

# Support Our Future: Referendum for Brown County Schools

*Investing in Education for a Brighter Tomorrow*



BROWN COUNTY  
SCHOOLS

May 2024

BROWN COUNTY SCHOOLS  
**VISION &  
MISSION**

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BROWN COUNTY  
SCHOOLS

## VISION

World Class Opportunities.  
Small School Relationships.  
Lifelong Impact.



## MISSION

Brown County Schools provides the highest quality educational experiences where all students are safe, valued, inspired, civically engaged, and globally connected.



BROWN COUNTY SCHOOLS  
PK-ADULT  
SYSTEM

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HELMSBURG  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

GRADES PK-5



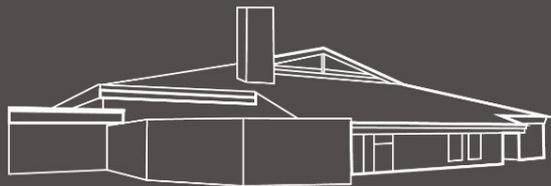
SPRUNICA  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

GRADES PK-5



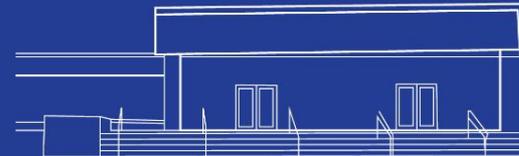
VAN BUREN  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

GRADES PK-5



BROWN COUNTY  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

GRADES 6-8



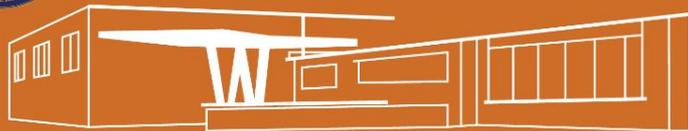
BROWN COUNTY  
HIGH SCHOOL

GRADES 9-12



BROWN COUNTY  
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

CRC | ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES | BROWN COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER



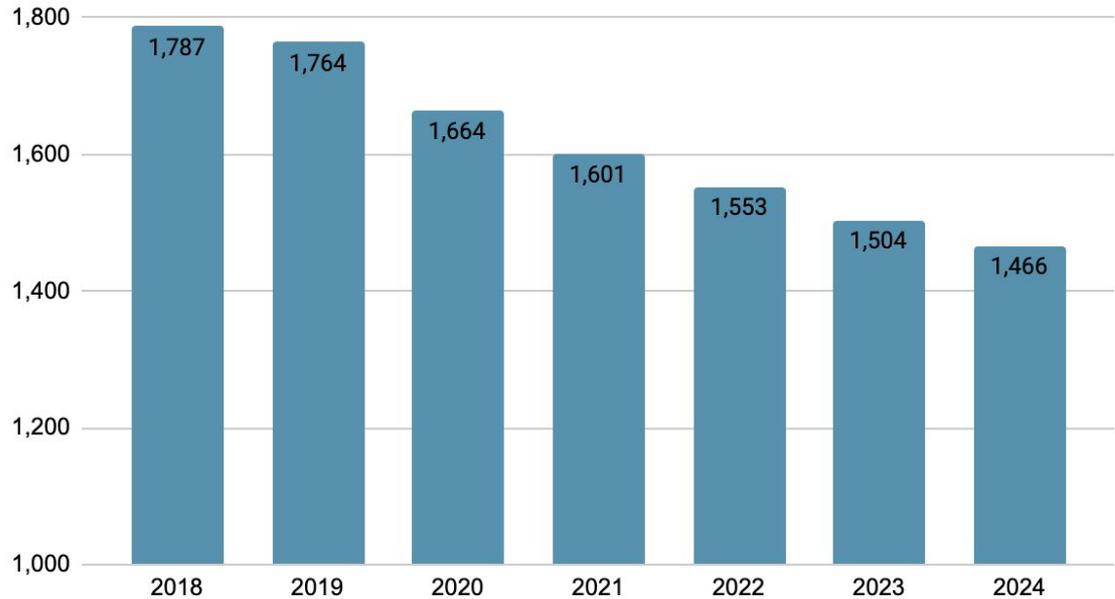
# 2024 Referendum Overview

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## BCS Enrollment History



**\$7,044.20 per student = Loss of \$2,261,188**

State funding is tied to each student. A loss of 321 students over the last six years at \$7,044 per student has cost the school system budget \$2,261,188. Many costs do not decrease when the number of students decreases.

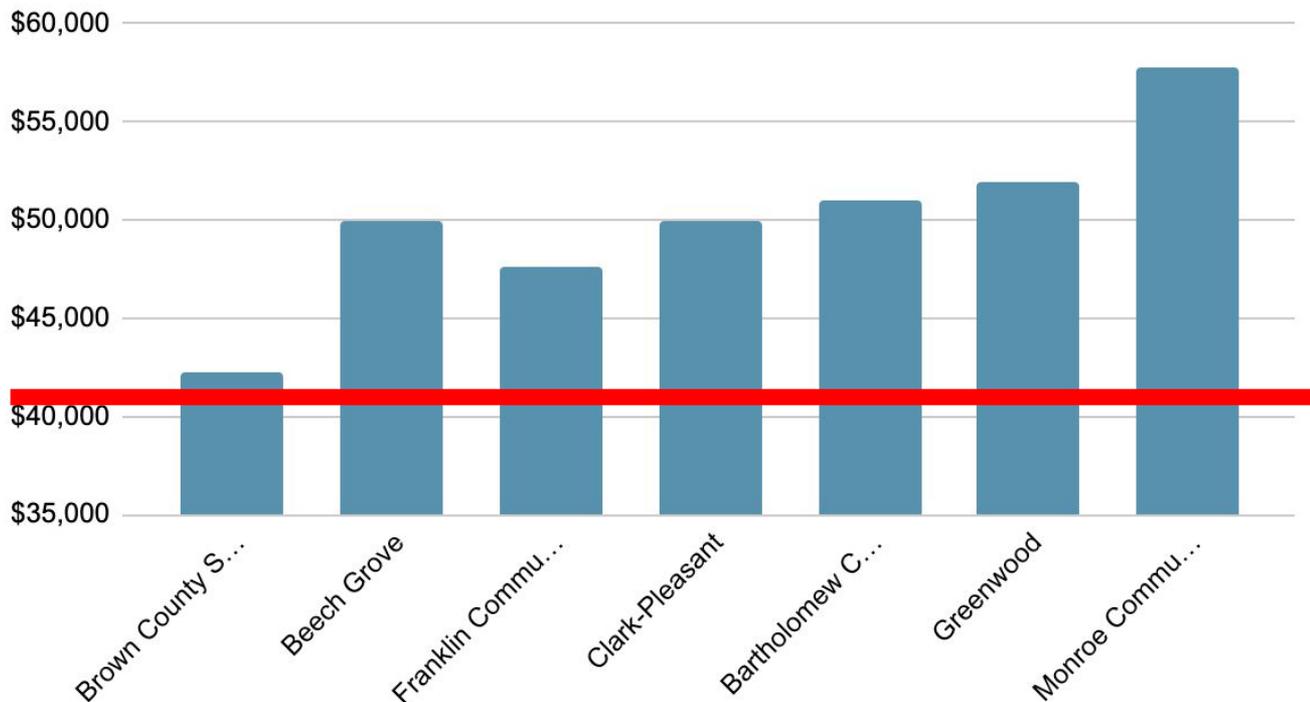
# 2024 Referendum Overview

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## Starting Salary Ranges

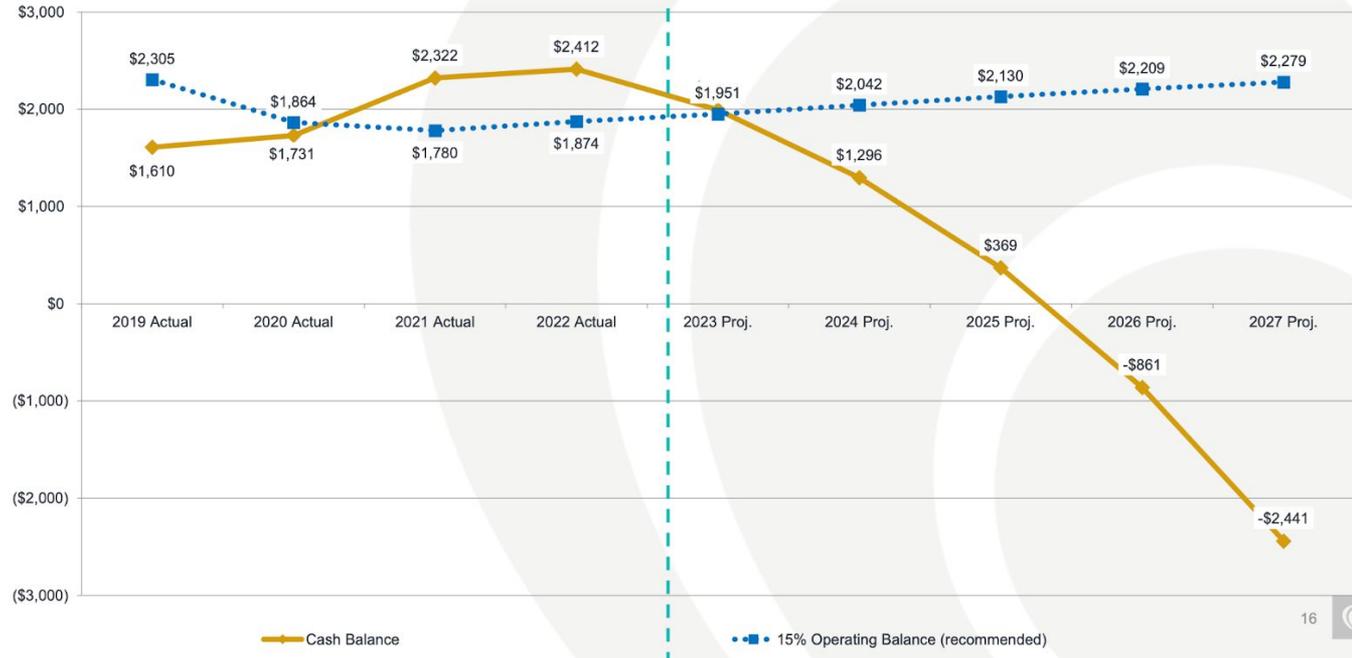


# 2024 Referendum Overview



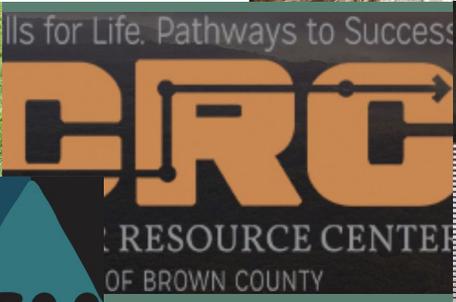
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## Education Fund 101



The blue line shows what the DUAB (Distressed Units of Appeal Board) recommends for school districts to be 15% with revenues versus expenditures for healthy fund balances.

You can see our trend line in yellow take a drastic dip if we do not have a referendum in 2024. This is assuming we stay status quo with spending, programming, transfers, etc.



# 2024 Referendum Overview

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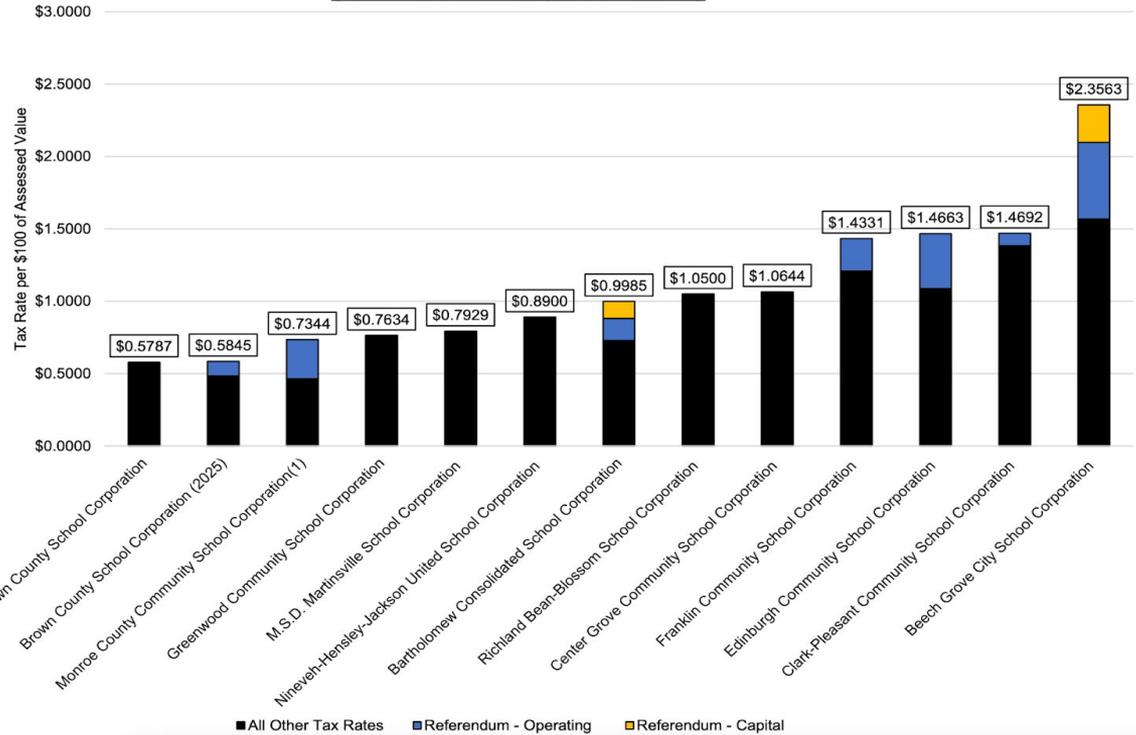
This referendum is an urgent opportunity for our community to support 10 cents per \$100 assessed value in taxes, only a 2 cent increase from the previous 8 cents with the sole purpose of directly funding wages and benefits for staff and to continue to build innovative programming within Brown County Schools. ***This referendum allows us, the community members, to have a direct say in important decisions that impact our children's education and our future.***

# School Tax Rate Comparison



BROWN COUNTY SCHOOLS

## COMPARISON OF SCHOOL 2024 TOTAL TAX RATES – WITH SUCCESSFUL REFERENDUM (Per 2024 Budget Orders)



There are very few parcels at the property tax caps. This means that 99% of our taxpayers would feel the debt rate falling off which negates the referendum increase.

**Bottom line is the taxpayers would really only feel that \$0.01 increase to their tax bill.**

# BCS Tax Calculator

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## Proposed Operating Referendum Tax Rate: \$0.10

Gross Assessed Value	<i>Monthly</i> Tax Impact	<i>Annual</i> Tax Impact
\$100,000	\$2.71	\$32.50
\$150,000	\$5.31	\$63.75
\$200,000	\$7.92	\$95
\$250,000	\$10.52	\$126.25
\$300,000	\$13.13	\$157.50
\$500,000	\$23.54	\$282.50

# Brown County Schools

## \$0.10 Operating Referendum

# Proposed Spending Plan



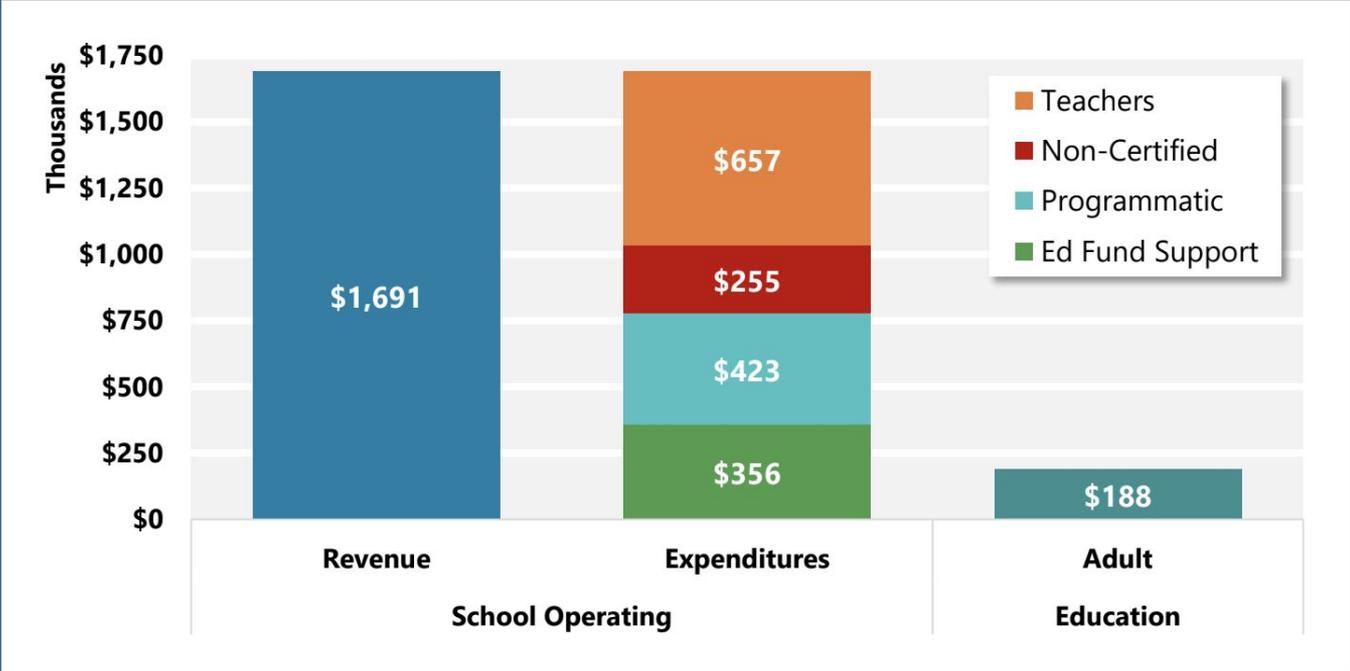
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School Operating Referendum Revenue (\$0.09)	\$1,691,000
School Operating Referendum Expenditures	\$1,691,000
<b>Teachers</b> – Increase teacher pay (\$5,000) to elevate teacher compensation to be competitive with neighboring school districts	\$657,000
<b>Non-Certified Staff</b> – Increase noncertified staff pay (5%) to promote staff retention and employee stability for Brown County Schools	\$255,000
<b>Programmatic</b> – The addition of six positions to support student needs in areas of Special Education, Career and Technical Education (Expansion of Eagle Manufacturing and potential Construction), Civic Arts (Theater and Art), and Work-Based Learning	\$423,000
<b>Ed Fund Support</b> – Dollars to sustain the current and future levels of salaries and benefits for Brown County employees	\$356,000
Adult Education Referendum Revenue (\$0.01)	\$188,000
<b>Adult Education Expenditures</b> - Additional operational costs to support programming that is not currently funded by grants	\$188,000
<b>Total Operating Referendum Revenue (\$0.10)</b>	<b>\$1,879,000</b>

# Proposed Spending Plan



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The most important action you can take is to **VOTE**. Mark your calendars for **May 7**, know your polling location, and consider early or absentee voting options to ensure your voice is heard.



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The referendum offers a vital lifeline to our schools, enabling us to **reduce class sizes, invest in our educators,** and continue building out **innovative programming**. This is our chance to secure a brighter future for all Brown County students.

By offering **competitive salaries** and professional development, we can **recruit and retain** the best educators, directly impacting the **quality of education** our children receive.

A strong school system **enhances property values**, attracts businesses, and prepares students for successful futures, **contributing to the economic vitality** and quality of life in Brown County.

**Every single vote** and voice in support of this referendum can help shape **a brighter future** for Brown County Schools. Together, let's take this step forward for our children, our community, and our **shared economic success** for the future.

While the tax increase represents a **modest adjustment** to our yearly expenses, the return on investment is substantial—**better-equipped schools**, improved student performance, and higher property values as our district becomes a **more desirable place to live**.

<b>PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN JACKSON 3</b> Vote For ONE (1) ONLY DUANE A PARSONS	<b>UNITED STATES SENATOR</b> Vote For ONE (1) ONLY MARC CARMICHAEL VALERIE MCCRAY	<b>COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3</b> Vote For ONE (1) ONLY JUSTIN P SCHWENK
<b>PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN JACKSON 4</b> Vote For ONE (1) ONLY LARRY L GARDNER	<b>GOVERNOR</b> Vote For ONE (1) ONLY TAMIE DIXON-TATUM JENNIFER G MCCORMICK	<b>COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE</b> Vote For NOT MORE THAN THREE (3) NO CANDIDATE FILED
<b>PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN VAN BUREN 1</b> Vote For ONE (1) ONLY JIM D KEMP	<b>UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 9</b> Vote For ONE (1) ONLY D LIAM DORRIS TIMOTHY (TIM) PECK	<b>STATE CONVENTION DELEGATES AT LARGE</b> Vote for NOT MORE THAN FIVE (5) JIM OLIVER NON-PARTISAN
<b>PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN WASHINGTON 1</b> Vote For ONE (1) ONLY TED ADAMS MICHAEL J MAGNER JOY MARTIN	<b>STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 44</b> Vote For ONE (1) ONLY NO CANDIDATE FILED	<b>PUBLIC QUESTION</b> Shell Brown County Schools increase property taxes paid to schools by homeowners and businesses for eight (8) years immediately following the holding of the referendum for the purpose of funding the Taxpayer Investment Plan which will include providing for teacher and staff salaries, benefits and programs and funding the Career Resource Center? If this public question is approved by the voters, the average property tax paid to schools per year on a residence would increase by 28.16% and the average property tax paid to schools per year on a business property would increase by 17.28%. The most recent property tax referendum proposed by the school corporation was held in November, 2022 and failed. YES NO
<b>PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN WASHINGTON 2</b> Vote For ONE (1) ONLY THERESA ANN COBIAN	<b>STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 62</b> Vote For ONE (1) ONLY THOMAS HORROCKS	
<b>STATE CONVENTION DELEGATES AT LARGE</b> Vote for NOT MORE THAN SIX (6) TED ADAMS PEARLETTA BANKS MARK BOWMAN TANNER BOWMAN JOSEPH HAVLIN MICHELLE HAVLIN JOY MARTIN BEN PHILLIPS DAWN SLACK RYAN SLACK	<b>JUDGE OF THE BROWN CIRCUIT COURT 88TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT</b> Vote For ONE (1) ONLY NO CANDIDATE FILED	
<b>DEMOCRATIC</b>	<b>COUNTY RECORDER</b> Vote For ONE (1) ONLY NO CANDIDATE FILED	
<b>PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES</b> Vote For ONE (1) ONLY JOSEPH R BIDEN JR	<b>COUNTY TREASURER</b> Vote For ONE (1) ONLY NO CANDIDATE FILED	
	<b>COUNTY SURVEYOR</b> Vote For ONE (1) ONLY DAVID KIMBERLY HARDEN	
	<b>COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1</b> Vote For ONE (1) ONLY TIFFANY ARDNT	

## PUBLIC QUESTION

Shall Brown County Schools increase property taxes paid to schools by homeowners and businesses for eight (8) years immediately following the holding of the referendum for the purpose of funding the Taxpayer Investment Plan which will include providing for teacher and staff salaries, benefits and programs and funding the Career Resource Center? If this public question is approved by the voters, the average property tax paid to schools per year on a residence would increase by 28.16% and the average property tax paid to schools per year on a business property would increase by 17.28%. The most recent property tax referendum proposed by the school corporation was held in November, 2022 and failed.

YES  
NO

The 28% increase represents the increase of the school's portion of the tax bill, and **not the overall property taxes paid by a homeowner.**

The referendum question calculates the average tax rate of the six taxing districts and then determines the amount paid by the average homestead in Brown County which is \$656.92

The school district's portion of this liability is \$374.05. The \$0.10 rate increase for the referendum is \$105.34 on the average homestead which represents 28.16% of the school district's portion of \$374.05.

Call  
to  
Action

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BROWN COUNTY  
SCHOOLS

Brown County kids are

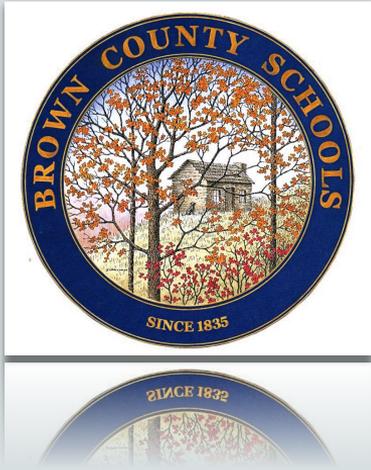
**WORTH IT!**



*Scan this QR code to register to vote  
online or visit [indianavoters.in.gov](http://indianavoters.in.gov).*

***Deadline to register is April 8***

***Early voting begins April 9.***



We urge you to vote in favor of the referendum. Talk to your neighbors, share the facts, and become an advocate for our schools. Let's unite for a brighter future and **vote 'Yes' on May 7**. Your voice and your vote is crucial.

Emily Tracy  
Superintendent

(260)460-7873  
[etracy@browncountyschools.com](mailto:etracy@browncountyschools.com)

