

SCHOOL DISTRICT 45: REFERENDUM OVERVIEW



ESTIMATED TAX IMPACT

PROPERTY VALUE	MONTHLY COST	ANNUAL COST
\$250,000	\$17	\$208
\$275,000	\$19	\$231
\$300,000	\$21	\$254
\$325,000	\$23	\$277
\$350,000	\$25	\$299

WHAT WILL IT COST YOU?

Scan the QR code to estimate your tax impact using information from your 2025 property tax bill.



STRENGTHEN 45

A BALLOT PROPOSAL

District 45's tax rate referendum will appear on the November 3, 2026 election ballot.

The proposal would increase the tax rate by 26.7 cents, generating about \$4.4 million each year for District 45 schools. For the average district homeowner, the estimated cost would be about \$25 a month, or \$299 per year based on a \$350,000 home value.

LEARN MORE ON OUR WEBSITE:



Scan the QR code to learn more, attend a town hall meeting, view documents, and see frequently asked questions.

d45.org/Strengthen45

"If approved, the referendum would provide funding to help our district meet financial needs and support student programs and services."

Superintendent Dr. Brian Graber
School District 45, DuPage County



CONNECT WITH US:

Scan this QR code to ask your question or provide your feedback to School District 45.



SCHOOL DISTRICT 45: REFERENDUM OVERVIEW

D45 DISTRICT 45

Dear District 45 Community,

This fall, District 45 residents will be asked to consider a tax rate referendum to address the district's educational and financial needs.

District 45 has made important progress in recent years. Students are growing academically, schools are safer and more secure, full-day kindergarten is in place, and families have access to programs and student support across the district.

At the same time, District 45 receives less state and federal funding than the average school district in Illinois. The district has worked to make the most of every dollar by keeping administrative costs low and focusing resources on students, teachers and schools. However, funding simply has not kept pace with rising costs, and using savings to maintain programs is not a long-term solution.

The District 45 referendum question will appear on the November 3 ballot. If approved, it would provide more reliable yearly funding to support staffing, student programs, and services across the district.

Inside this document, you will find more information about the referendum, its estimated tax impact, possible outcomes, and upcoming town hall meetings. We welcome the opportunity to connect with community members, answer questions, and hear your feedback.

This is your community. These are your schools. Residents can review the information, visit our website, attend a town hall meeting, and learn more about the *Strengthen 45* plan.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Judy Degnan
Board President

Dr. Brian Graber
Superintendent of Schools

School District 45, DuPage County
255 W. Vermont Street, Villa Park, IL 60181
(630) 516-7700



HOW WOULD THE FUNDS FROM AN APPROVED REFERENDUM BE USED?

- ✓ Our schools would be able to support students by avoiding deeper academic cuts and restoring recent program cuts such as reading support, advanced academics, fine arts programming, and student intramurals and clubs.
- ✓ District 45 would strengthen its financial future while protecting home values and preserving the strong schools that contribute to the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

STRENGTHEN 45

SCHOOL DISTRICT 45: REFERENDUM OVERVIEW



District 45 students are growing academically, our schools are safer and more secure, and full-day kindergarten is in place. The district has also updated curriculum, improved learning spaces, expanded early learning and increased support for students. This progress reflects the hard work and commitment of our teachers, staff, families, school board, administration, and the entire community.

Making the most of limited funding

School District 45 receives less state and federal funding than the average Illinois school district. The district makes the most of every dollar by keeping administrative costs low and focusing resources on students, teachers and schools.

Strong programs, limited resources

Our schools offer a wide range of programs, services, and opportunities for students. However, funding has not kept pace with rising costs, including staffing, transportation, utilities, insurance and classroom materials.

Savings only go so far

The district has used savings to help cover funding gaps and protect student programs and support. This has helped maintain a positive student experience for several years, but savings cannot fill the gap indefinitely.

A financial decision ahead

Without additional revenue, District 45 would need to continue reducing student programs and services to balance its budget. Additional funding would allow the district to maintain or restore programs and support for students.

Strong schools, strong communities

Community members have expressed support for maintaining strong local schools. Strong schools can contribute to neighborhood stability, community pride and property values over time.

IF APPROVED, REFERENDUM FUNDING WILL ADDRESS SCHOOL AND STUDENT NEEDS BY:

- ✓ **Restoring student academic programs** by funding reading support, advanced academics, academic interventions, and student services.
- ✓ **Restoring student programs and opportunities**, including fine arts, intramural sports, clubs, and other activities.
- ✓ **Providing more reliable yearly funding**, reduce the need for deeper cuts, support facility maintenance, and help the district plan for future expenses.
- ✓ **Maintaining reasonable, responsible student class sizes** to ensure personalized learning and fiscal responsibility while avoiding overcrowded classrooms.



"Rising costs are affecting households, local organizations, and District 45. If the referendum is approved, the additional revenue would be used to address higher operating costs and maintain the programs and services that support a high-quality education for students in our community."

Judy Degan, Board President
School District 45, DuPage County

ATTEND A REFERENDUM TOWN HALL

Attend a town hall meeting to learn more about the referendum:

- Monday, August 3, 6:30 p.m.**
Westmore Elementary School
340 S School Street, Lombard
- Wednesday, August 12, 6:30 p.m.**
Schafer Elementary School
700 E Pleasant Lane, Lombard
- Saturday, August 22, 10:00 a.m.**
Jackson Middle School
301 W. Jackson Street, Villa Park
- Tuesday, August 25, 6:30 p.m.**
Ardmore Elementary School
225 S Harvard Avenue, Villa Park
- Thursday, August 27, 6:30 p.m.**
York Center Elementary School
895 14th Street, Lombard
- Wednesday, September 2, 6:30 p.m.**
North Elementary School
150 W Sunset Drive, Villa Park
- Tuesday, September 8, 6:30 p.m.**
D45 Early Childhood Center
251 Jackson Street, Villa Park
- Saturday, September 12, 10:00 a.m.**
Jefferson Middle School
255 W Vermont Street, Villa Park
- Thursday, September 17, 6:30 p.m.**
Stevenson Elementary School
18W331 15th Street, Lombard
- Tuesday, September 22, 6:30 p.m.**
Virtual (online) presentation

STRENGTHEN 45

STRENGTHEN 45

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OF AN APPROVED REFERENDUM:

d45.org/Strengthen45



Support strong property values



Avoid deeper cuts next year



Strengthen our schools' financial future



Maintain reasonable, responsible class sizes



Restore student reading support



Restore student advanced academics



Restore school clubs and activities



Restore fine arts and musicals