



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2022

ABBEVILLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUM QUESTION RECAP

Abbeville County School District voters will head to the polls on May 17, 2022 to cast their votes regarding the proposed \$55.7 million (question 1 & 2) or \$43.8 million (question 1) referendum.

Below, please find several commonly asked questions and answers received by the District concerning the referendum:

Question 1: What has been done to notify voters about the referendum?

Answer 1: The District maintains a “referendum” tab on its home page; two community meetings were held, and two more are scheduled as follows: Wednesday May 11 at 6pm at Grace United Methodist Church and Thursday May 12 at 6pm at Abbeville High School’s auditorium. Additionally, letters were mailed to sixty-eight churches; each school faculty received information regarding the referendum; and Superintendent Dr. Gary appeared on the WZLA Morning Show on May 9.

Question 2: How long will the tax increase last?

Answer 2: This is a twenty-five year plan unless the District decides to pay it off earlier.

Question 3: Does the District plan to consolidate Abbeville and Dixie High Schools as part of the referendum?

Answer 3: High school consolidation is not considered. Rather, the District proposes rebuilding square footage that is being demolished. Constituents may recall that the demolished square footage dates back to 1952. The footprint for both high school campuses does not entertain an additional five hundred students to be added to either campus that would be required under a consolidation plan.

Question 4: Is the District required to spend the money on the referendum as planned?

Answer 4: Yes, by law the District must spend these funds on the projects listed on the ballot. The District cannot move this money to other projects.

Question 5: Will 6th and 7th grade students be moved to Dixie High School for middle school?

Answer 5: District administration feels it is educationally, socially, and emotionally proper to give middle school students a true middle school experience rather than being housed in an elementary setting. As such, it is the administration’s recommendation to move those grades to Dixie High School.

Question 6: What is the plan if the referendum does not pass?

Answer 6: The District published a Capital Improvement Plan that it has worked from for the past two years. Phase 3 of that plan always included additional academic wings funded through a referendum. Academic wings are our greatest need at this juncture; if the referendum is voted down, the District will see if/when/how the state may respond to our building needs. ACSD does not have the capital outlay to build the proposed wings without a referendum or a funding source outside of the District.

Please exercise your right to vote on May 17, and let's have a strong turnout. If voters have additional questions, they may contact Abbeville County School District.