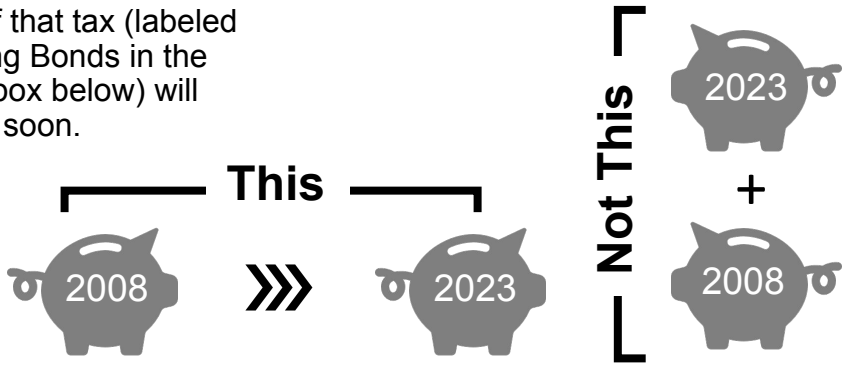
# Focusing on the Future: April 4th Referendum Fact Sheet

Unit 5 has a referendum on the April 4th ballot. This sheet has been created to provide the community with facts and information to help voters make an informed decision on April 4th. We invite you to attend one of the many information sessions to learn more.

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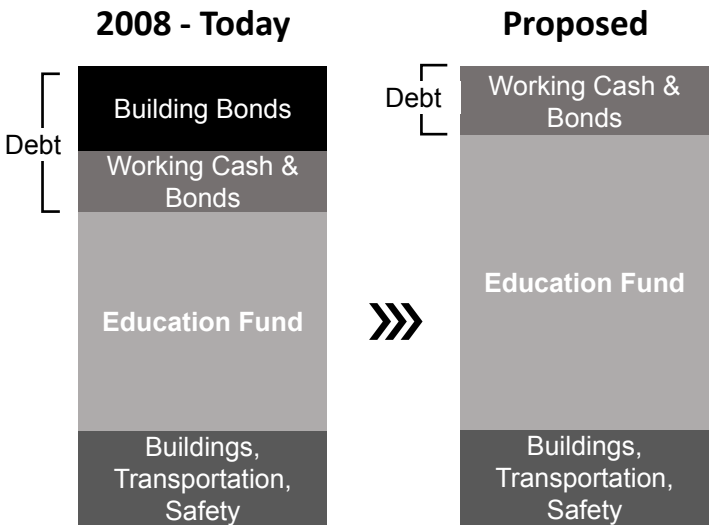
**Three Things to Know**

1. The Unit 5 taxpayer community came together in 2008 to pass a referendum.
2. Part of that tax (labeled Building Bonds in the black box below) will expire soon.
3. Unit 5 school board and administration are asking taxpayers **to keep it going. They are not** asking to add additional tax dollars.




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Taxes are divided up into different categories. The box on the left shows how the taxes look today. As part of the referendum vote, Unit 5 is seeking permission to **reallocate the boxes,** so that the funds can focus on students, not on debt.




Note: The box labeled Working Cash & Bonds will fall off within a couple of years.

**Why do they want to reallocate the funds?**

1. Everything costs more than it did in 2008: goods, services, teacher salaries, everything has increased with inflation.
2. The state has mandated increases in school expenses such as teacher salaries without additional revenue to fund these expenses.
3. Illinois State Proration and decrease in state funding of over $22 Million starting in 2008 was an unexpected change.

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## The future if the referendum PASSES:

**Safety & Security**
Improvements are needed to our buildings to ensure the safety of students

**Extra-Curricular & Co-Curricular**
Activities for students such as clubs, sports, band, and orchestra

**Smaller Class Sizes**
With better student to teacher ratio for academic success, resources and support services

**Property Values**
Remain in a steady state rather than decline with the quality of education

**Attractive Community**
For families to remain here rather than looking outside this community

**Competitive Enrichment**
Exposure to field trips, college prep classes, programs and modernized learning

## The future if the referendum FAILS:

**Regardless of the referendum, Unit 5 is dedicated to quality education,** but the reality is that we will have to make **cuts to People and Programs.**

- Reduction of hundreds of teachers, administrators and support staff.
- Elimination of clubs, athletics, music and art.
- Fewer enrichment and non-mandatory classes.

**Which will lead to:**

- Fewer educational opportunities
- Increased parent expenses
- Shorter school day
- Larger class sizes
- Closing schools
- An unattractive community

## The following reductions have already been approved for the 2023-2024 school year.

If the referendum passes the school board **will be able to reinstate the cuts.**

**Increasing** fees such as registration, gate fees, rental fees, etc.

**Eliminating** 5th grade band/orchestra, all junior high clubs, activities, and athletics for grades 6-8, and freshman only teams

**Eliminating** field trips

**Reducing** special education community outings and job sites for students with disabilities

**Limiting** the number of students traveling for out-of-town competition

**Reducing** of building and department budgets

**Reducing** administrators

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## Where do we go from here? What can I do?

We need to get the word out to our community about the value of our district, and what next year will look like with and without the referendum.

Please share this information with your friends and family.



**Additional information can be found on the Unit 5 website: www.unit5.org**

## Upcoming Events

**February 22**
Virtual Informational Meeting

**February 23**
Early voting begins

**March 8**
In-Person Informational Meeting

**April 4**
Election Day