



## Q & A Information for Washington Township Schools Community

### FAQ Topic: Why now for another construction and operating referenda?

**Question: Why does Washington Township (WT) need another Construction Referendum now?**

**Answer:**

- 2016 Construction Referendum

The 2016 Construction Referendum was a fantastic beginning for the building and renovating of school facilities in WT. While \$185 million is a large amount of money, it isn't enough to accomplish everything that needs to be done to improve the district's facilities and provide the opportunities WT students deserve.

- 2020 Construction Referendum

There are many reasons to ask our school community to approve another Construction Referendum in May 2020:

- Unfortunately, our schools are under construction at a time when construction costs have skyrocketed as a result of a strong economy and a limited workforce. Thus, we were not able to complete 47 million dollars of the anticipated work identified during the 2016 referendum campaign.
- As every year passes, our facilities that are not slated to receive work from the 2016 referendum, continue to deteriorate. Some are unusable now, and more will end up that way in the future.
- Much of the May 2020 capital work is a continuation of projects already underway or will soon be underway in our schools as a result of the 2016 referendum. Currently, WT has five schools being renovated and 5 to 6 others that haven't been started. The May 2020 referendum will provide funding to perform additional renovations in all five of those schools, not paid for in the 2016 referendum, as well as additional renovations for projects that haven't started yet. By approving the May 2020 referendum, the additional work can be performed more cost effectively by blending it with the initial scope of work from the 2016 referendum and not having to come back years later and go through a second design process.
- Interest rates remain low at this time, and as WT issues bonds at low interest rates, the servicing of the debt is less burdensome for the taxpayers in WT. Low interest rates help keep property taxes lower.

- What is included in the 2020 Construction Referendum?

Construction Referendum Area #1: Rising costs of construction resulted in cuts to 2016 projects to stay within budget. Improvements identified in the 2016 construction projects (apx. \$47 million representing scope, projected construction inflation rates, hard costs, soft costs) will be completed. █

Construction Referendum Area #2: New renovations and improvements NOT included in the 2016 referendum (approx. \$238 million representing new scope, hard costs, soft costs, and the rising costs of construction):

- Expanded student learning spaces
- Additional student safety improvements (all schools)
- Additional building system replacements - HVAC, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing, Roof, Technology (all schools)
- Improved access for individuals with disabilities, ADA (all schools)
- Additional site improvements to improve traffic flow/safety and parking (all schools)
- Additional furniture and casework replacements (all schools)
- Athletic facility improvements and renovations (secondary schools)
- Construct a new NVMS and repurpose space at existing NVMS for an Operations Service Center

Separate transportation and bus storage from school sites:

- Improve traffic circulation
- Enhance safety on school sites
- Increase space for student programs

- Why May 2020?

There are no elections in Indiana in 2021, so WT would have to wait until at least 2022 to put a referendum on the ballot. That means WT couldn't even begin a project until 2023 at the earliest.

- What funding does the state provide for construction projects?

Please remember that the State of Indiana does not provide any funding for major capital construction and/or renovations of public schools.

- If the Construction Referendum passes in 2020, when would the district need another construction referendum?

If the 2020 Construction Referendum passes, the renovations and construction improvements will sustain all facilities in WT from needing major renovations and improvement for the next 20-30 years.

**Question: Why does Washington Township (WT) need another Operating Referendum now?**

**Answer:**

- 2016 Operating Referendum

The current 2016 Operating Referendum will end in 2023.

- Why May 2020?

There are no elections in 2021 to seek renewal by voters. Renewal in 2020 means that the property tax dollars would still not be received by the District until 2021 at which point WT would terminate the 2016 operating referendum and only move forward with the 2020 referendum if passed by the community.

- What happens if we do not seek renewal of the Operating Referendum?

If we do not renew the 2016 Operating Referendum, we will have to cut funding for 50-60 teachers, 2-4 administrators and 15-20 classified staff members over the next two years.

- If the Operating Referendum passes in 2020, when would the district need another operating referendum?

If the 2020 Operating Referendum passes, staff needs would be sustained through 2028. WT would need to begin developing a new plan for operating needs starting in 2026-2027.

- What is included with the 2020 Operating Referendum?  
\$6.5 million annually to renew the current operating referendum supporting 50-60 teachers, 2-4 administrators, 15-20 classified staff  
\$3.9 million annually to increase teacher salaries and compensation for all classified staff (bus driver, custodian, maintenance, transportation, child nutrition, instructional assistants, office and other support staff)

Comprehensive details about both Construction and Operating Referenda can be found at:

<https://www.msdt.k12.in.us/future-planning/>

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