

Cape Henlopen School District Referendum Vote Set For May 21*

GET OUT THE VOTE!

(Summation of opinion points expressed on
"Your Turn, Delmarva")

The Rushed Tax Referendum!!!

How much will it actually cost you? The school administration can't say, because even they don't know...yet

The online "Cape Referendum Calculator" estimates your school tax increase based on today's assessed home value.

Later this year, properties will be re-assessed for the first time in a half century! That new (currently unknown) "assessed value" rate would determine how many extra school tax dollars the referendum proposal would cost you.

The referendum tax increase formula would be based on the November, 2024 reassessment value. Voters are being rushed into voting based on the unknown. **The County Council and the School Board say they *intend* to keep your November tax rate "revenue neutral", but please note that this is NOT a promise, nor is it placed in writing.** Furthermore, despite good intentions and verbal commitments to the contrary, the School Board has the right under the law to raise its school tax 10% in the year following re-assessment. (That would be in addition to the referendum school tax increase.) The school administration says it does not intend to advantage of that 10% increase, but *who knows how the world will change in the next year and what the needs will be?*

YOU WON'T KNOW UNTIL YOUR NEWLY ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE IS UNVEILED IN NOVEMBER OF 2024

WHY BE RUSHED?

Did you KNOW?...

- 90% of your County Tax Money already goes to the school district in a typical year?
- The School Board has the right under the law to raise its school tax 10% in the year following re-assessment, without your vote? That's on top of the proposed May referendum school tax increase.

WHO gets to vote?

- Any U.S. citizen age 18 or over who has a home address in the Cape Henlopen School District...*even if you are not registered to voter.* Bring proof of ID and address. Polling places listed below.

*Polling places: Cape Henlopen High School, Mariner Middle School, Beacon Middle School, Rehoboth Elementary School, and Lewes Public Library.

What you may wish to CONSIDER...

- The state typically agrees to chip in funding for school district “needs”? Why isn't the state contributing this time? Is the current referendum ask a “want”, rather than a “need”?
- A lawsuit was filed forcing Delaware counties to reassess property values. This will establish a new baseline for all future tax increases (County and School).
- How can the Cape School Board assure you that your tax rate will decrease after the special assessment tax reaches its peak in 2026, while at the same time insisting that they WILL get their swimming

pool moving forward and that additional school buildings will likely be needed as enrollment continues to rise?

- Why did the School Board's "need" to purchase roughly 50 acres of land at over \$147,000 per acre turn into an "ask" for 102 acres totaling \$15-million? "Need"... or "want"?
- Does any other school district in the state have its own fully equipped, \$6-million bus depot?
- Why is the School Board asking you to approve a tax increase for a multi-million dollar, multi-year plan that fails to address any specific academic initiatives/deliverables**?

**Cape Henlopen High School Academic Ratings:

- Math Proficiency: 28%
- Science Proficiency: 29%
- Reading Proficiency: 61%

Source, U.S. News and World Report, 2024