



Prescott School District
1220 St. Croix St.
Prescott, WI 54021

www.prescott.k12.wi.us

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New High School Referendum

The School District of Prescott

REFERENDUM INFORMATION

Referendum Date: April 1, 2014

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How To Vote

The spring election is Tuesday, April 1, 2014. To vote in Wisconsin you must first register to vote. You can start the registration process online at <https://myvote.wi.gov>. You can also register in-person at your local municipal clerk's office, with a special registration deputy, or at the polling place on Election Day. Election information is on the district website:

www.prescott.k12.wi.us

Click on the "2014 referendum" icon and then select "Election Information" from the list on the left to find the following:

- Voter Registration Guide
- WI Voter Registration Application
- Proof of Resident Requirements
- Absentee Voting Information
- Polling Addresses and Hours

If you lead a busy life, absentee voting is a great way to assure that you cast a ballot. With this method you can vote before Election Day to avoid missing out due to a busy schedule, vacation or other conflict.

Find out more at <http://gab.wi.gov/voters/absentee>.

Where To Vote

City of Prescott Voting Site:
Prescott City Hall
800 Borner Street, North
Prescott, WI 54021

Clifton Voting Site:
Clifton Town Hall:
W 11705 County RD FF
River Falls, WI 54022

Oak Grove Voting Site:
Oak Grove Town Hall
N4939 1100th St.
Prescott, WI 54021

Trimbelle Voting Site:
Trimbelle Town Hall
N5310 800th St.
Ellsworth, WI 54011

Diamond Bluff Voting Site:
Diamond Bluff Town Hall
W9870 290th Ave
Hager City, WI 54014

Polls are open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Attend the COMMUNITY FORUM

March 20 at 7:00 pm
Prescott Middle School

? Where Can We Get More Information?

The school board is committed to transparent communication about the research and recommendation for this solution. The community is encouraged to review past recommendations, evaluate the research and planning on this recommendation and develop an informed position so together we can provide the best opportunities for the future of Prescott students.

- All past and current planning documents are available on the district website: www.prescott.k12.wi.us.
- Contact Superintendent, Roger Hulne at 715-262-5782, rhulne@prescott.k12.wi.us, or any school board member.

Ballot Questions

Question 1

Question 1 would authorize the district to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$27,980,000 for the public purpose of constructing and equipping a new energy efficient high school on land owned by the District and completing related site improvements.

What This Means: Building a new high school will allow reallocating grades between buildings to create more space district-wide while eliminating rental costs:

- Malone: K-3 and Early Childhood Special Education
- Current Middle School building: grades 4-5, and community uses
- Current High School building: grades 6-8
- New High School building: grades 9-12
- More practice fields for outdoor recreation/education and Prescott Community Recreation
- Flexibility for changing educational trends
- A focus on energy efficient design features to reduce operating costs for the long-term

Question 2

Question 2 would authorize the district to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$4,260,000 for the public purpose of constructing and equipping an auditorium onto the new high school.

What This Means: The auditorium option is a second question to honor the price point the community would support as measured by surveys. A separate question also shows the true cost of this option as it provides:

- Dedicated performing arts space for students and community members
- Space will accommodate concerts, plays, meetings and more
- Provides ability for Prescott to host events with wider reach
- Existing gymnasium space will be available when no longer used for performing arts

Question 3

Question 3 would authorize the district to exceed the revenue limit by \$110,000 a year for the 2016-2017 school year through the 2019-2020 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of new high school operating expenses.

What This Means: The third question would provide additional funding needed to operate the high school.

- Costs analyzed for operating cost of four buildings include utilities, staffing to maintain student/teacher ratios, support staff, food service, and inflation
- Revenues analyzed include savings in rent and portable classroom costs, increases in state aid revenue, and enrollment projections
- Total increase of \$583,000 costs will be offset by \$483,000 in revenue due to increased enrollment, leaving \$110,000 as requested

What Will A New High School Cost?

The Tax Impact means the estimated mill rate increase over the 2013-14 mill rate. It is estimated that there will be no further increase in the mill rate for the District's future debt payments after 2014-15.

The mill rates of \$1.71 and \$0.35 would be added to the current debt mill rate for the first 11 years of the bond until the existing debt is paid off in 2025. The final nine years of the bond would remain at the same level as the combined debt, resulting in an even debt mill rate for the 20-year bond repayment period. The debt mill rate includes all costs of principal and interest for the bonds.

Assumptions:

- 20-Year Borrowings Phased In, 4.00-4.75% Interest Rate
- State Aid Applied: 13.83%
- Mill rate based on 2013 Equalized Valuation (TID-OUT) of \$644,152,767 with 0.00% annual growth for 1 year and 2.00% thereafter.

Question	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
Description	New High School	Auditorium Addition	Revenue Cap (4 Years)
Borrowing Amount	\$27,980,000	\$4,260,000	\$110,000
Max Mill Rate Impact <i>(per \$1,000 valuation)</i>	\$1.71 <i>(2014-15)</i>	\$0.35 <i>(2014-15)</i>	\$0.16 <i>(2016-17)</i>
Estimated Tax Impact on Property with Fair Market Value:			
\$100,000 Home			
Annual Impact	\$171.00	\$35.00	\$16.00
Monthly Impact	\$14.25	\$2.92	\$1.33
\$200,000 Home			
Annual Impact	\$342.00	\$70.00	\$32.00
Monthly Impact	\$28.50	\$5.83	\$2.67
\$300,000 Home			
Annual Impact	\$513.00	\$105.00	\$48.00
Monthly Impact	\$42.75	\$8.75	\$4.00

For more information, visit www.prescott.k12.wi.us

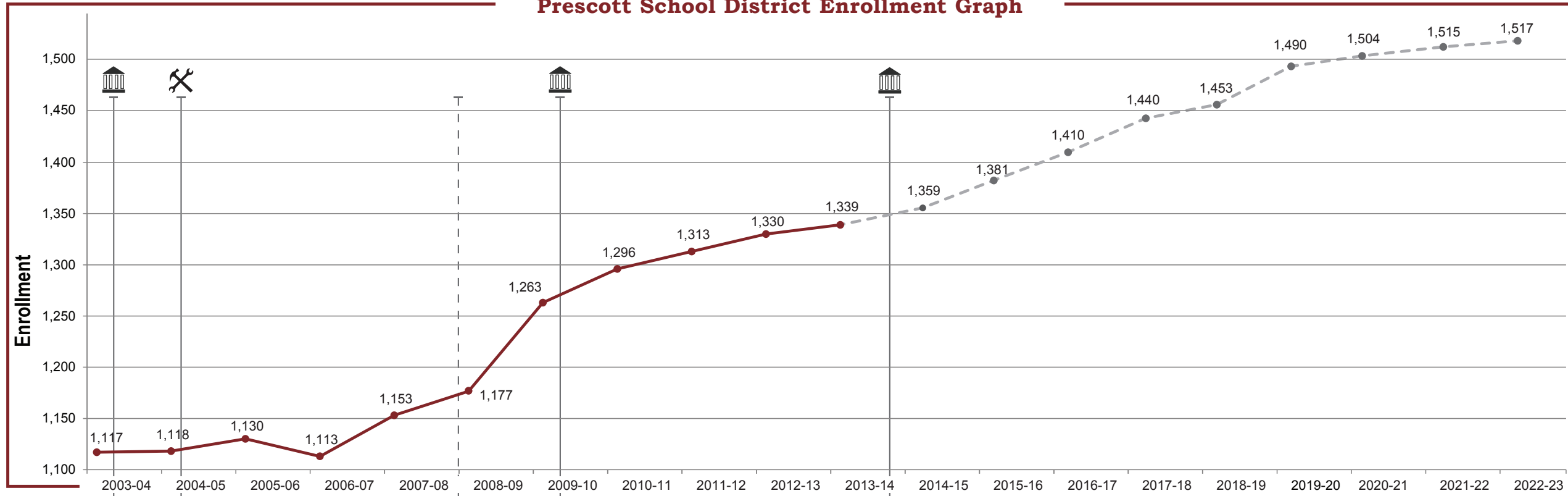


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**REFERENDUM
INFORMATION**

Prescott School District Enrollment Graph



Referendum History

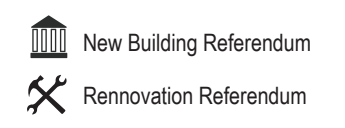
NOV. 2003
Construct an addition to current high school to enable serving grades 5-12. \$14,620,000. FAILED.

SEPT. 2004
Q1: Middle school renovation/addition; mold abatement. \$7,030,000. PASSED.
Q2: High school remodel/repair. \$1,755,000. PASSED.
Q3: High school addition and outdoor athletic field improvements. \$2,195,000. FAILED.

NOV. 2009
Construct an intermediate school addition for the 4th and 5th grade on the high school site. \$8,900,000. FAILED.

APRIL 2014
Q1: New high school on district-owned land, including alternate high school; convert current high school to 6-8 grade middle school; convert current middle school to 4-5 grade intermediate school with room for community uses; Malone to serve K3 and Early Childhood Special Education. \$27,980,000
Q2: Build an auditorium onto the new high school. \$4,260,000.
Q3: Exceed Revenue Limit by \$110,000 a year through the 2019-2020 school year. \$110,000.
Election: 4/1/14

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT
- The 10-year projections are based on research by the Applied Population Laboratory, UW-Madison.
- The figures are based on actual K-12 enrollment, excluding 4K and summer enrollment.
- These projections also do not include the impact of the new industrial park business on Prescott population and school enrollment.
- Growth is anticipated to increase approximately 2% per year based on average yearly trends.



What are the BIG Issues?

- Severe educational space constraints
- Closets converted to classroom space
- Education programs delivered in hallways
- Projected enrollment increases
- Lunch served at 10:50 a.m. at Malone to serve elementary students
- Portable classrooms at Malone
- Lack of green space at Middle School
- Limited field space and gymnasium space for community recreation and education programs
- Renting off-site space for Alternative High School and Early Childhood Special Education
- No dedicated space for performing arts

How Does This Proposal Solve Those Issues?

- Provides a long-term solution with ability to accommodate growth
- Utilizes investment in existing buildings
- Addresses space needs for educational programming without portable classrooms or rented space
- Provides an auditorium for performing arts
- Improves space for community use
- Upgrades programming for students closest to college and career choices
- Keeps grade levels together for efficient collaboration

What Happens If This Referendum Fails?

- The district will need to Implement short-term fixes such as:
- Larger class sizes
 - More portable classrooms at Malone and Middle School
 - Continue spending rent for off-site locations
 - Adjust the school calendar to create split programming or year round school
 - Reduce programming opportunities



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Why Now?

- Capacity issues exist at all three schools.
- Enrollment projections show continued growth.
- Educational trends require more space for special education and career readiness programs.
- Construction costs remain reasonable.
- Interest rates are at nearly historic levels.
- State aid is favorable based on current property values.
- District finances are very strong.
- District debt level is the lowest in the area.
- School tax levy is at lowest level in five years.
- A large new business in Prescott in 2014 is expected to impact enrollment and improve the tax base over time.

