



Christina School District • 600 North Lombard Street • Wilmington, DE 19801 • 302-552-2600 • [www.christina.k12.de.us](http://www.christina.k12.de.us)

# Our Kids—Worth the Investment

## Christina Operating Referendum - Tuesday May 25

The Christina School District will hold an Operating Referendum vote on Tuesday, May 25. The referendum seeks funding to maintain and strengthen instructional and operating funds for the upcoming fiscal year and beyond.



A Successful Referendum Will Support...

- Local funding for Full-Day Kindergarten in all schools
- Local share of additional positions
- Student programs and services
- Art, music, physical education, and libraries
- Textbooks and technology
- Middle school sports program
- Enhancements to Talented and Gifted programs
- School instructional budgets
- Rising costs of energy, transportation, and personnel

For more information about the Referendum, please see pages 2-4.

### Ways to Learn More...

- Attend a Community Forum about the Referendum (See list at right)
- Visit our website:  
[www.christina.k12.de.us/referendum](http://www.christina.k12.de.us/referendum)
- Call us: 302-552-2670
- Email us:  
[referendum@christina.k12.de.us](mailto:referendum@christina.k12.de.us)
- Subscribe to our electronic newsletter:  
[www.christina.k12.de.us/JoinE-news](http://www.christina.k12.de.us/JoinE-news)
- Become a fan on Facebook: Christina School District
- Follow us on Twitter: ChristinaK12
- Invite a Referendum Committee member to speak at your next group meeting: 302-552-2610
- Talk to your child's principal or teacher



A successful Operating Referendum can help the district support art, music, physical education and library programs. Pictured here are members of the Newark High School Jazz Ensemble.

### Community Forums on the Referendum

Please consider attending one of our Community Forums on the Christina Operating Referendum:

**Thursday, May 6, 7:00 p.m.**  
West Park Place Elementary School  
193 West Park Place  
Newark, DE 19711

**Monday, May 10, 7:00 p.m.**  
Pulaski Elementary School  
1300 Cedar Street  
Wilmington, DE 19805

**Thursday, May 13, 7:00 p.m.**  
Leasure Elementary School  
1015 Church Road  
Newark, DE 19702

**Tuesday, May 18, 7:00 p.m.**  
Elbert-Palmer Elementary School  
1210 Lobdell Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801

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# THE REFERENDUM REQUEST

- The Christina School District will hold an Operating Referendum on Tuesday, May 25, 2010. The referendum seeks funding to maintain and strengthen instructional and operating funds for the upcoming fiscal year and beyond.
- The proposed 35 cent increase to the current school tax rate would be introduced gradually over a three-year period. In 2010-2011, the tax rate would increase 20 cents per \$100 of assessed property value. The tax rate would then increase 8 cents per \$100 of assessed property in 2011-2012, and 7 cents per \$100 of assessed property value in 2012-2013.
- The District would collect \$10.85 million in 2010-2011, an additional \$4.33 million in 2011-2012, and an additional \$3.78 million in 2012-2013.

## A Successful Referendum Will Support...

- Local funding for Full-Day Kindergarten in all schools
- Local share of additional positions
- Student programs and services
- Art, music, physical education, and libraries
- Textbooks and technology
- Middle school sports program
- Enhancements to Talented and Gifted programs
- School instructional budgets
- Rising costs of energy, transportation, and personnel



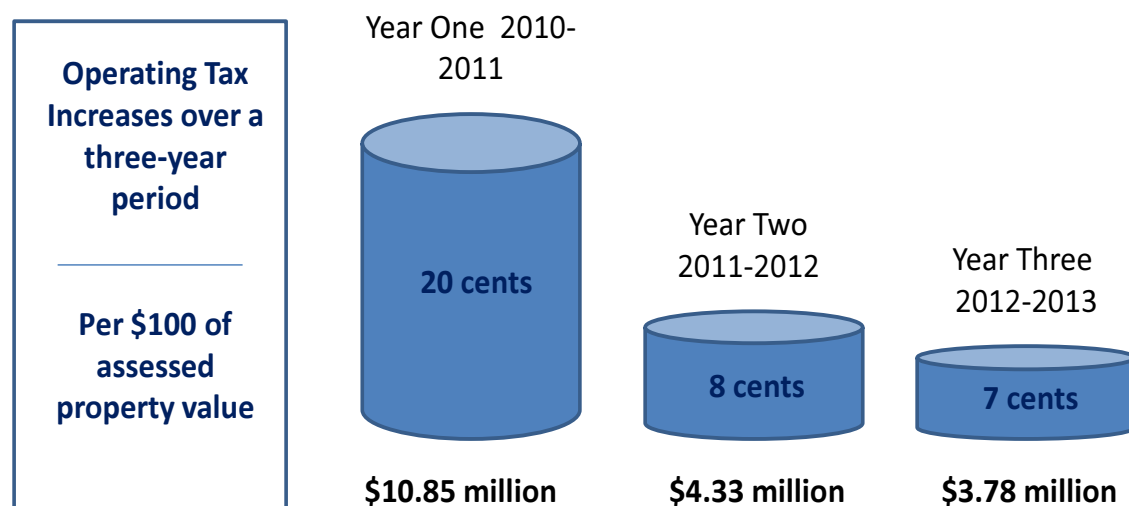
If the Referendum is successful, The District will double the amount currently spent on textbooks, technology, and other learning materials. Years of lean budgets have left schools underfunded and lacking resources.

## What will it Cost?

School taxes are based on assessed property value. It is important to remember that a home's assessed value in New Castle County is a much lower number than the market value. A random sample of homes that recently sold for about \$200,000 reflects an average assessed value of \$62,975. For this property, the homeowner would pay \$126 in year one, an additional \$50 in year two, and an additional \$44 in year three. The District has a Property Tax Calculator tool available that allows residents to calculate exactly how much additional tax they would pay over three years. To access this tool, please visit the Christina School District website at the following link: <http://www.christina.k12.de.us/Referendum/calculator.html>

### What are we asking for?

35 cent increase  
to the current school tax rate  
phased in over a three-year period



# WHY A REFERENDUM NOW?

## Christina has NOT increased operating taxes since 2003.

- We can no longer run our school district in 2010 with 2003 dollars
- Years of lean budgets have resulted in schools that are underfunded and in disrepair
- Christina is the only New Castle County district that does not offer Full-Day Kindergarten in all elementary schools



If successful, the Referendum could provide funding for an interscholastic sports program for middle school students, similar to programs in Appoquinimink, Colonial, and Red Clay school districts. By involving students in sports in middle school, the District can expand options for adolescents to get engaged and excited about school—an important factor in future success in high school.

## State budget cuts and rising costs will impact Christina's budget by \$8.1 million

- Proposed state cuts will cost Christina \$6.4 million and will impact staff positions, transportation, operating funds, and building maintenance
- Increased local costs will be \$1.7 million, to cover pension payments and “step” pay increases to compensate our employees as they increase their years of service and experience.



Christina has been a model of fiscal responsibility since its financial troubles in 2006. Proposed state budget cuts and rising employee costs could impact Christina's budget by \$8.1 million. Without a successful referendum, the District will face a significant fiscal challenge.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

**If the state just received a \$100 million grant, why does the District need to hold a referendum?**

The funding provided in the Race to the Top (RttT) grant must be spent according to strict guidelines to support school improvement, as developed by the Delaware Department of Education (DOE) in the RttT application. While Delaware will receive \$100 million, Christina will receive only a share of that, to be used for the next four years. Both the Delaware DOE and the District will be held accountable for adhering to programs and initiatives outlined in the application. We are excited at the opportunities the grant will provide; however, these funds will not cover our \$8.1 million gap, and will not be available to pay for the day-to-day operating costs in Christina—such as student support services, school instructional budgets, energy, transportation, and personnel. So although the state has additional funds through this federal grant, Christina will not see a benefit through Race to the Top that could allow the District to put off the referendum.

**Weren't we promised Full-Day Kindergarten in the last referendum?**

The 2007 Neighborhood Schools referendum was a capital referendum, which only raised local funds for building and renovation projects. That money could not be used for regular operating costs, like purchasing materials or paying employee costs. Christina's first concern was that it did not have enough space in the suburban elementary schools to house Full-Day Kindergarten in every school. With the successful referendum in 2007, Christina completed construction projects that provided enough space in the suburbs to be able to offer Full-Day Kindergarten. However, Christina found itself in the position of having enough space for Full-Day Kindergarten, but not having enough funding to pay for the local share required to hire Full-Day Kindergarten teachers. So Christina is still the only district in New Castle County that has not implemented Full-Day Kindergarten. This referendum provides the operating funds necessary to hire the teachers and provide the resources needed for district-wide Full-Day Kindergarten beginning in 2011.

# Who Is Eligible to Vote?

- You must be a resident of the Christina School District
- You must be 18 years old
- You must be a U.S. citizen
- You DO NOT need to be a registered voter!
- You DO NOT need to own property!
- Polling places are open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact the New Castle County Board of Elections,  
302-577-3464

## Voters Will See This Ballot When They Enter the Voting Booth:

<p>This item asks you to vote for or against increasing current operating expense taxes. The rates would increase as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An additional 20 cents to \$ 1.27 per \$ 100 of assessed value to raise an additional \$10.85 million effective July 1, 2010 for the 2010 – 2011 school year,</li> <li>• An additional 8 cents to \$ 1.35 per \$ 100 of assessed value for a total of 28 cents to raise a total of \$ 15.18 million effective July 1, 2011 for the 2011 – 2012 school year, and</li> <li>• An additional 7 cents to \$ 1.42 per \$ 100 of assessed value for a total of 35 cents to raise a total of \$ 18.96 million effective July 1, 2012 for the 2012-2013 school year and continuing into the future.</li> </ul> <p>Income from the levy will be used for current operating expenses to support schools in the district, including the following:</p> <p><b>-Increased operating costs including:</b> Student Support Services, School Instructional Budgets, Energy, Transportation, Personnel</p> <p><b>-Instructional Materials, Technology, and Textbooks</b></p> <p><b>-Staffing for schools in accordance with the new State staffing model including:</b> Additional Teaching Units, Complete Transition to District-wide Full Day Kindergarten, Support for Special Education</p>	VOTE FOR ONE (1)
	FOR ADDITIONAL TAX
	AGAINST ADDITIONAL TAX

X

X

## Polling Places

### Polls are Open 10:00am - 8:00pm

**Bancroft Elementary School**  
700 North Lombard Street, Wilmington, DE 19801  
Phone: 302-429-4102

**Bayard Middle School**  
200 S. DuPont Street, Wilmington, DE 19805  
Phone: 302-429-4118

**Brader Elementary School**  
107 Four Seasons Parkway, Newark, DE 19702  
Phone: 302-454-5959

**Brookside Elementary School**  
800 Marrows Road, Newark, DE 19713  
Phone: 302-454-5454

**Carvel State Office Building**  
801 N. French Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

**Christiana High School**  
190 Salem Church Road, Newark, DE 19713  
Phone: 302-631-2400

**Downes Elementary School**  
220 Casho Mill Road, Newark, DE 19711  
Phone: 302-454-2133

**Elbert-Palmer Elementary School**  
1210 Lobdell Street, Wilmington, DE 19801  
Phone: 302-429-4188

**Gallaher Elementary School**  
800 N. Brownleaf Road, Newark, DE 19713  
Phone: 302-454-2462

**Gauger-Cobbs Middle School**  
50 Gender Road, Newark, DE 19713  
Phone: 302-454-2357

**Glasgow High School**  
1901 South College Avenue, Newark, DE 19702  
Phone: 302-631-5600

**Jones Elementary School**  
35 West Main Street, Newark, DE 19702  
Phone: 302-454-2131

**Keene Elementary School**  
200 LaGrange Avenue, Newark, DE 19702  
Phone: 302-454-2018

**Kirk Middle School**  
140 Brennen Drive, Newark, DE 19713  
Phone: 302-454-2164

**Leasure Elementary School**  
1015 Church Road, Newark, DE 19702  
Phone:

**Maclary Elementary School**  
300 St. Regis Drive, Newark, DE 19711  
Phone: 302-454-2142

**Marshall Elementary School**  
101 Barrett Run Drive, Newark, DE 19702  
Phone: 302-454-4700

**McVey Elementary School**  
908 Janice Drive, Newark, DE 19713  
Phone: 302-454-2145

**Newark High School**  
750 East Delaware Avenue, Newark, DE 19711  
Phone: 302-631-4700

**Shue-Medill Middle School**  
1500 Capital Trail, Newark, DE 19711  
Phone: 302-454-2171

**West Park Place Elementary School**  
192 West Park Place, Newark, DE 19711  
Phone: 302-454-2290

**Wilson Elementary School**  
14 Forge Road, Newark, DE 19711  
Phone: 302-454-2180

**Quaker Hill Place Apartments**  
200 N. Washington Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801



## CHRISTINA IS NOW ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!

### Become a fan on Facebook:

Search "Christina School District" to find our page and join others interested in Christina School District news and events. We have more than 1,100 fans and interest is growing every day!

### Follow us on Twitter:

Visit our Twitter page at <http://twitter.com/christinak12> to create a Twitter account and sign up to follow us. Brief updates may be sent to an email account, mobile device, or both.

