



Quick Guide 2007 Operating Referendum

We listened! After community input, we adjusted the referendum request to include:

- Plans for increased safety on buses and playgrounds
- Funds to renovate high school auditoriums
- Operating funds to maintain all schools

What is the Brandywine School District requesting?

The District is requesting an average tax rate increase of \$251 in year one and \$273 increase in years two through five. For the average homeowner the increase is about \$21 - \$23 per month. The funding will be used as follows:

Ballot Item #1: Operations and the Strategic Plan

(\$10 million to \$10.2 million)

- **Operations** - These funds pay for all day-to-day operations, such as energy and fuel costs, teachers, fine arts programs, textbooks, instructional materials, and athletics. Approximately \$7.7 million in year one, gradually decreasing to \$6.4 million in year five.

- **New Five-Year Strategic Plan** - Promises increased learning for all students. These program enhancements were recommended by our community, and endorsed by national experts to ensure that our schools prepare every student for a strong future. \$2.3 million in year one, gradually increasing to \$3.8 million in year five.

- ~ **Free Full Day Kindergarten:** state initiated, to begin in the fall of 2007 for all interested households

- ~ **Improved Learning Technologies:** replace aging computer systems and software.

- ~ **College/Career Readiness:** stronger college/career planning, options and guidance

- ~ **Support for Struggling Students:** federal laws require all students to reach state standards, regardless of learning disability or family need. We are responding by increasing training for teachers, and adding three social workers.

- ~ **Safer and more positive learning environment:** double the capacity of the alternative school for disruptive students

- ~ **Training for all staff:** including bus drivers, custodians, secretaries, aides, etc.

For the complete Strategic Plan, visit our website at www.brandywineschools.org.

Ballot item #2: Maintenance, Safety and High School Auditorium Upgrades

\$2 million year one, increasing to 2.4 million in year five.

- **Improved School Maintenance:** protect our investment in our schools, urged strongly by committees formed of community members overseeing renovations, finance and maintenance.

- **Safety:** maintain building security, add cameras to more school buses, and replace aging playground equipment

- **Auditoriums:** bring all three high school auditoriums up to par with modern seating, lighting and sound systems

For the exact impact on your taxes, call our hotline at 793-5070 or use our tax calculator at www.brandywineschools.org. The District is committing to *No Additional Referenda* for five years!

Is there tax relief for seniors and disabled persons?

Yes! All seniors are eligible for up to \$500 credit. For more information please call the County Assessment Division at 395-5520.

If I don't have school-aged children, why should I support this request?

Strong public schools prepare the next generation and enhance our community. Since 2002, property values in the District have increased 72% in the suburbs and 86% in the city. An investment in our schools benefits everyone!

VOTE Tuesday, April 24th, 2007 noon – 9 pm

See the Voters Guide or website for polling places. • Referendum campaign costs are being covered with donated funds. • To contribute or for more detailed information on this referendum, call 793-5070 or visit our website at www.brandywineschools.org