

The place to **dream, believe and achieve.**

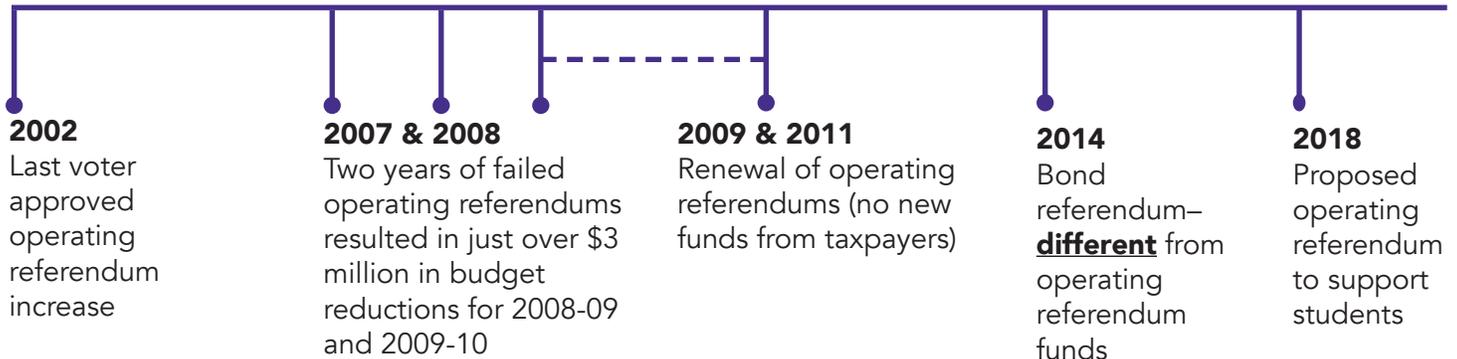
The Question

The BHM School Board has proposed to revoke the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization of \$119.87 per pupil and replace that authorization with a new authorization of \$1,069.87 per pupil. The net difference is \$950 per pupil. Beginning with taxes payable in 2019, the new net authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation for a 10-year period.

Our Goals



Historical Timeline



Why Now?

- The district can no longer spend down the district's fund balance to maintain class sizes.
- Addressing school safety and security issues and providing more mental health support is a top priority.
- Expanding opportunities for middle school students to receive extra help and have more elective class choices is very important.
- The state is not fully funding special education programs forcing our district to fill the \$760 per pupil funding gap.

Tax Impact

Year taxes payable		2019 Revoke Authority -\$119.87	2019 Proposed Authority \$1,069.87	2019 Net Change \$950
Property Type	Estimated Market Value	Estimated Taxes for BHM Operating Referendum Only		
Residential, Homesteads, Apartments, Commercial-Industrial Property	\$150,000	-\$17	\$279	\$262
	\$200,000	-\$22	\$371	\$349
	\$250,000	-\$28	\$464	\$436
	\$300,000	-\$34	\$557	\$523



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Q

If you need to fill the \$760 special education funding gap and you are asking for \$1,069.87 (net \$950) for this operating referendum, doesn't that mean 71% of this money will go towards special education?

A

No. The state and federal government continue to underfund the special education mandates they have placed on school districts. BHM Schools is already spending money for special education from our general fund to cover the cost. The funds raised through this referendum will free-up those funds to be spent in areas that benefit all students such as **reducing class sizes, expanding middle school opportunities, addressing school safety and security through personnel and infrastructure, and addressing the budget deficit.** Specific amounts have not been determined for each of these four areas because it could fluctuate from year to year—especially with class sizes.

Q

Why the big jump from \$119.87 to \$950?

A

The last voter approved operating referendum was 16 years ago. The district asked for an increase in operating funds in 2007 and 2008 and was unsuccessful, resulting in two years of budget reductions and a loss of 40 teachers. Since then, the district has used one-time state and federal funds and has begun to spend down the fund balance. The school board has been committed to class size reductions and over the last several years has hired back 18 teachers. With the lack of school funding, we can not sustain what we have, make additional investments in educational programming, improve student safety with personnel or make further reductions in class sizes. Even with the additional funding request of \$950, we are still below the state average for general education revenue.

Q

We just gave you money in the 2014 bond referendum election to help with safety and security. Do you need additional funds to do more or did you not budget those projects adequately?

A

Yes we budgeted adequately, but we need to do more. The funds from the 2014 bond referendum could ONLY be used for building projects and upgrades. We improved the safety and security of our buildings by building new, secure entrances at Discovery Elementary, Hanover Elementary and Tatanka Elementary STEM School. We also added video cameras, updated intercom systems, fixed roofs, repaired parking lots and sidewalks, and upgraded the phone system (along with many other improvements).

Since 2014, many factors have changed in the way we want to protect our students in our schools and the types of safety measures we want to put in place. This referendum will address the need to hire personnel to help students with mental health issues and provide funds for school safety improvements such as bullet resistant window film, a blue light alert system (notifies students when they can't hear announcements), open door indicators and other identified safety improvements.

Q

Can you use the 2014 bond referendum funding to help pay for more teachers?

A

No. The funds from the 2014 bond referendum could ONLY be used for the building projects and upgrades as identified and could not be used for operating expenses such as teacher salaries. Funds from the 2014 bond election can only be placed in Fund 06 (Construction Fund) which can only pay for construction-related costs. Teachers are not an allowable expenditure in the Construction Fund.

Q

If this operating referendum passes, how much will my taxes go up each year?

A

See the tax impact chart on the front page. If this operating referendum passes, it will be in effect for the next 10 years. As you will see on the tax impact chart, the estimated tax on a \$250,000 home would be \$436 for the year or \$36.33 per month. This amount will fluctuate each year based on the rate of inflation. If inflation goes up by 1%, that amount will increase \$4.36 to \$440.36 or \$36.69 per month.