



WHY WE ARE GOING TO REFERENDUM

This referendum places **STUDENTS FIRST** by allowing the district's annual budget to provide staffing levels the Swallow community is accustomed to & additional support resources to personalize the learning experience for each child.



Learning in today's world involves hands-on experiences, collaboration, and varied technologies. Although the district has been diligent in maintaining the building, the oldest sections need significant renovation to prevent systems failure, support programmatic offerings, and meet ADA compliance standards. This referendum allows for **CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT** through select classroom replacement and building renovations.



The existing building's features and design limit **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**. This referendum creates a fully accessible (ADA) building with improved safety and security features while also increasing the number and type of spaces available for community groups' use beyond the school day.

The School Board has been **FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE** by restructuring the 2004 referendum debt for early repayment avoiding more than \$300,000 in interest costs, completing more than \$2 million in capital improvements since 2010 via the district's annual operating budget, and building the district's fund balance to avoid short-term borrowing. With the early retirement of debt, the School Board has decided to go to referendum at this time to provide the types of spaces required for changing teaching and learning needs and address pressing long-term capital needs to proactively position the district for a stable financial future.

BALLOT LANGUAGE & EXPLANATION

WHAT YOU WILL SEE ON THE BALLOT

Shall the Swallow School District, Waukesha County, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$8,300,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of constructing and equipping replacement classrooms and instructional space; renovating the building, including classrooms, labs, restrooms and common areas; and making capital maintenance improvements?

YES

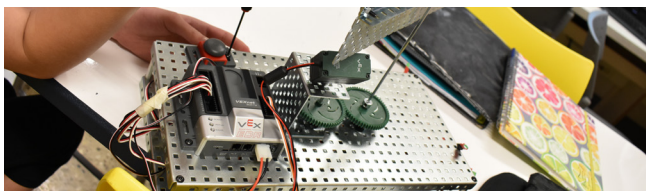
By voting YES,
 if the referendum passes, the District will borrow \$8.3M to renovate Swallow School, which **will not increase taxes.**

This will keep the approximate \$72 per \$100,000 of property value for the debt portion of the tax levy.

NO

By voting NO,
 if the referendum does not pass, the District will not borrow \$8.3M and the renovations won't be done as planned.

The current debt will be retired and the tax levy will be reduced by approximately \$72 per \$100,000 of property value.



DID YOU KNOW?



All students will have access to learning spaces designed to support today's programming with renovations as a result of the referendum.



This referendum ensures the entire building is up to current safety and security standards and is fully ADA accessible.

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The 1890's building is the *third* Swallow School, after the first two perished by fire between 1844-1893. It has been modified significantly over time.



The current bell in the 1890's building is *not* the original. The original was stolen in the 1960's.

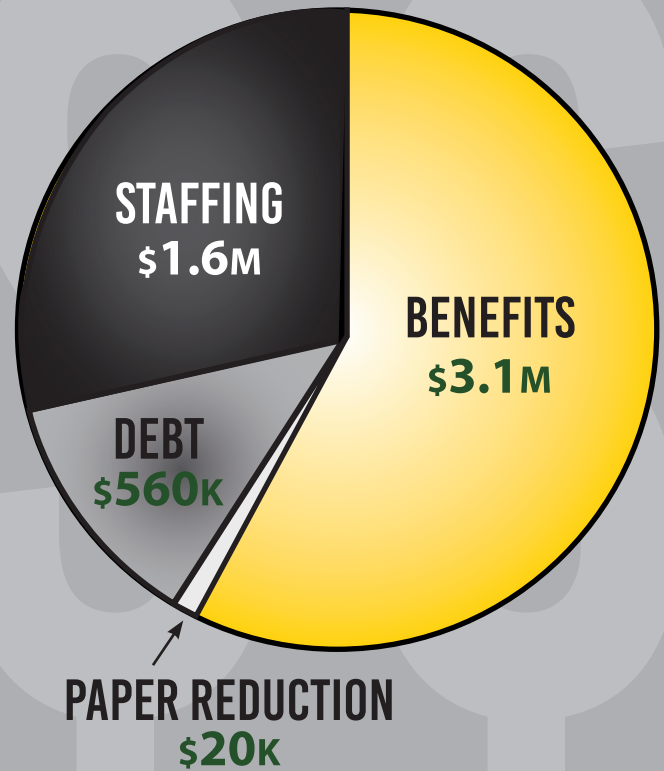


Preservation of reusable materials for the referendum project will occur, including the bell. The architecture of the replacement building, as well as renovated areas of the school, will honor iconic portions of the 1890's building.



This referendum will not raise your taxes. The debt portion of the tax levy will remain the same, due to the early retirement of existing debt.

ADDITIONALLY, THE DISTRICT HAS BEEN FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE RESULTING IN \$5.8M COST SAVINGS SINCE 2011.



VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6!

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TOWN OF MERTON
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(262) 966-2651

VILLAGE OF HARTLAND
210 Cottonwood Avenue, Hartland
(262) 367-2714

VILLAGE OF MERTON - VILLAGE HALL
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MAIL Look for more information in District newsletters and mailings.