

Frequently Asked Questions



Q: What is a referendum?

A: A referendum is a request of taxpayers to support school districts in operations and capital projects through a ballot initiative. The Smyrna School District scheduled an operating and capital referendum for March 9, 2024.

Q: Why do we need a Capital referendum?

A: The short answer is inflation. The capital projects supported in the last referendum are subject to increased costs.

This referendum will support the market pressure funds needed to complete the following projects:

- Convert and expand Clayton Intermediate School
- Build a new Intermediate School on Rabbit Chase Road
- Expand North Elementary School building capacity

Q: Why do we need an Operating referendum?

A: The short answer is also inflation. District costs are increasing as they are for our community members. Additionally, new state-funded initiatives have local fiscal notes not currently supported by the budget. The increased operating costs will provide and enhance the following programs:

- Recruit and hire constables for every school building
- Deliver mental health supports in every school building

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- Maintain competitive salaries
- Enhance student instructional technology materials
- Provide extracurricular activities for the new middle school
- Address District utility cost increases

Q: How is the district enhancing the safety program with the additional funds?

A: As a result of Dr. Brown's *Seek to Understand Tour*, where open and honest discussions brought forth the community's concerns, safety emerged as a top priority. The additional funds from the referendum will significantly bolster the District's safety program. Specifically, the plan involves hiring additional constables to reinforce security measures. Presently, Smyrna High School has one constable, and the District collaborates with the Towns of Smyrna and Clayton to share the costs of three School Resource Officers. These partnerships are a source of pride for the district and its administration.

Q: Where can I get information on the poll locations and absentee ballots?

A: Please visit our referendum website linked here for current information on our plan.

Polling places are open **7am-8pm on March 9, 2024:**

- Smyrna Middle School
- Smyrna Elementary School
- Clayton Intermediate School

Absentee ballots are provided by the Department of Elections at this link- [State of Delaware - Department of Elections - School Referenda](#).

On election day, voters will be voting by machine. The ballot will

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ask the voter to vote FOR or AGAINST for each question.

Q: Who is eligible to vote?

A: All U.S. citizens, 18 years or older, and residents of the Smyrna School District are eligible to vote for the referendum. You do not have to own a home or have students in the District to vote. Voters will need proof of address on the day of the polls.

Acceptable forms of identification are:

- Driver's License
- State ID
- Passport
- Utility Bill

Q: Why should I vote for a Smyrna School District referendum? I don't have students in attendance.

A: The bedrock of any community lies in the upbringing of its children. By investing in high-quality educational and extra-curricular opportunities, we are fostering the growth of a generation that will contribute positively to various fields such as industry, social services, education, and beyond. Our Smyrna School District stands out as a community-based educational institution in the State of Delaware, with a rich legacy of alumni who are now educators shaping the future.

From thriving student organizations like FFA, Ed Rising, BPA, Student Government, BSU, to our commendable athletics programming, the Smyrna School District takes pride in its accomplishments. These achievements not only reflect the dedication of our students but also contribute to the overall success and reputation of our community.

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Even if you don't currently have students in attendance, your vote for the referendum plays a crucial role in sustaining and expanding these valuable initiatives. It ensures that our schools remain safe and secure, providing an environment where the next generation can flourish. By supporting the referendum, you are actively participating in the continued success of our community through the education and development of its youngest members.

Q: What impact will the reassessment have on my property taxes?

A: The Tyler Technologies link here will help you understand the reason for the reassessment and the possible implications.

[Kent County Reassessment 2024 Tyler Technologies](#)

In addition, the Kent County website linked here- [Serving Kent County With Pride! Kent County Levy Court \(kent county de.gov\)](#)- is a valuable resource to utilize to stay in the know.

Q: What support is available for seniors and disabled veterans?

A: The state of Delaware offers a school tax credit to seniors over the age of 65. This link will provide you with the valuable information to take advantage of this program- [Senior School Property Tax Relief - Department of Finance - State of Delaware](#). The state of Delaware offers a school property tax credit to disabled veterans. This link will provide you the valuable information to take advantage of this program- [Disabled Veterans School Tax Credit - Department of Finance - State of Delaware](#)

Q: Where can I get more information on the referendum?

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A: Visit our referendum page linked here. You can also search on our district website to navigate to the latest information at www.smyrna.k12.de.us/referendum2024