RUSD has kept our commitment to maintain stable property taxes. The 2020 referendum proposal continues to protect our taxpayers. The referendum funding plan will not cause the school property tax rate to increase. In fact, the Board of Education developed a policy that will hold District administration accountable for keeping the school construction-related tax rate flat now and into the future.

Three Factors Will Keep the School Property Tax Flat

1. Existing tax levies will expire in the coming years. As levies end, this new referendum will take their place. We’re simply asking taxpayers to continue the investment already being made in our public schools.
2. Increased state aid: For every dollar the District spends on referendum facility improvements, the state picks up \$.30.
3. Projections show Racine’s economy is growing, which will expand our property tax base and provide tax relief for residents.



*This projection assumes the state school funding system stays the same and property value assumptions are achieved.

Improving Student Achievement

Our long-range plan uses a three-pronged approach for improving student achievement:

- Strong Academics
- Resources Aligned to our Vision
- Excellent Learning Environment

If approved, the referendum will support improved student achievement by allowing RUSD to:

- Invest in STEAM spaces and curriculum across the District to improve math and science achievement. This includes a brand new Red Apple STEAM elementary school in the city of Racine.
- Enhance and expand Academies of Racine to ensure all students graduate college or career ready.
- Create learning experiences in kindergarten through eighth grade that align and prepare students for the academies.
- Provide the 21st century technology our students need to be successful.
- Create new and smaller middle schools, allowing us to provide positive learning environments for every middle school student.
- Expand Starbuck to create a K-8 International Baccalaureate campus.
- Create flexible classroom spaces to provide students hands-on, project-based learning opportunities.



Who Will Be Impacted?

Every school and every student will be impacted by improvements funded under this referendum. You can find school-specific fact sheets on our website to learn more about the impact on your school.

To view details on how the referendum will impact each school, visit rusd.org/2020Referendum.

Ballot Question

Shall the Racine Unified School District, Racine County, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$18,000,000 per year for the 2020-2021 school year through the 2024-2025 school year, by \$22,500,000 per year for the 2025-2026 school year through the 2028-2029 school year, and by \$42,500,000 per year for the 2029-2030 school year through the 2049-2050 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of building modernization, land acquisition, enhancements for student career pathway programs, safety improvements, furnishings and equipment, technology, and debt service for new building and other capital improvement projects?