

Referendum Proposal

*for today and
for the future*



Montville Township
Public Schools™

EDUCATE. INSPIRE. EMPOWER.

Presented to the Board of Education May 9, 2023



Montville Values

- **Innovative Instruction:** Maintain our class sizes and accommodate small-group teaching
- **Security Measures:** Implement more quickly via referendum than over time through annual budget
- **Facility Stewardship:** Support modern educational initiatives while preserving the iconic physical structures of our community
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Proven commitment to minimizing tax impact through use of alternative funding sources



Enrollment:

*Above capacity
and growing*

Montville

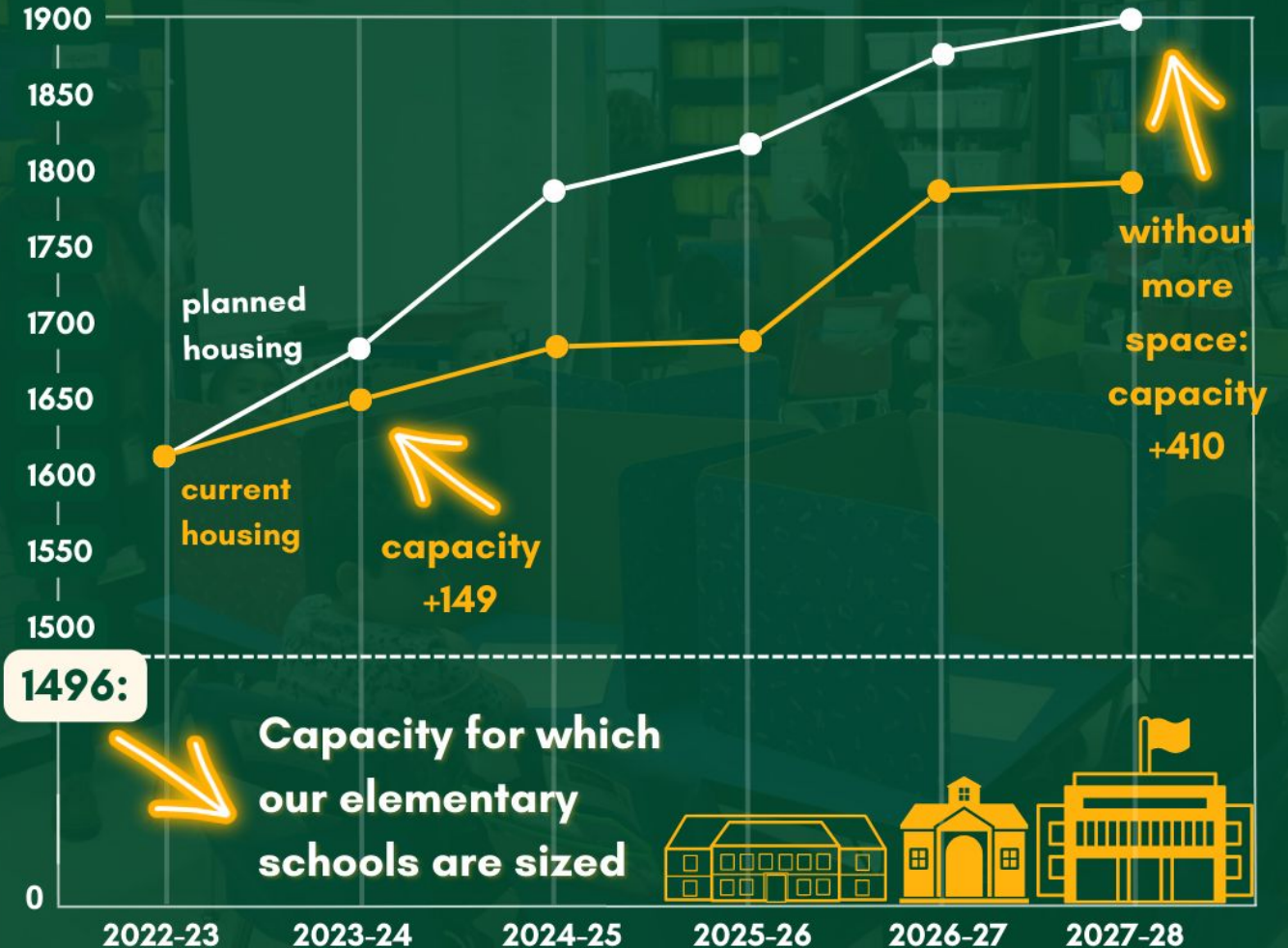
- needs instructional space now
- proposed additions would be ready in fall 2025
- begin construction now to meet current and future needs

Projected Enrollment (PK-5)

*New student rate is up 30% to an
average of 9 students per month
Since the 2021-2022 school year*



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A Turning Point for Montville

2017 Referendum: Addressed *some* infrastructure needs and refreshed *some* areas of our schools

Now: We need to act again because of

- steady increases in enrollment
- forecast for even more growth
- critical projects that should not wait

2023 Referendum: Would support and maintain the quality of our educational programs

Educate. Inspire. Empower.



- Space at elementary schools
 - for classroom instruction
 - for supportive small-group instruction
 - for flexible & interactive large-group instruction, like assemblies, workshops & lunch
- Additional security measures
- Improvements to heating & cooling



Music lessons in the hallway

... state aid is available for education renovation & upgrades!



Why a Referendum?

- **Space:** Elementary buildings are beyond capacity
- **Security:** Always a priority, additional upgrades are identified
- **Improvements:** Aging building systems
- **Preparing for the future:** Doing this work with bond funding brings in a different source of state aid



Classroom divided for multiple purposes



Funding Package for Improvements

In the range of \$70 million

- Local cost would be reduced by state aid
- Would include
 - Twenty-four classrooms
 - Three large-group instructional spaces
 - Four security vestibules
 - Heating & cooling
 - Site improvements
 - Interior renovations

Financed through the sale of bonds

- Would be reduced by Capital Reserve
- Would be reduced by Earned Interest

Pending state aid commitment, local tax impact estimated around \$410/year during 2024-2025 school year

Based on home assessed at \$535,000, which is the average in Montville Township

Timeline: Eyeing 2025



- Preliminary plans are under review by the NJ Department of Education
- Anticipated referendum vote would be in September or December
- A referendum empowers voters to decide how to meet educational needs



Small-group instruction
in a classroom corner