



Christina School District • 600 North Lombard Street • Wilmington, DE 19801 • 302-552-2600 • www.christina.k12.de.us

Commitment to Kids

Vote on January 26

Commitment To Kids: Referendum 2006

The Goals of the Referendum

Continue our Transformation

- Improve academic achievement for every student at every school in the Christina School District
- Make improvements to the District's secondary schools
- Resolve the problem of long bus rides and frequent school moves for District children
- Add fifth grade to all elementary schools
- Add sixth grade to all middle schools

Keep Kids Close to Home

- Implement the Student Assignment Recommendation approved by the Board in July 2005
- Create long-term stability and achieve the goal of keeping kids closer to home

High School and Middle School Reform

- Improve the quality of the facilities at the District's middle and high schools to support increased student achievement
- Design more meaningful high school experiences for students to engage in relevant, rigorous coursework leading to careers and/or college

Full Day Kindergarten

- Begin the process of implementing full-day Kindergarten District-wide

Stewardship for the Future

- Relocate the existing bus yard to improve transportation facilities and increase the size of the Newark High School campus
- Secure funds now for a second new elementary school in the Route 40 area to ensure the funding will exist when the new school is needed
- Secure funds to offset construction inflation for existing projects scheduled to begin in 2006

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CHRISTINA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Transforming Together

Commitment to Kids

REFERENDUM 2006

Vote

January 26, 2006

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

TO AUTHORIZE THE DISTRICT TO ISSUE BONDS TO FUND SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION; AND TO AUTHORIZE THE LEVY OF ADDITIONAL TAXES FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES

AUTHORITY TO ISSUE BONDS TO FUND SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

A special election to be held on January 26, 2006 in the Christina School District in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 21 of Title 14 of the Delaware Code, enables the voters of the District to vote for or against the issue of bonds in the amount of \$112,449,600, including bonds to cover the District's share of the cost of school construction. In order to access approximately \$98,948,000 in State funds available for school construction the voters of the District must pass a referendum approving the local share of such cost. The issue of bonds will provide funds for the following purposes:

Funds for construction/renovation of the following schools:

Christina High School	\$ 7,008,000	Bancroft Middle School	\$ 3,844,000
Glasgow High School	\$ 8,792,000	Gauger-Cobbs Middle	\$ 4,392,000
Newark High School	\$ 10,308,000	Kirk Middle School	\$ 5,040,000
NETworks School	\$ 3,120,000	Shue Middle School	\$ 6,922,000

Funds to expand middle school to 1200 seats: New Middle School (Route 896 location): \$ 3,376,000

Funds to adjust for formula changes: New Middle School (Route 896 location): \$ 5,820,000

Additional local funds for school furniture, computer equipment, telecommunications, land development and construction support: New Middle School (Route 896 location): \$ 2,000,000

Full Day Kindergarten Funds: New Elementary School (Porter Road location): \$ 1,840,000

Funds to adjust for formula changes: New Elementary School (Porter Road location): \$ 3,080,000

Additional local funds for school furniture, computer equipment, telecommunications, land development and construction support: New Elementary School (Porter Road location): \$ 2,000,000

Funds to acquire land and construct a Second New Elementary School: \$ 8,252,000

Additional local funds to acquire land for a Second New Elementary School: \$ 2,250,000

Additional local funds for school furniture, computer equipment, telecommunications, land development and construction support: A Second New Elementary School: \$ 3,000,000

Funds to construct a parking facility: Newark High School Parking Facility: \$12,180,000

Funds to acquire land and construct a school bus dispatch and maintenance center: \$14,264,000

Funds to offset construction inflation costs for those projects identified in Group 3 in the 2002 bond referendum:

Christiana High School	\$ 840,000	Maclary Elementary School	\$ 704,000
Downes Elementary School	\$ 771,600	Wilson Elementary School	\$ 756,000

Funds for the use of modular classrooms during construction/renovation: Modular classrooms six schools: \$ 1,890,000

TOTAL \$112,449,600

The bond issue in the amount of \$112,449,600 recommended by the Christina Board includes \$46,484,000 of costs in excess of the costs determined by the Department of Education standard school construction formula. If the voters approve a bond issue, but vote for a bond issue in the amount determined by the standard school construction formula, the bond issue will be in the amount of \$65,965,600.

If the District is authorized to issue bonds in the amount of \$112,449,600, the District shall levy and collect additional taxes to provide for the payment of interest on the bonds and for the retirement of the bonds as they fall due. The cost of the bonds will adjust to market rates. In today's market, the amortization of bonds over a 20-year term, in the amount of \$112,449,600, as recommended by the Christina Board, would cost approximately 8.10 cents per hundred dollars of all assessed taxable real estate in the District. In today's market, the amortization of bonds over a 20-year term, in the amount of \$65,965,600 as determined from the standard formula by the Department of Education would cost approximately 3.27 cents per hundred dollars of all assessed taxable real estate in the District. Based on a historical perspective, it is expected that market rates will fluctuate and the cost could increase.

LEVY OF ADDITIONAL TAXES FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES

The special election to be held on January 26, 2006 in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 19 of Title 14 of the Delaware Code, enables District voters to vote for or against the levy and collection of up to an additional 17 cents per \$100 of all assessed taxable real estate effective July 1, 2006. This increase includes the 10 percent for delinquencies and costs of collection as required by law. Income from the levy shall be used to fund increased operating expenses associated with: (1) employee health care and other employee-related costs, (2) energy, and (3) operation and maintenance of the District's programs.

VOTER INFORMATION

The polls for the special election shall be open on January 26, 2006 between the hours of 12 Noon Eastern Standard Time and 9 p.m. Eastern Standard Time in the following locations:

Bancroft Academy	Eden Support Service Center	Keene Elementary School	Quaker Hill Place Apartments
Bayard Elementary School	Elbert-Palmer Elementary School	Kirk Middle School	Shue-Medill Middle School
Brader Elementary School	Gallaher Elementary School	Maclary Elementary School	West Park Place Elementary School
Brookside Elementary School	Gauger-Cobbs Middle School	Marshall Elementary School	Wilson Elementary School
Christiana High School	Glasgow High School	McVey Elementary School	
Downes Elementary School	Jones Elementary School	Newark High School	

Any individual qualified to vote in this election may vote by absentee ballot if the voter is unable to appear at a polling place on January 26, 2006, for any of the following reasons: (1) Temporary or permanent physical disability, (2) Public service for the U.S. or the State of Delaware, (3) Spouse or dependent of, and residing with or accompanying, a person in public service of the U.S. or the State of Delaware, (4) Engaged in a business or occupation precluding appearance at a polling place, (5) Sickness, (6) The tenets or teaching of the voter's religion, (7) Incarceration, (8) Absent from the District while on vacation, (9) Temporarily residing outside of the U.S. and the District of Columbia, (10) Illness or injury received while serving in the Armed Forces of the U.S., or (11) A member of the U. S. Armed Forces, American Red Cross, U.S.A., or the U.S. Merchant Marine. Any qualified person may request that an absentee ballot be issued to them by submitting a properly completed *Affidavit for Absentee Ballot for Public School Elections* to the Department of Elections for New Castle County not later than 12 Noon, local time, on January 25, 2006. If the voter instructs the Department of Elections to mail the ballot to the voter, the affidavit must be received by the Department of Elections no later than 12 Noon on January 20, 2006. All absentee ballots must be returned to the offices of the Department of Elections for New Castle County not later than 9 p.m., local time, on January 26, 2006.

All citizens of the United States and the State of Delaware who reside in the Christina School District and who are 18 years of age or older are eligible to vote. Registration to vote in a general election is not required in order to be eligible to vote in this election.

Contact Mr. Jeff Edmison, Assistant Superintendent, at 552-2600 with any questions you may have.

By Order of the Christina Board of Education

Ms. Brenda Phillips, President

Dr. David Sundstrom, Acting Executive Secretary to the Christina Board of Education

Explanation of the Notice of Election

AUTHORITY TO ISSUE BONDS TO FUND SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION:

Under this section of the Notice of Election, the 8.1 cents per \$100 dollars of assessed value represents the portion of bonds that are anticipated to be sold in 2007. The remaining bonds will be sold over a three or four year period.

How to calculate your taxes:

If the \$112,449,600 option is chosen, your taxes would be calculated this way

$$\text{Amount of Tax} = \frac{\text{Your Assessed Property Value}}{\$100} \times \text{Tax Rate}$$

Sample Calculations for the First Six Years

Example: Bonds are sold for a twenty-year term. For a property assessed at the district average of \$60,000, the estimated additional tax impact for the first six years would be

$$2007 \text{ Estimated Tax} = \frac{\$60,000}{\$100} \times .0810 = \$48.60$$

$$2008 \text{ Estimated Tax} = \frac{\$60,000}{\$100} \times .1587 = \$95.22$$

$$2009 \text{ Estimated Tax} = \frac{\$60,000}{\$100} \times .1700 = \$102.00$$

$$2010 \text{ Estimated Tax} = \frac{\$60,000}{\$100} \times .1912 = \$114.72$$

$$2011 \text{ Estimated Tax} = \frac{\$60,000}{\$100} \times .1841 = \$110.46$$

$$2012 \text{ Estimated Tax} = \frac{\$60,000}{\$100} \times .1772 = \$106.32$$

LEVY OF ADDITIONAL TAXES FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES

Under this section of the Notice of Election, the 17 cents per \$100 dollars of assessed real estate represents the maximum annual impact on taxpayers beginning in July of 2007.

How to calculate your taxes:

Your taxes would be calculated this way

$$\text{Amount of Tax} = \frac{\text{Your Assessed Property Value}}{\$100} \times \text{Tax Rate}$$

Sample Calculation

Example: For a property assessed at the district average of \$60,000, the additional tax impact would be:

$$\text{Estimated Additional Tax} = \frac{\$60,000}{\$100} \times .17 = \$102.00$$

Seniors! Don't forget your Tax Break!

Senior citizens ages 65 and older as of July 1 each fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) are entitled to a credit of 50 percent of their school property taxes up to \$500. To qualify for this credit, the property for which you are applying for the credit must be your principal residence. A copy of your driver's license or birth certificate is required for each applicant at time of application.

Applications are available from:

New Castle County Department of Land Use – Assessment Division
87 Read's Way
New Castle, DE 19720
(302) 395-5520

SAMPLE BALLOT

CHRISTINA SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL ELECTION JANUARY 26, 2006

There are three questions on this ballot. Vote for or against the bond issue in Section I by placing an "X" in the box next to your choice. In Section II, vote for Option A or B by placing an "X" in the box next to the option you prefer. In Section III, vote for or against the additional taxes for School Purposes by placing an "X" in the box next to the option you prefer.

AUTHORITY TO ISSUE BONDS TO FUND SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

SECTION I	SECTION I - VOTE FOR ONE (1)
For or against issuance of a bond as is more fully explained in the Notice of Election.	A. FOR A BOND ISSUE AT THIS TIME. <input type="checkbox"/>
	B. AGAINST A BOND ISSUE AT THIS TIME. <input type="checkbox"/>
SECTION II	SECTION II - VOTE FOR ONE (1)
<p>(Option A)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Includes Option B projects outlined below, plus: - Land for a second new elementary school; items not funded by the state for the two (2) new elementary schools, and one new middle school (including additional computers, furniture, and telecommunications equipment); land for and construction of a new bus dispatch and maintenance center; construction of a parking deck at one high school; formula adjustments in cost per square foot at new middle and elementary schools; use of modular classrooms (for health and safety of students and staff) during the renovation of six (6) schools. <p>Local Cost of Option A Projects: \$112,449,600</p> <p>(Option B)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renovate and expand three (3) high schools. - Renovate four (4) middle schools ; construct an addition at one school. - Renovate and expand facility to house the NETworks school. - Expand new middle school to 1200 seats. - One new elementary school (plan, construct and equip; includes land acquisition). - Match State Full Day Kindergarten Funding. - Provide additional dollars to adjust for construction inflation; four projects currently under construction. <p>Local Cost of Option B Projects: \$65,965,600</p>	In the event the majority of votes cast in Section I is for a bond issue, which bond issue would you prefer?
	A. FOR THE BOND ISSUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$112,449,600 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CHRISTINA BOARD. <input type="checkbox"/>
	B. FOR THE BOND ISSUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$65,965,600 AS DETERMINED FROM THE STANDARD FORMULA BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. <input type="checkbox"/>
	If the District is authorized to issue bonds, additional taxes will be levied to pay the principal and interest on the bonds.

ADDITIONAL TAXES FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES

SECTION III	SECTION III - VOTE FOR ONE (1)
As explained more fully in the Notice of Election, this item asks for your approval to raise the school tax rate by up to 17 cents per \$100 of assessed taxable real estate for school purposes, effective July 1, 2006.	A. FOR ADDITIONAL TAX. <input type="checkbox"/>
	B. AGAINST ADDITIONAL TAX <input type="checkbox"/>

Your Guide to the Ballot

Section I

Section I is where you vote FOR or AGAINST the bond issue (Capital Referendum request)

Section II – Option A

If you vote FOR Option A under Section II, you are voting for the amount recommended by the Christina Board of Education - \$112,449,600.

Section I – Option B

If you vote FOR Option B under Section II, you are voting for the amount as determined from the standard formula by the Delaware Department of Education - \$65,965,600.

Section III

Section III asks you to vote FOR or AGAINST raising the school tax rate to support programs and services funded through the District's operating budget (Operating Referendum request).

Important Voter Information

Eligibility

Residents of the Christina School District who are at least 18 years old with proof of identification (includes driver's license or State of Delaware I.D. card) may vote in the referendum.

You do not need to own property nor do you have to be a registered voter in order to vote in this referendum. If you are eligible to vote, but are unable to go to the polls on Election Day for a reason defined by law, you may vote by absentee ballot by mail or in person.

Absentee Voting Procedure

Obtain an Affidavit for Absentee Ballot for Public School Elections from the Department of Elections of New Castle County (also available on the Christina School District website). You may call the Department of Elections for more information: 577-3464. Follow the directions provided for completing and returning the affidavit by the stated date.

Capital Projects to Be Funded in this Referendum

Christiana High School

- New bus loop to reduce traffic
- Building upgrades to support Small Learning Communities
- Cafeteria addition and upgrades
- New science laboratories
- Other necessary interior and exterior improvements
- Portable classrooms for swing space

Glasgow High School

- Building upgrades to support Small Learning Communities
- Cafeteria addition and upgrades
- New science laboratories
- Other necessary interior and exterior improvements
- Portable classrooms for swing space

Newark High School

- Building upgrades to support Small Learning Communities
- Parking facility and improved athletic fields
- Cafeteria addition and upgrades
- New science laboratories
- Other necessary interior and exterior improvements
- Portable classrooms for swing space

NETworks School for Entrepreneurial Sciences

- Renovations and addition – 83 East Main Street

Bancroft Middle School

- Convert current elementary school to a middle school

Gauger-Cobbs, Kirk, and Shue-Medill Middle Schools

- Cafeteria upgrades
- New science labs, art areas, vocational ed rooms, computer labs, and other improvements
- Exterior site work
- Portable classrooms for swing space
- Auditorium space for Shue-Medill

Elementary School on Porter Road near Route 40

- Additional funds to complete the project due to construction inflation

Middle School on Route 896 in Glasgow

- Additional funds to complete the project due to construction inflation
- Adjustment to increase capacity from 800 seats to 1200 seats

Downes Elementary, Maclary Elementary, Wilson Elementary, Christiana High School

- Additional funds to complete Phase III Projects from the 2002 Referendum due to construction inflation

Lane Transportation Center

- Land acquisition
- Construction of new transportation operations facility

New Elementary School (site to be determined)

- Land acquisition
- Construction of new school

Polling Places

*Polls will be open between
Noon and 9:00 PM
on January 26, 2006*

Bancroft School
Bayard School
Brader Elementary
Brookside Elementary
Christiana High
Downes Elementary
Eden Support Services Ctr.
Elbert-Palmer
Gallaher Elementary
Gauger-Cobbs Middle
Glasgow High
Jones Elementary
Keene Elementary
Kirk Middle
Maclary Elementary
Marshall Elementary
McVey Elementary
Newark High
Quaker Hill Place
Shue-Medill Middle
West Park Place Elementary
Wilson Elementary

Operating Dollars to be Funded in this Referendum

- Additional funding to offset increased costs in the areas of energy, health care, pensions, and salary and benefits.
- Additional funding to support Secondary School Reform efforts, including Small Learning Communities, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, and science lab upgrades
- Additional funding to support transportation increases related to the high school Grandfathering option offered from 2006-2008
- Technology funding