

# Announcing ...

~ WTS SCHOOL BOND REFERENDUM ~

## Just the FACTS!

ANTICIPATED TAX IMPACT = \$0 !!!

Anticipated  
Tax Impact  
\$0

REPAIR

Priority  
Projects!

RENEW

### Washington Township Schools ~ School Bond Referendum Information Bulletin

In order to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment and provide for facilities infrastructure needs, the Board of Education has unanimously approved a plan to complete four priority school building capital projects. By using State grant monies and existing dollars from the District's Capital Reserve Account **it is anticipated that NO NEW TAX DOLLARS will be raised to pay for the projects ... That's an anticipated TAX IMPACT of \$0 ... Read on for more details!**

#### WHAT IS PROPOSED?

The Board of Education will be submitting a ballot question to the community during a Special School District Election on Tuesday, January 28, 2020. This School Bond Referendum is being proposed for the purpose of completing four (4) priority school building infrastructure projects at a cost not to exceed \$4,174,248. The bond (a short-term bond/note) would enable the District to complete heating, ventilation improvements including air-conditioning and humidity control measures, electrical service upgrades, and partial roof replacement at Old Farmers Road Elementary School; and partial roof replacement at Long Valley Middle School.

#### HOW WILL WTS FUND THE PROJECTS?

The Washington Township Schools will receive a State grant of approximately 1.67 million dollars (\$1,670,000) to offset approximately 40% of the project costs. The Board will use monies in its existing Capital Reserve Account to fund the remainder of the project. As a result, **it is anticipated that NO NEW TAX DOLLARS will be raised to pay for the projects!**

#### WHY A BOND REFERENDUM?

The Board of Education, based on input from the Superintendent's Environmental Task Force, decided to hold a school bond referendum election since the State offers financial aid in the form of grants to school districts that enter into debt service (even short-term debt service which is the District's course of action). WTS' grant amount would be approximately 1.67 million dollars!

#### WHAT IS THE PLAN?

In order to address the District's priority capital projects in a timely and cost-effective manner, the Board of Education has set a school bond referendum special election date of Tuesday, January 28, 2020. This date would enable the District to secure bids early on and complete a majority, if not all, of the work during the summer season when school is not in session.

#### WHAT IF THE VOTE DOESN'T PASS?

If for some reason the vote does not pass on January 28<sup>th</sup>, the Board would lose the State grant of approximately \$1.67 million dollars and would need to decide what projects it is able to complete absent the grant monies.

#### WHAT ARE THE FUTURE PLANS?

The Board of Education is fully committed to ensuring that all school facilities continue to be well-maintained and in sound repair. As it looks to the future, the Board is currently undertaking a comprehensive examination of all schools for the purpose of identifying future capital projects at ALL schools.