



Darlington Community Schools

April 7th, 2026 Facility Referendum Information

What kind of referendum is this?

The school board has approved a “facility/bond” referendum for the April 7 ballot. This is different than an operational referendum which several other schools are asking for this April. See differences/definitions below:

Capital (Facility/Bond) Referendum - A bond/facility referendum question allows a district to issue a bond which loans us money (like a home mortgage) for facility improvements. Bond referendums can provide funds for improving existing facilities, and/or new construction. Like a home mortgage, after voter approval of a bond referendum, debt is issued into a repayment schedule to be paid back by the district. However, because we are retiring existing debt, there will be no property tax impact on the debt portion of the school taxes if our April 2026 referendum is approved.

Operational Referendum - An operational referendum seeks voter approval to override the state-imposed revenue limit to pay for general operating costs. By law, an operational referendum cannot be combined into a joint facilities referendum - they must be two separate questions. With an operational referendum, there is no bond issued (no loan to be paid back) rather, when voters approve a referendum, those increased dollars are generated through local property taxes. Darlington is NOT currently seeking an operational referendum.