

✓ Why does the District need to go to Referendum?

Unlike surrounding states, Delaware school districts can only increase revenue for operations if approved by a public vote, or referendum. To keep pace with increasing costs, public school districts typically hold referenda every three to four years. It has been eight years since Brandywine's last referendum.



Simply put, the District cannot provide the services and supports for today's students on a revenue rate that hasn't increased in nearly a decade.

✓ What will this Referendum support?

An Operating Referendum provides funding for everything needed to run schools and programs on a day-to-day basis. Providing the current high level of programming, services and opportunities our students and parents enjoy and expect today, isn't possible on the same funding needed to operate the District eight years ago. The successful passage of the Operational Referendum will ensure continuation of the work contained in our current District Success Plan, while preserving high priority items including:

- **Curriculum & Instruction**
PreK-12, Gifted, International Baccalaureate (IB), AVID, Immersion, Visual & Performing Arts, Dual Enrollment, and Career Pathways.
- **Safety & Security**
School Resource Officers & Constables, building and bus cameras, and secure building access district-wide.
- **Attracting & Retaining High Quality Educators and maintaining staffing levels amid a national teacher shortage**
- **Maintaining current class size ratios**
- **Athletics and Clubs at the Elementary, Middle, and High School Levels**
- **Alternative Education & Non-Traditional Programming**
- **Maintenance, Repair, and Cleanliness of Facilities**



✓ What is the ask?

To avoid devastating programmatic cuts and reduction of staff, the District needs 45 cents per \$100 of assessed property value (assessed property values, established in 1983, are significantly lower than today's market values). The District will phase the increase in over two years with 25 cents in Year 1 (\$15.15 / month for the average BSD taxpayer) and an additional 20 cents in Year 2 (\$12.12/month on average), for a total of 45 cents overall.



✓ What is at stake if the Referendum isn't successful?

No simple programmatic cut can be made to satisfy the looming \$6.5 million deficit. In addition to cutting teachers and staff units earned by the state (on average 60% state, 40% local cost share), all programs, services, and resources across all grade levels face significant cuts or elimination. The depth and breadth of the cuts will be felt immediately throughout our schools and community, the impact of which will last for years.



**FOR REFERENDUM & VOTING INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.BRANDYWINESCHOOLS.ORG/REFERENDUM**

**FOR QUESTIONS E-MAIL
REFERENDUM@BSD.K12.DE.US**





STRONG SCHOOLS. STRONG COMMUNITY.

BRANDYWINE SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM VOTE FEBRUARY 13, 2024

What is the District's track record?

The tax rate approved in 2016 was guaranteed to last three years. The District's budget has had minimal growth since 2016, averaging 2.21% annually over the last eight years, despite incurring the local portion of additional earned staffing from the state. The District's ability to absorb these costs with minimal annual budget growth highlights the fiscal stewardship and cost containment efforts across all other budget areas, including over \$16.9 million received through grant writing and donations.

How does County Reassessment Impact the Referendum?

County Reassessment does not impact the Referendum

- Reassessment must be **revenue neutral** for BSD.
- Tax rates will be adjusted to collect the total district amount prior to reassessment.
- State law allows districts 10% provision related to delinquencies, appeals, and growth. BSD has never used this provision to increase revenue.

WHO CAN VOTE

You can vote if you:

- Live in the Brandywine School District
- Are at least 18 years old (**this includes everyone in your home**)
- Rent or own your property.
- Are a U.S. and Delaware Citizen.
- You do not need to be a registered voter.
- Show proof of identity and address - bring your Driver's License, State I.D. card or passport
- If you are unable to go to the polls to vote, you can request an absentee ballot at <https://de.gov/schabsapp>



WHEN TO VOTE

Tuesday, February 13, 2024
7am - 8pm



WHERE TO VOTE VOTE AT ANY OF THESE LOCATIONS

Brandywine High School 1400 Foulk Road Wilmington, DE 19803	Carrcroft Elementary School 503 Crest Road Wilmington, DE 19803	Claymont Elementary School 3401 Green Street Claymont, DE 19703
Claymont Library 400 Lenape Way Claymont, DE 19703	Concord High School 2501 Ebright Road Wilmington, DE 19810	Forwood Elementary School 1900 Westminster Drive Wilmington, DE 19810
Hanby Elementary School 2523 Berwyn Road Wilmington, DE 19810	Lancashire Elementary School 2000 Naamans Road Wilmington, DE 19810	Lombardy Elementary School 412 Foulk Road Wilmington, DE 19803
Maple Lane Elementary School 100 Maple Lane Claymont, DE 19703	Mount Pleasant Elementary School 500 Duncan Road Wilmington, DE 19809	Mount Pleasant High School 5201 Washington Street Extension Wilmington, DE 19809
PS DuPont Middle School 701 West 34th Street Wilmington, DE 19802	Springer Middle School 2220 Shipley Road Wilmington, DE 19803	Talley Middle School 1110 Cypress Road Wilmington, DE 19810



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