



Redbank Referendum



I . What is the Redbank Valley school tax referendum?

- A referendum is a vote by school district residents to determine whether to approve a tax increase above the amount that a school board can approve on its own
- All registered voters in the district, regardless of political party or independent status, will have a question on the ballot at the **June 2 primary election** asking whether they support a tax increase

II . Why is Redbank having a tax referendum?

- The district has a projected budget deficit of approximately \$1.2 million, and the school board can only authorize a tax increase of about \$400,000
- The district has one of the lowest school property tax rates in the state, ranking 494 out of 500 districts in the state, and is the lowest in Armstrong and Clarion Counties
- The district has cut costs, spends less per student than the state average, and has more students per teacher than the average Armstrong and Clarion County school

III . What happens if the tax referendum passes?

- The budget will be balanced, and current programming and staffing will be maintained
- After the tax increase, the district property tax rate will rank 4th out of 7 Clarion County districts and 7th out of 8 Armstrong County districts if no other district raises taxes
- The average tax bill based on average assessed value increases \$267 in Clarion County and \$243 in Armstrong County

IV . What happens if the tax referendum fails?

- Local tax revenue will increase by approximately \$400,000 via the school board
- The budget will be balanced by cutting over \$800,000 in programming and positions
- Furlough of the librarian, a library aide, an elementary art teacher, an elementary music teacher, 2 elementary teachers, the Dean of Students, a high school secretary, and a nurse aide will occur
- Athletic trainer position will be eliminated, security spending will be reduced, extracurricular activities will be mandated to fundraise an additional 10% of their costs (they are already fundraising 5% of costs), and student extracurricular participation fees will double

V . How do I get more information?

- Referendum information including detailed information, frequently asked questions, and a personal tax increase calculator can be found at www.redbankvalley.net
- Referendum questions can be emailed to referenduminfo@redbankvalley.net
- Register to vote at www.votespa.com, county registration offices, or PennDOT license centers. Any registered voter can vote by mail, by applying beforehand at www.votespa.com.