



REFERENDUM 2024: Building Their Future CAPITAL (Building) REFERENDUM FAQ's

This document is dedicated to providing answers to frequently asked questions related to the Capital (Building) Referendum question on the February 20, 2024 ballot.

What is a Capital Referendum?

A Capital Referendum, commonly referred to as a “building” referendum, is a voter-approved increase in taxes, the funds from which are earmarked to cover the costs of the capital project. Those costs can include everything from remodeling to building, as well as providing for the needed infrastructure, fixtures, furnishings, and equipment. Capital referendums are used by districts to complete projects that are too costly to do under our annual budget limitations.

What Projects are included in the Capital Referendum?

The Capital Referendum seeks funds for the following five (5) prioritized projects plus the playground. The projects will include the construction of new buildings along with the remodeling of some of the rooms within the current structure, as well as the replacement and upgrade of key components of our structure's interior systems. The prioritized projects include:

- Infrastructure (HVAC, electrical, plumbing, boilers, chillers, etc)
- Safe and Secure Entrances (elementary and middle/high school)
- Technical Education Wing
- Gymnasium w/Locker Rooms and Fine Arts Wing
- Child Care Center Wing
- Playground (play structure, surface, and surrounding asphalt)

Why is a Capital Referendum needed?

The Facility Study that was conducted in Fall 2022 articulated the many needs and areas of concern within the District's buildings, infrastructure, and overall learning environments. The Facility Study also articulated the lack of sufficient services and space necessary for adequate instruction and continued growth. Finally, the Facility Study highlighted the many rooms and large group areas that were being used for multiple purposes multiple times per day impeding the learning and growth opportunities for students and community. After months of discussion and deliberation among the Building Project Committee members, the vast needs and areas of concern were narrowed down to these five (5) prioritized projects that would have the greatest impact on student learning and district growth now and for years into the future.

Watch for information on each specific project in the near future.

What is the 2024 Capital (Building) Referendum Amount?

The 2024 Capital Referendum seeks \$35,800,000 to address the needs described above. The funds will be drawn over three years. EXAMPLE: 2024-2025 approximately \$10,000,000; 2025-2026 approximately \$12,000,000; 2026-2027 approximately \$13,800,000. Each draw is paid back over a 20 year period.

How will the Capital (Building) Referendum Affect our Taxes?

The mill rate is projected to be \$10.32 for the next three years with the approval of both referendums, including the three-year, non-recurring Operational Referendum. Historically, as demonstrated in the table below, the actual mill rate realized has been significantly less than what had been projected for that school

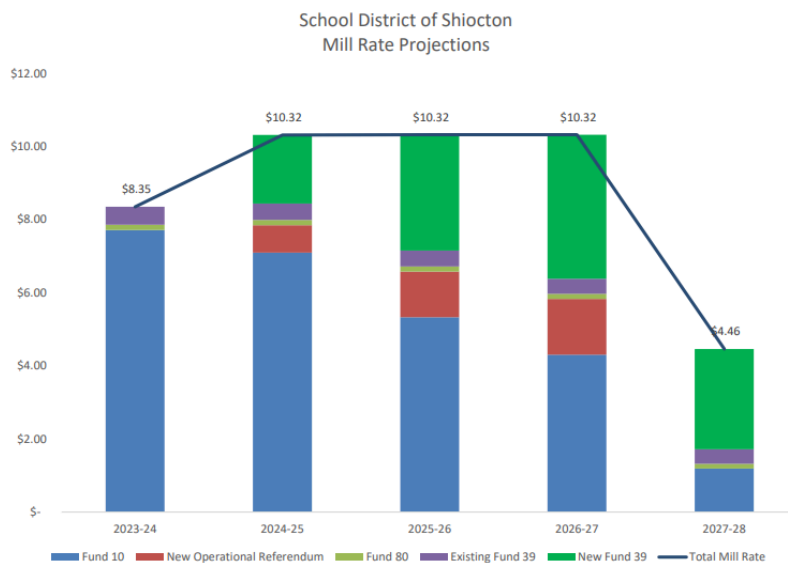
year. As you can see, the actual mill rate for this school year (2023-2024) was \$1.90 less than had been projected back in February 2021. The actual mill rates in the previous two school years, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, were also significantly less than had been projected in February 2021 by \$1.02 and \$2.42 respectively.

The School District of Shiocton Board of Education, in conjunction with the Finance Committee, continue to hold true to their commitment to be good stewards of the tax payer's dollars and tax only for what is needed.

Taxation Calculation							
Year	Projected Mill Rate - Referendum	Home Value	Projected Tax Payment	Actual Mill Rate	Actual Tax	Difference b/t Actual & Projected Tax Payment	Difference b/t Years
2021 REF							
21-22	\$10.09	\$150,000	\$1,513.50	9.07	\$1,360.50	(\$153)	
22-23	\$10.13	\$150,000	\$1,519.50	7.71	\$1,156.50	(\$363)	(\$204.00)
23-24	\$10.25	\$150,000	\$1,537.50	8.35	\$1,252.50	(\$285)	\$96.00
2024 REF							
24-25	\$10.32	\$150,000	\$1,548.00	\$10.32	\$1,548.00	\$0	\$295.50
25-26	\$10.32	\$150,000	\$1,548.00	\$10.32	\$1,548.00	\$0	\$0.00
26-27	\$10.32	\$150,000	\$1,548.00	\$10.32	\$1,548.00	\$0	\$0.00



Mill Rate Projections (with Capital and Operational)




With the passing of the two referendum questions, taxes will increase by \$197.00/\$1,000 of home value.

Taxes are NOT projected to increase in either of the following two years.

With the passage of both the Operational and Capital referendums, the Mill Rate is projected to be \$10.32 for *each* of the next three school years.

The Finance Committee and Board of Education worked diligently with our financial consultant to provide a more stable mill rate and thus a more stable tax payment for our community members.

For the duration of the 2024 Operational Referendum, the mill rate specific to the operational expenditures totals \$7.85 in 2024-2025; \$6.58 in 2025-2026; and \$5.83 in 2026-2027.



	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Fund 10	\$7.72	\$7.10	\$5.33	\$4.30
New Operational Ref.	\$0.00	\$0.75	\$1.25	\$1.53
Fund 80	\$0.14	\$0.15	\$0.14	\$0.14
Existing Fund 39	\$0.49	\$0.45	\$0.43	\$0.41
New Fund 39	\$0.00	\$1.87	\$3.17	\$3.94
Total Mill Rate	\$8.35	\$10.32	\$10.32	\$10.32

Will the Capital (Building) Referendum Projects be Voted on Individually?

No, the five (5) projects and the playground will not be voted on individually. The combination of the five projects allows our community to support all areas of our school and not be forced to choose one program over another. Additionally, many of these projects are dependent on each other in order to be completed. As an example, the best location for the middle/high school office and new secure entrance that provides with direct contact with visitors and oversight of the parking lot is the current location of the choir room. This would require the relocation of the choir room, which means other areas of the school, such as the Tech Ed classrooms, will be impacted.

NOTE: *Per 2017 Act 59, school boards are limited to approving no more than two (2) board resolutions authorizing referendums, operational or debt (building), to exceed the State imposed revenue limit per calendar year.* For the Calendar year 2024, the two questions which we are limited to for the year will be those on the February 20, 2024 ballot: (1) operational and (1) building.

Is the Capital (Building) Referendum Tied to the Operational Referendum?

No. The Capital (Building) Referendum is a stand-alone question on the ballot (Question 2) and is voted on separately from the question related to the Operational Referendum.

However, it is important to note that the Operational Referendum and Building Referendum are both needed to meet different needs. While the Operational Referendum addresses the financial needs of the District for the next three years, the Building Referendum will provide the means to build for their future – the future of our students and for the overall future of our district. Building referendums are used by districts to complete projects that are too costly to do under our annual budget limitations.

What if the Capital (Building) Referendum Does Not Pass?

If the Capital (Building) Referendum does not pass, these projects will not be completed as the costs far exceed what we are able to afford through our annual budget. Likewise, the projects would be even more costly were we to return to voters next year with a similar ask.

Without the Capital (Building) Referendum, the District will not be in a position to grow for their future nor to meet even the current instructional and programmatic needs. Without this referendum, our community will be challenged to provide facilities and educational offerings competitive with those of surrounding school districts, making Shiocton less attractive to families and to high-quality educational staff members, while greatly minimizing our ability to effectively engage students in learning the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in their future.

Didn't see your question listed? Have a follow-up question or need additional information? Please contact:

- Mrs. Schweitzer, District Administrator at (920) 986-3351 x761 or nschweitzer@shiocton.k12.wi.us
- Mr. Bradley Ritchie, School Board of Education President, at britchie@shiocton.k12.wi.us