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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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At its meeting on July 10, the Arrowhead Union High School (AUHS) School Board authorized two referendum questions to be placed on the November 5, 2024 General Election ballot.

Facilities Referendum

Following multiple community listening sessions, presentations, Board workshops, and a community-wide survey, the AUHS School Board is moving forward in the process of a facilities referendum to fund the construction of a new high school. If approved by voters, the \$261.2 million high school will have an estimated tax impact of \$191 per \$100,000 of property value.

AHS currently operates two buildings, the North and South campuses. The separate buildings present significant safety concerns, as students and staff regularly travel between the two buildings throughout each day. In addition, the two-building structure is extremely inefficient, as multiple departments are duplicated at both buildings. This results in significant unused space on a daily basis and causes economic inefficiencies.

If approved, the project will be constructed as a single high school building on the existing AHS site. The proposed new school will include: modern academic and student collaboration spaces; appropriately sized cafeteria, competition pool, and auditorium spaces; and an indoor space for academic and athletic co-curricular programming. The current school buildings are rapidly aging and lack these features.

“The School Board thought long and hard about placing these referendum questions on the ballot,” said Board President Kim Schubert. “Ultimately, we decided to give voters the choice to invest in their community. The Board takes its responsibility to manage taxpayer funds seriously. At the same time, we know AHS has substantial facilities needs. We have not made a significant facilities investment in AHS in 25 years. Meanwhile, neighboring communities have recently invested hundreds of millions in their schools. Now is the time for voters to decide the future of AHS.”

"Before joining the Board, I was unaware of the age-related deterioration of our buildings, which were constructed in the 1950s and 1960s, as well as the safety issues and



inefficiencies of operating a two-facility campus. This lack of awareness was largely due to the visibility of the portions of our facilities that were donated, such as the football stadium, Mullett Ice Center, and basketball locker room. After touring local schools and witnessing new families relocating to areas outside the AHS school district, it became evident that we are quickly falling behind our neighbors." said School Board Treasurer Brandon Miller.

Operating Referendum

A four-year, \$1.9 million non-recurring operating referendum will also appear on the November ballot. If approved, the operating referendum will have a tax impact of \$2 per \$100,000 in each of the next four years.

"Adequate operational funding is crucial to the success of AHS," said Jeff Gross, Director of Business Services. "State funding has not kept up with inflation since 2009, while cost increases for utilities, insurance, supplies, transportation, special education and other services have not subsided. Absent painful budget cuts, operating referendums are the only way to maintain the essential services for student learning."

AHS' Next Steps

During the summer and fall, AHS will provide opportunities for residents to learn more about the facilities and operating referendum questions. The dates of informational presentations will be distributed via Facebook and posted on the AHS website.

For more information about the two referendum questions and AHS planning process, please visit: <https://www.arrowheadschooels.org/LRFP/>