



# 2007 REFERENDUM FACT SHEET

## Fact Sheet #1: REFERENDUM OVERVIEW

revised 2/13/07

On April 17, residents of D41 will be asked to approve a \$40 million bond referendum to fund expansion, renovation and reconfiguration of our schools.

Please watch for upcoming  
**REFERENDUM FACT SHEETS.**  
Email comments or questions  
to [referendum@d41.org](mailto:referendum@d41.org).

### WHY IS IT NEEDED?

- We are out of space. Nearly 600 (15%) of our students are housed in 26 portable classrooms.
- Core areas (libraries, gyms, lunchrooms, hallways, computer labs, bathrooms) are stressed.
- Portables are not permanent structures.

### WHAT WILL THE REFERENDUM PAY FOR?

- The majority of the work will be at Hadley. Currently a junior high serving grades 6-8, the site will be the home of a middle-level campus serving grades 5-8. For the most part, the 5-6 intermediate school will operate separately from the 7-8 junior high school; each will have its own entrance, schedule and bus routes. The school will provide academically and developmentally appropriate instruction and activities.
- The elementary schools will house students through grade 4 rather than grade 5. The project will address and prioritize each school's unique needs. The plan will reduce the need for portables; it's not possible to guarantee that they will be eliminated.

### HOW WAS THE PLAN DECIDED?

- The plan is the result of a process in which many community members and staff members examined options over a period of years. On Feb.5, the Board of Education voted to go to referendum on April 17.
- The plan was selected because it addresses space needs at all our schools and supports our vision of "Exceptional learning in a respectful and supportive environment" at all age levels.
- The Hadley campus is our most viable building site; the addition makes good use of available land and works with the existing structure to provide long-term operational cost-efficiencies.
- The BOE decided not to spend money on detailed plans prior to voter approval of the project; architectural drawings and construction documents will be developed after referendum passage.

### HOW WILL THE REFERENDUM AFFECT TAXES?

The referendum is for a \$40 million bond sale to be repaid through 2025. Like a mortgage, repayments include principal plus interest, and the total repaid by D41 will be \$68,418,690. The information below isolates the tax impact of the proposed referendum. Visit [www.d41.org](http://www.d41.org) to see charts and graphs that depict the projected annual impact on your taxes. The following numbers are estimates that factor in projected property value appreciation over time.

- Estimated tax impact to the owner of a property with a fair market value of \$300,000 in 2007 would range from \$134 to \$342, averaging \$243 a year over the 19-year term of the bonds. These calculations account for property value appreciation, estimating that by 2025, this property would be worth \$714,739.
- The estimated tax impact to the owner of a property with a fair market value of \$600,000 in 2007 would range from \$273 to \$695, averaging \$494 a year over the 19-year term of the bonds. These calculations account for property value appreciation, estimating that by 2025, this property would be worth \$1,429,479.
- Future needs: Passage of the proposed referendum addresses the current **facilities** needs of D41. Regardless of whether D41 builds new space, projections show a likely need to ask for a tax rate increase for **operations** by 2013. If the current facilities referendum is passed, projections show that D41 would likely need the increase for operations in 2012, one year earlier than otherwise.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Visit [www.d41.org](http://www.d41.org); attend informational sessions (dates will be posted and publicized), watch for upcoming **REFERENDUM FACT SHEETS**; direct questions and comments to [referendum@d41.org](mailto:referendum@d41.org).