

REFERENDUM

question & answer



ALL SCHOOLS, ALL STUDENTS

Dear Barron Area School District Community Members,

The Board of Education is sincerely grateful to the community for your support of our students and staff as we continue to navigate these unprecedented times. Over the past year, we have banded together to overcome new obstacles, and we are stronger for it. **Thank you** to our engaged parents, committed staff, and involved community members. We were able to continue providing quality education to *ensure all students reach their dreams while making a positive impact on the world.*

Despite making many strides forward, we still have the challenge of District-wide facilities needs. The last facilities referendum to address significant building needs was passed in 1997. Understanding our buildings need major improvements, the Board of Education commissioned a facilities assessment to understand the facility and educational needs throughout our District.

To develop a solution that reflects the priorities of the taxpayers, meets the needs of our District, and impacts all buildings, a Focus Group was formed. This group, comprised of community members, parents, and staff, studied needs and explored solutions. In October, all District residents had the opportunity to provide feedback through a community-wide survey. All community feedback was instrumental in shaping the referendum plan that the Board unanimously supported and will subsequently appear on the April 6 ballot. The plan is focused on:



Safety & Security



Educational Programming



Infrastructure Updates



Community Support

We ask that all Barron Area School District residents familiarize themselves with the referendum solution, make an informed decision, and remember to **vote April 6.**

Sincerely,

Barron Area School District Board of Education

Jeff Nelson, President, Board Member At-Large
Dan McNeil, Vice President, Board Member At-Large
Kelli Rasmussen, Clerk, Represents City of Barron
Danette Hellmann, Treasurer, Represents Almena Area

Chris Donica, Represents Hillsdale Area
Megan Marion, Represents Ridgeland Area
Brittany Stephens, Represents City of Barron
Orin Thompson, Represents Dallas Area
Kate Vruwink, Represents City of Barron

REFERENDUM question & answer

On Tuesday, April 6, the Barron Area School District community will be asked to vote on two referendum questions. As the District has been sharing referendum information throughout the community, common questions have come up. Included are the most frequently asked questions.

? What is on the ballot?

Referendum Question 1 | \$24,500,000

Referendum to fund:

- Capital maintenance at all schools
- Safety, security, and site improvements
- Learning space updates including construction of additions at the High School and Woodland Elementary School

Referendum Question 2 | \$1,900,000

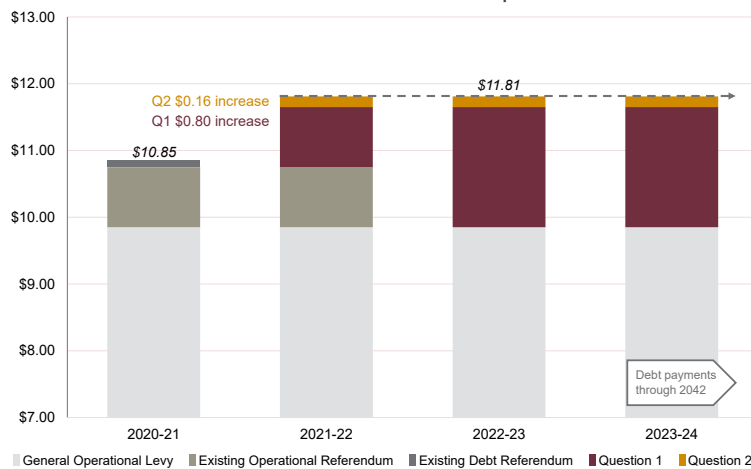
- Referendum to fund construction of an addition at Woodland Elementary School for a child care center

The official ballot language is available on the District website.

? Why is the impact of Question 1 higher than Question 2?

The impacts of Question 1 and Question 2 appear disproportionate to the values because the impact of Question 1 factors in “deductions” or “credits” due to the drop-off of existing debt (see graph below). To use an analogy, if a customer brought a \$1 off coupon to a retail store and purchased two items, the cashier might apply the coupon discount to item 1. Though no discount was applied to item 2, the customer still realizes the full \$1 value of the discount. Please feel free to contact the District Office to see our financing plans in detail to best understand the dynamic discussed.

Estimated Mill Rate Impact



? How will this project affect my taxes?

The District has been diligent in managing expenses and remaining fiscally responsible for our taxpayers. Below is the estimated tax increase for the school portion of your taxes associated with each question.

Property Value	Question 1 \$24,500,000		Question 2 \$1,900,000	
	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly
\$100,000	\$80.00	\$6.66	\$16.00	\$1.33
\$150,000	\$120.00	\$10.00	\$24.00	\$2.00
\$200,000	\$160.00	\$13.33	\$32.00	2.66

Assumptions: Mill rate based on 2020 equalized valuations; borrowings amortized over 20 years at a 3.75% interest rate. (Provided by R.W. Baird)

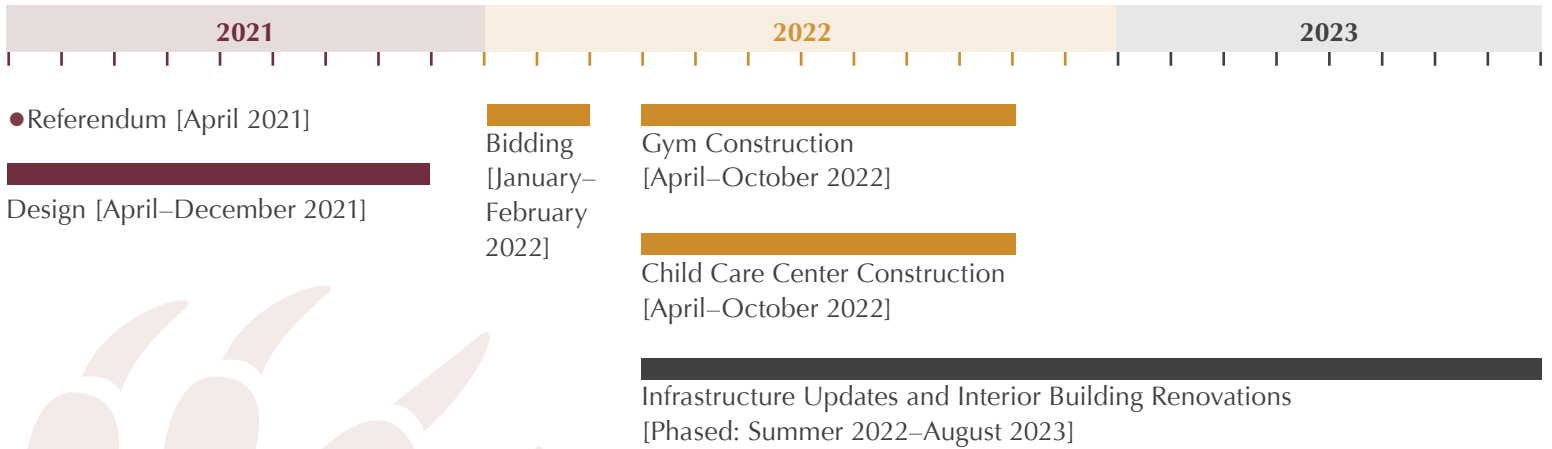
? Why is the District pursuing a referendum now?

The District is cognizant of the strain COVID has placed on our communities. When considering if now was the right time to go to referendum, the District had several conversations and the following dynamics led to two questions on the April 6 ballot:

- In November, in the midst of the pandemic, the community-wide survey indicated strong support for updating our facilities through a referendum.
- The District’s facility needs are not going away and cannot be addressed within the annual operating budget.
- A financial window of opportunity exists to invest due to the expiration of the operational referendum approved in 2016.
- Interest rates are at historic lows.
- Construction costs continue to escalate.

? When will the projects be complete?

Preliminary Timeline



? Where can I get voting information?

To learn more about obtaining an absentee ballot, registering to vote, meeting photo ID requirements, locating your polling place and more, contact your local municipal clerk or visit the state's official resource: myvote.wi.gov.



DID YOU KNOW?

The District is **positively aided** **46%** meaning approximately 46% of District expenditures are reimbursed through the state aid formula. Taxpayers are only incurring **54%** of the debt obligation.

? How can I learn more about the referendum?

The District has created multiple opportunities for you to connect with us. We encourage residents to familiarize themselves with the referendum solution, ask questions, and make an informed decision. For more information:

CALL the District Office: 715.537.5612

EMAIL referendum@barron.k12.wi.us

VISIT www.barron.k12.wi.us

FOLLOW @BarronAreaSD

ATTEND a Referendum Information Night

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

In Person • 6:00 PM
High School Commons

Virtual • 7:00 PM

MONDAY, MARCH 22

In Person • 6:00 PM
High School Commons

Virtual • 7:00 PM

Links to the virtual Referendum Information Meetings will be posted on the District website, or use your phone to scan this code:



? Will the proposed solution impact all schools?

IMPACTING ALL SCHOOLS, ALL STUDENTS

	Almena	Ridgeland-Dallas	Woodland	Riverview	Barron High
Safety & Security					
Security upgrades	•	•	•	•	•
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades			•	•	•
Infrastructure Updates					
Site upgrades (pavement, stormwater, fencing, etc.)	•	•	•	•	•
HVAC infrastructure upgrades	•	•	•	•	•
Plumbing infrastructure upgrades	•	•			•
Electrical infrastructure upgrades	•		•		•
Exterior building repairs (walls, roof, doors, windows, etc.)	•	•	•	•	•
Interior building upgrades (finishes, flooring, doors, etc.)		•		•	•
Educational Programming					
Gymnasium and/or cafeteria addition			•		•
Science lab and/or Tech. Ed space updates				•	•
Library/Media Center updates			•		•

For detailed plans of all District buildings, visit the District website.

? Will the current operational referendum need to be renewed?

No, we are not asking for a renewal of the current operating referendum, approved in 2016. The District has used the additional operational funds to address smaller capital maintenance projects. This referendum allows us to address our most immediate needs at one time. Improvements to major building systems will also create energy efficiencies.



? How will the child care center operate?

Understanding there is a need for child care services for families in our community, we have had several conversations with local daycare providers to build a plan that creates the best partnership for our community members. If approved, the proposed child care center will be run as a traditional daycare business, open year-round and accommodating hours for working families in our communities. It will be fee-based with the goal of being a self-sustaining business. The proposed plan will have the capacity to serve over 100 infant through school-aged children.

“We are excited about the opportunity to partner with the District to better serve the needs in our communities.”

*- Kris Lindstedt, Owner & Operator
Creative Kids Discovery Center*