

**ETCSD Board Approves \$19.4 Million Capital  
Referendum for November 5 Ballot**

*Proposed referendum would fund key improvements at 3 schools, bus garage*

EAST TROY, WI — At its August 21 meeting, the East Troy Community School District Board of Education approved a capital referendum question to appear on the ballot Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

If the measure receives majority support from voters, ETCSD would be able to borrow up to \$19.4 million to cover facility projects at Prairie View Elementary School, East Troy Middle School, East Troy High School, and the district's bus garage and site.

"After engaging in a community-driven process to examine our facility needs and develop potential solutions, we are pleased to move forward with a proposed capital referendum that balances the needs of our taxpayers with the needs of our schools and students," said Dr. Christopher Hibner, Superintendent. "This represents a sound solution that limits costs while addressing the most significant needs in our facilities. We look forward to continuing to engage our community right up to election day."

In spring 2022, the ETCSD collaborated with Performance Services, Inc., to conduct a district-wide facilities study, which identified 113 projects categorized by priority levels. That fall, the board decided to move ahead with a three-year operating referendum before addressing any large-scale needs within the district's facilities.

In April 2023, voters approved an operating referendum that authorized the district to exceed its state-imposed revenue limit by \$3 million for three years, beginning with the 2023-24 school year.

After that, the district began the process to analyze and prioritize its facilities needs, establishing a 25-member Community Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC). The committee provided its input and feedback to the superintendent, building and grounds director, and the board facilities subcommittee. This led to the development of several scenarios for the board to consider.

The proposed capital referendum on the ballot November 5 is based on the work of the CFAC, the results of a community survey, and other community input received throughout the process. This input suggested that only the most critical maintenance needs should be addressed to reduce costs, and that the district should look to repair equipment rather than replace it whenever possible.

Both the facilities subcommittee and the full board reviewed the scope of work to land on a proposal that addresses the most critical maintenance items. In addition, a drop in interest rates and rising projected equalized property values lowered the estimated tax impact of the proposed referendum.

At Prairie View Elementary, projects would include replacing the aging chiller and pump, renovating the reception area to create a secured entry sequence, repairing the upper gym wall due to water intrusion, and replacing the flat roofs and wood windows.

At East Troy Middle School, projects would focus on replacing all roof sections, replacing asphalt paving and concrete walks, relocating the office to create a secure entry sequence, and renovating the chemistry/physics and earth sciences classrooms.

Projects at East Troy High School would include replacing the roofing most in need of attention and repair other areas, scheduling the replacement of rooftop HVAC units, replacing air handlers and condensing units that serve Gym #1, and replacing the air handlers and condensing units that serve the lecture hall.

The property tax impact of an approved capital referendum is estimated at 21 cents per \$1,000 of equalized property value. This would result in an annual estimated tax impact of \$21 per year on a home with an equalized value of \$100,000 or \$63 per year on a home with an equalized value of \$300,000.

More information about the referendum is available at [www.easttroy.k12.wi.us](http://www.easttroy.k12.wi.us). A series of community information meetings will also be held in the coming weeks and months.

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