



Referendum Review

What is the referendum? The education referendum is a proposed ½ cent sales tax. The revenue generated from the referendum will be used for capital expenditures including to repair and replace a/c's, maintain school buildings, build new schools, improve classroom technology and enhance school safety & security. Please see this [school by school list](#) of projects that will be funded by the referendum.

Why do we need the referendum? Florida ranks 41st in the nation for public education per student funding, falling \$4000 **below the national average** of \$11,500. The State increased this base funding by only \$0.47 for the 2018-19 school year. While it is critical that our State Legislators increase funding, our District cannot keep up with the financial needs of our schools after years of inadequate state funding. Our county faces a \$2 billion challenge to address aging school buildings and overcrowded schools from tremendous growth in our communities. Hillsborough County is the **8th largest district in the nation**, yet we are one of the few large counties in the state that do not yet have an education referendum to support our students on a local level.

How Much Will You Invest? The average referendum investment for each household will be **\$63 per year** based on the county's median annual income and IRS sales tax tables. Much of the investment will come from tourism dollars.

How Much Will the Referendum Generate? The referendum is expected to generate approximately \$131 million per year over the next 10 years for capital improvements that **all schools** will benefit from.

Who Will Oversee Spending? The Citizen Oversight Committee, comprised of 6 private citizens and 1 district leader, will review the spending, progress and completion of all projects funded by the referendum. Betty Castor, former FL Commissioner of Education and USF President, will chair the committee and Sheriff Chad Chronister will serve as vice chair.

Where is the Referendum on the Ballot? The referendum is the **LAST ITEM** on the ballot. The.very.last.item! Please be sure to go to the bottom of the last page of your ballot to vote yes for the referendum.

Do Other Counties Have an Education Referendum? Yes! In fact, all counties along the I-4 corridor - including Polk, Pasco, Pinellas & Manatee counties – have local education tax support. Most large districts in FL have an education referendum except Hillsborough – yet we

are the 8th largest district in the **nation!** Orange County, which is similar in size and growth, has seen so much success with their education referendum that **84% of their voters** passed an additional 1 millage property tax to support schools *in addition to* the education sales tax!

What About Lottery Money? The District receives approximately \$9 million per year from Lottery funds which is **not enough to run the District for even one day!** Funding from the Lottery makes up only 0.3% of the District funds.

Are Referendums and Amendments Different? YES! The Education Referendum No. 3 is not to be confused with Amendment No. 3. The Referendum is a 10-year, ½ penny local (county) investment in our schools; amendments on the ballot affect the State Constitution and can only be amended every 20 years. To support the Education Referendum, **vote the last item on the ballot first!**

PTA is the oldest and largest child advocacy organization in the country. It is our duty to advocate for the needs of our children, including and especially funding for our schools. Public education advocacy is a nonpartisan issue. PTA does not support any specific candidates or political parties.