



**November 4 Madison School Referendum
Key Points**

1. Schools are the foundation of a strong community – that is why the Madison School Board voted *unanimously* to place a referendum on the ballot on Nov. 4.
 - a. Provide opportunities
 - b. Address inequalities in backgrounds
 - c. Society’s moral commitment to our children
2. State revenue caps mean that operating schools with the teachers in the same classrooms and the same materials leads to annual budget shortfalls.
 - a. Budget can only increase by 2.2% - but staff costs, by state law, must increase at least 3.8% - creates an annual structural deficit
 - b. 15 years of cuts: more than 700 positions and \$60 million
 - c. Stories of cuts – carpet in K classroom; writing lab at West; increasing class sizes
3. Without a referendum MMSD will have to reduce services further by \$16 million over the next 3 years and at least \$4 million each year thereafter.
 - a. Stops the erosion of quality
 - b. Allows time for action at the state level.
4. With the referendum and proposed budgetary changes, school property taxes on the average Madison home (assessed at \$250,000 with 4% annual assessment increases) is estimated at:
Year one: \$27.50
Year two: \$43.10
Year three: \$20.90 for a total of \$91.50
 - a. Without a referendum, property taxes might go down for a short period.
5. A recurring referendum maintains a stable revenue source after the three-year referendum and. The referendum funds ongoing programs and allows the district to engage in strategic planning. Otherwise, when it expires, the budget gap would be 16 million dollars in addition to the annual gap from that year.
 - a. Referendum is needed to meet needs which will continue into the future.
6. Madison’s schools are excellent, with talented staff, award-winning students, and good facilities--maintaining this investment will help our community remain vibrant and growing.

Details about the referendum are available at the school district’s website: <http://www.madison.k12.wi.us/mmsdtv/refweb/>
For more information and to find out how you can help Communities and Schools Together pass the referendum, visit: www.madisoncast.org

