



Essex Fells School District

102 Hawthorne Road
Essex Fells, New Jersey 07021

Referendum Information for Replacement of Roofs at Essex Fells School

REFERENDUM – MARCH 8, 2022

Total Project Costs to Replace All of the Roofs:

\$1,045,000.00

Project Cost Included in the Referendum:

\$600,000.00

The Board will contribute \$445,000 from the district's Capital Reserve Account.

Essex Fells School Roof Replacement Project

- ◆ Primary Building Flat Roof Demolition
- ◆ Primary Building Flat Roof Replacement
- ◆ Reseal Existing Skylights
- ◆ Replace Broken Skylights
- ◆ Elementary Building Flat Roof Demolition
- ◆ Elementary Building Flat Roof Replacement
- ◆ Elementary Building Shingle Roof Demolition
- ◆ Elementary Building Shingle Roof Replacement
- ◆ Replacement of All Gutters & Downspouts

What is the total cost of the referendum?

The total cost of the referendum is \$600,000 since the Board of Education is contributing \$445,000 from its capital reserve account. The State will contribute approximately 34% of the Principal and Interest.

Will my taxes increase?

If the referendum passes, Essex Fells residents will experience a tax increase of approximately \$78 per year for the average household of \$931,338 for 7 years beginning in July 2023.





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Perhaps you are wondering....

What is a Referendum?

A referendum allows a school district to ask its voters to authorize long term funding, in the form of bonds, to finance specific capital projects.

Why Now?

The roofs on the two school buildings are in disrepair and there have been an increasing number of issues including leaks. The roof systems that are proposed to be replaced are past or at the end of their life cycle and essential to the safe and healthy operation of our schools. The Board has decided to proceed with a referendum, in part, as a result of the low interest rate environment and the ability to receive up to 40% debt service aid (the state has been providing 34% debt service aid) on both the principal and interest on the bond payments. It is important to note that the State debt service aid is only available if the referendum is approved.

How do I vote?

If you are registered to vote, sample ballots will be mailed to registered voters with your polling location and poll times.

Why is the referendum not during the regular election in November?

The district has identified this construction as a critical need. The NJDOE allows School districts to hold referendum votes only at specific times during the year. March 8 is the best available date aligning with the preparation of the construction documents and the desired construction schedule for this year.