

# Referendum Fast Facts



**MONROE COUNTY**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION  
ENGAGE. EMPOWER. EDUCATE.

## Why a referendum now? Why it matters.

### The Need

#### Referendum expires this year

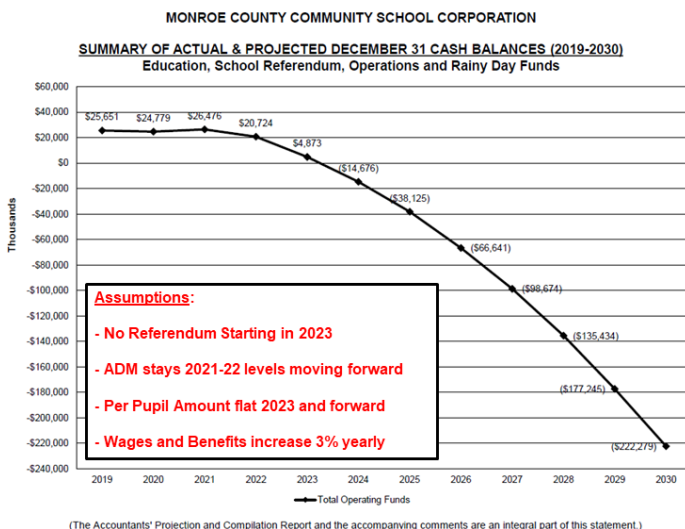
The MCCSC operating levy approved by voters in 2010 and renewed in 2016 expires in 2022.

#### Inflation

Since 2010, the MCCSC operating levy has provided \$7.3 million annually to support salaries and student programs. Had that \$7.3 million kept pace with inflation it would have been worth \$9.5 million in 2022. Cumulatively, MCCSC could have collected an additional \$9 million if we had levied a property tax rate instead of a specific levy amount.

In addition, state funding has NOT kept pace with inflation. State increases since 2010 have averaged 2% annually while the Consumer Price Index increased by an average annual rate of 2.13% during this time before skyrocketing in the past year.

Without an operating levy, MCCSC faces a “fiscal cliff”



### Avoiding a “fiscal cliff”

Without an operating levy, and without budget adjustments, our cash balance would drop below zero in only two years, creating a “fiscal cliff.” Falling off that cliff would likely require a reduction in staff and educational programs, in addition to wage/salary stagnation.

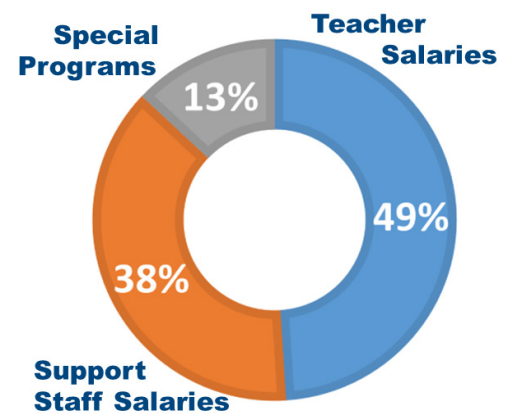
### The Plan

#### Increase the original referendum tax rate by 4.5¢

The MCCSC Board has approved a ballot question for the Nov. 8 election seeking an 18.5¢ referendum rate per \$100 of assessed property value. The original 2010 operating levy approved by voters was for a rate of 14¢. 93% of current referendum dollars go to teacher and staff salaries.

#### How will the money be spent?

- Salary increases of \$4,500 per teacher per year, to make MCCSC more competitive in hiring and retaining teachers.
- Boost support staff wages by \$2.25 per hour, to align with market rates.



Additional total spending of \$1.2 million on the following:

- Special Education services
- Performing Arts/STEM/Special Programming
- Additional staff support services

### Referendum Approved

- Hourly Wages **\$2.25/hour**
- Teacher Salaries **\$4,500/year**
- Special Education STEM/Arts Program Investment **\$1.2 million/year**

### Referendum Rejected

- Salaries & Wages **Frozen**
- Positions Cut **100 or more**
- Programs & Services **Significant Reductions**

# The Process

MCCSC has a record of fiscal responsibility and of asking only for funds needed to meet expectations set by parents, students, community members and business leaders for high quality education.

Community engagement is key to the process the Board of Trustees used to determine the amount to ask of residents in the Nov. 8 election.

## Community engagement has included:

- Two public opinion surveys, which showed strong support for increasing the levy to offset inflation and to maintain academic excellence.
- A 25-member Referendum Advisory Committee composed of community leaders, which met four times to review options and offer feedback.
- Presentations to and feedback from staff and parents.
- Presentations to and feedback from various community groups, including six community forums.

# The Cost

## About \$10.40 per month

With an 18.5-cent referendum rate per \$100 of property, an average Monroe County home would see an estimated increase of \$125 above current property taxes, or about \$10.40 per month.

**\$10/Month**  
on a  
**\$200,000**  
Home



## MCCSC's rate among state's lowest

MCCSC's tax rate is the 8th lowest among all Indiana school districts. MCCSC's current rate is 54¢ without the 2016 referendum and 63¢ with the 2016 referendum. The average school district tax rate in Indiana is \$1.10.

## In Summary: Why a referendum?

- Greatly protects against inadequate state funding
- Greatly expands programs to meet changing educational expectations.
- Keeps pace of funding to attract and retain quality teachers and staff
- Continues services and increasing programs

# When and Where to Vote

- Election Day is November 8. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- October 11 is the deadline to register for the Nov. 8 election. Voters may register at: [in.gov/sos/elections/voter-information/](http://in.gov/sos/elections/voter-information/)
- October 12 through November 7 is the period for casting absentee ballots
- Polling site information will be available at least one month before the election and may be found the Monroe County Election Board site and at: [monroecountyvoters.us/](http://monroecountyvoters.us/)

# Thanks for Previous Support

Monroe County Community School Corporation is very appreciative of the community's past and ongoing support, at the ballot box and in many other ways that contribute to our strong sense of community and make it possible for our schools to provide the highest quality learning experiences to prepare all of our students for future success.



**Strong Schools.**

**Strong Community.**

**SURVEY SAYS 83%**

of residents favor a proposal to increase the school district's existing referendum funding.

2021 community opinion survey conducted by Baker Tilly

*"I think MCCSC and our public schools do a great job of making sure our students have the tools they need to be successful in life."*

**Eric Spoonmore**  
President & CEO  
Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce

## More information

[mccsc.edu](http://mccsc.edu) | 812-330-7700 | [mccscsupt@mccsc.edu](mailto:mccscsupt@mccsc.edu)