

(3/27/24 District Administrator's Corner Article)

Two River Valley school referendum questions will appear on the April 2 election ballot. The referendum questions were developed by the River Valley School Board based on a recommendation after a year-long facilities study by an Advisory Task Force made up of citizens from across the district. In general, five areas were focused on:

- Safety and Security
- Accessibility Updates
- One Campus with Enhanced Traffic Flow
- Maintenance and Operations Improvements
- Performing Arts Center

The first referendum question (\$19.5 million) focuses on renovations and reconfiguring all 4K-12th grade levels in the schools in Spring Green. It would create a single campus by closing the Plain building, fill underutilized spaces, upgrade accessibility for ADA compliance, and improve safety at building entrances at the elementary and middle schools. A second referendum question (\$14.5 million) would add a performing arts center, renovate band and choir spaces in the high school, and build a new secure entrance at the high school. In short, the referendum questions would help to provide a 21st century learning environment for students across the campus.

Community members have asked many questions in the recent weeks pertaining to the 20 year bond that would be issued to cover the expense. In addition to a brochure that was mailed to all residents, a "Frequently Asked Questions" document, a tax impact calculator, and other referendum information has been updated on the district's website to assist voters in making an informed decision.

The school district hosted a series of meetings for community members to ask questions of district and project officials and I attended many civic and village/town board meetings to share information. The last community meeting took place on March 21.

Detailed information can be found on the district's website at (<https://www.rvschools.org/district/referendum-2024.cfm>) or in the brochure that was mailed to all residents. With two questions on the ballot, it is important to note that one is not dependent upon the other—question one or question two would each need a majority vote to authorize the district for borrowing. None, one, or both could pass. It is now up to our community to provide the River Valley school team with your vote and our next steps.

Sincerely,

Loren Glasbrenner, District Administrator
River Valley School District