

SAMPLE BALLOT QUESTION & WAYS TO VOTE

SCHOOL DISTRICT 45: REFERENDUM OVERVIEW

Includes ongoing expenses for student support, such as specialized instruction, reading and math support, special education, bilingual services, occupational therapy and speech services.

Includes ongoing expenses for safety and security tools and infrastructure, such as emergency intercom and paging systems, communication tools, security cameras, fencing, door locks, lighting and signage.

Includes ongoing expenses for student learning, such as classroom instruction, advanced academic opportunities and support, and co-curricular and extracurricular programs.

Includes ongoing expenses that help keep schools and operations running, such as student transportation, building repairs and upkeep, utilities, heating and air conditioning, plumbing and electrical repairs, and district vehicle maintenance.

PROPOSITIONS

SCHOOL DISTRICT 45

PROPOSITION TO INCREASE THE LIMITING RATE

Shall the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for School District Number 45, DuPage County, Illinois, be increased by an additional amount equal to 0.2670% above the limiting rate for levy year 2025 for school purposes, including funding **instructional programming, student support and services, operations and maintenance, and safety and security** improvements, and be equal to 3.2229% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein for levy year 2026?

YES ☐ NO ☐



DISTRICT 45
SCHOOL DISTRICT 45, DUPAGE COUNTY
255 W. VERMONT ST. VILLA PARK, IL 60181

MORE VOTING INFORMATION

Scan for voting dates, locations and election details.



PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LOMBARD, IL
PERMIT NO. 85

2026 TAX RATE REFERENDUM VOTER INFORMATION

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

"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



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.

INSIDE: YOUR DISTRICT 45 REFERENDUM OVERVIEW

WAYS TO VOTE



VOTE BY MAIL
Registered DuPage County voters may request a vote-by-mail ballot.



PERMANENT EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS
Permanent locations are available beginning 15 days before the election, tentatively **October 19**.



VOTE EARLY
In-person early voting is tentatively scheduled to begin **September 24**.



VOTE ON ELECTION DAY
Polls are open **Tuesday, November 3**, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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 your local school board, teachers, staff, families, 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 Degnan, Board President
School District 45, DuPage County

STRENGTHEN 45

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OF AN APPROVED REFERENDUM:



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

ATTEND A REFERENDUM TOWN HALL

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

Monday, September 14, 6:30 p.m.
Stevenson Elementary School
18W331 15th Street, Lombard
[Spanish presentation](#)

Thursday, September 17, 6:30 p.m.
Stevenson Elementary School
18W331 15th Street, Lombard

Tuesday, September 22, 6:30 p.m.
Virtual (online) presentation

Saturday, October 3, 10:00 a.m.
Jefferson Middle School
255 W Vermont Street, Villa Park
[Spanish presentation](#)

Scan for town hall details and virtual registration.



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.



MORE ON OUR WEBSITE:

Scan to learn more, attend a town hall, view resources and get answers to frequently asked questions.

d45.org/Strengthen45



d45.org/Strengthen45