

## What is a General Fund Referendum?

In 2007, Indiana School General Funds were financed partly by local taxes and partly by the State. In 2008, Indiana General Assembly changed this law. It made the State responsible for funding schools, thus taking over control and dictating what amounts each school received. This allowed the State to shift your tax dollars to fund charter schools and vouchers.

In 2008, the law was amended by the Indiana General Assembly to allow a school corporation to conduct a general fund referendum to increase the property tax levy through a special fund titled "referendum fund." This levy, by law, cannot exceed eight years and is intended exclusively to assist a school corporation in carrying out its public educational duty.

Because of nearly a billion dollars of State cuts to public schools since 2010, public school corporations have been forced to hold operating referendums.

## Please support RF by saying Yes! Referendum question as it will appear May 7

"For the eight (8) calendar years immediately following the holding of the referendum, shall the River Forest Community Corporation impose a property tax rate that does not exceed one dollar and nineteen cents (\$1.19) on each one hundred dollars (\$100) of assessed valuation and that is in addition to all other property taxes imposed by the school corporation for the purpose of funding teaching positions, staff positions, transportation services, and educational programming?"

## What will this cost me as a Homeowner?



\$1.76-\$10.80 a month



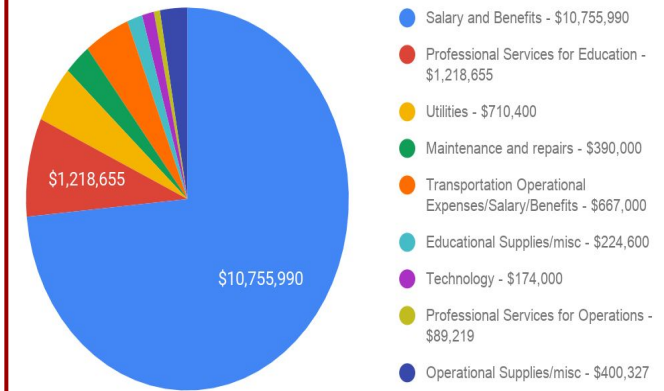
\$2.01-\$21.01 a month

Since there are 5 taxing districts in our school corporation and every home value is different, the above ranges are for illustrative purposes only. If you would like to see a more exact amount, please visit our online calculator at: [www.rfcsc.k12.in.us](http://www.rfcsc.k12.in.us)

## WHY DO YOU NEED TO VOTE YES?

- **River Forest continues to be one of the lowest funded - and therefore - poorest districts in the state.**
- **In addition, Indiana continues to poorly fund education as it ranks 16th lowest in education funding out of 50 States**
- **When you invest in our schools, and ultimately, the youngsters who go to them, you improve the value of your property**
- **RF is a very conservative borrower and ranks 20/23 lowest debt service/per student in NWI. While this has been very good for your tax bill, River Forest requires more to keep quality services going which, in turn, benefits all.**

## WHERE IS OUR MONEY GOING NOW?



## River Forest Academic Accomplishments from 2014 to 2019

In 2017 and 2018, the High School has received a "B" rating and posted a graduation rate of 84.9% and above.

We have seen ALL schools maintain their school grade level, raise their school grade level, or see a significant rise in overall scores in regards to the 2017 and 2018 ISTEP+ tests.

The Academic Decathlon Team has been a State qualifier for the past 5 years; a National Qualifier for two years.

The High School Spell Bowl team has been a State Qualifier for each of the last four years.

The High School Band Ensemble has received gold medals with distinction at State in 2018 and 2019

The High School Choir has been a State Qualifier each of the last 2 years, receiving a gold medal with distinction this past year. The High School Choir also had 5 soloists qualify and received 3 perfect scores.

The Middle School Robotics team received a first place award at the IUN Robotics competition and has qualified for the State tournament in each of the past two years.

The Middle School Spell Bowl team received State-Runner Up in 2019 and won the State Championship in 2018.

River Forest had a Lilly Scholarship Award winner in 2019. This is the most prestigious scholarship in Indiana.

River Forest has partnered with the Indiana Center for Workforce Innovations for the past two years. The partnership involves Workforce innovations providing career education opportunities and training for 70 River Forest juniors and seniors.

# What does the Referendum Fund?

## *Past and Future*

- Camp Tecumseh for expenses not covered by PTO
- Elementary Aides, salaries and benefits
- Middle School art teacher, salary and benefits
- Academic teams registration, fees and travel
- Alternative Education teacher, aide salary and benefits
- Summer School, teachers and aides salary and benefits
- Title III Aide, salary and benefits- (Bilingual Education)
- Professional development for teachers to improve schools and learning
- Chromebooks, replacement and repairs
- Custodian salaries and benefits
- Activity Bus Driver salary and benefits
- Security training and travel
- Band parade fees
- Band instruments and repairs
- Graduation expenses
- Building repairs and maintenance
- Parking lot, science rooms, lighting, painting, weight room, etc
- Miscellaneous sports equipment
- Soccer
- Community relations, newsletters, school alert phone system
- Building safety and security
- Extra-curricular trips, field trips, athletic trips,
- Supplies and materials for all levels of education
- MS Dean
- Middle School Math
- Class size reduction
- Remediation salaries and materials

## What will the New Referendum Fund?

All the above and all of our Transportation Services (busses, drivers, fuel, repairs, tires, insurance), Building Repairs to eliminate debt and added future costs. Utilities (NIPSCO), and property insurance.

