

REFERENDUM 2015
FACT SHEET

DeForest Area School District

Building Our Future Together

\$41M Referendum

Results of the Facility Study, Community/Staff Listening Sessions, Community-Wide Survey, and recommendations from the CAC identified the following

NEEDS:

How Did We Get Here?

The DeForest Area School District (DASD) has been preparing for this referendum for years. Intense planning began in September 2013 when the School Board studied reports about school needs. The following process unfolded:

September 2013-January 2014

The District conducted a **Study** to examine population and enrollment trends, facility needs, instructional needs, and potential financial impacts.

July-August 2014

A series of **Listening Sessions** was held seeking input from Community and Staff.

August 2014

The School Board formed a 45-member **Community Advisory Committee (CAC)** composed of a variety of stakeholders in response to a District-wide request for volunteers. The CAC, with community and staff input, studied in detail:

- Current enrollment and future population projections
- Results from the Facilities Study
- Modern teaching and learning spaces
- Financial status of the District

December 2014

The District received a high response rate to a **Community-Wide Survey** wherein 74% of respondents supported elementary upgrades and 63% supported Middle School and High School upgrades.



Increase Capacity

- Three of the District's four elementary schools are at, or over, capacity
- 2,000 new housing units in the District are approved for development
- Enrollment is growing
- Cafeterias, gymnasiums, libraries, and bathrooms are too small for current enrollment



Improve Safety & Security

- Yahara and Eagle Point do not meet today's safety standards for main offices to properly view and control front entrances
- Yahara, Windsor and Eagle Point lack safe separation of bus and parent traffic
- Elementary schools need upgraded camera systems, emergency exit lighting, and emergency generators



Address Aging Buildings & Infrastructure

- Some existing structures and infrastructure are over 60 years old
- Plumbing, heating, electrical, roofs, and other key building systems have reached or are reaching the end of their useful lives
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance standards are not currently met



Improve Learning Spaces

- Flexible, collaborative learning spaces are needed for current curricula
- Appropriate space is essential for required services (reading and math interventions, physical therapy, nursing, etc.) that did not exist when the elementary schools were built
- Updated space is needed for current Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM), Technical Education, and Agri-Science programs

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What is the Solution?

Eagle Point Elementary School

- Build new school on existing site
 - Create safer separation of bus and parent traffic
 - Demolish existing school after completion of new
- \$18.6 M

Windsor Elementary School

- Build major additions and remodel portions of school
 - Create safer separation of bus and parent traffic
 - Demolish oldest sections after completion of additions
- \$17.2 M

Yahara Elementary School

- Move office to better support a secured entrance
 - Create safer separation of bus and parent traffic
- \$250 K

DeForest Area Middle School

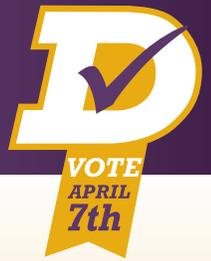
- Remodel space for STEM and Technical Education
- \$750 K

DeForest Area High School

- Build addition and remodel space for STEM, Technical Education and Agri-Science
- \$4.2 M

\$41 M

DeForest
Area School District
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What is the Tax Impact?

Past and current School Board members and District leaders have been planning the District's finances for a number of years with the knowledge that a facilities referendum may be needed. The goal was to meet most of the District's facility needs and prepare to assume increased operating costs for this referendum.

Estimated Property Tax Increase **\$41,000,000**
(\$0.16 per \$1,000 of Property Value)

Over the 2014/2015 rate	Per Year	Per Month
\$100,000 of property value	\$16	\$1.33
\$200,000 of property value	\$32	\$2.67
\$300,000 of property value	\$48	\$4.00

Tax estimates prepared by Robert W. Baird assuming:

- 20 year borrowing
- Tertiary aid impact of 3.82%
- 3-phased borrowing
- Interest rates of 3.75%-4.5%
- 0% property value growth
- Tax rate based on Equalized Property Value

Why Now?

- Elementary **school enrollment** continues to grow and additional space is needed now
- **Construction costs** continue to rise
- **Interest rates** remain at historically low levels
- The District has been **preparing for many years** by setting aside money to help keep the tax impact low and to prepare for additional operating costs
- Past referendum debt will be paid off soon, which will **minimize the tax impact** of new debt
- The proposed **tax impact is lower** than other school districts in Dane County that have put forward a referendum

Learn More

referendum@deforestschoools.org
608-842-6582



Attend an Open House

Tuesday, March 10 / 5:30-7:00 PM / Eagle Point Elementary

Monday, March 16 / 5:30-7:00 PM / DeForest Area High School

Thursday, March 26 / 5:30-7:00 PM / Windsor Elementary

Tuesday, March 31 / 10:45 AM-12:15 PM / Community & Senior Center

Tuesday, March 31 / 5:30-7:00 PM / Community & Senior Center

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