

Beecher Community Unit School District 200U

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Dr. Jack C. Gaham, III
Superintendent of Schools

June 28, 2022 Referendum FAQ

1. Why is Beecher 200U faced with a funding need?

In a tax-capped county, increased revenue is limited. Beecher added operating costs in personnel to keep class sizes small, expanded sports and activities, hired aides to help in the classrooms, removed asbestos from the ceilings and floors at the high school and elementary, replaced gravel roofs, repaired outdated boilers, updated the bus fleet, addressed playing fields, and other items needed to make the schools better and safer for our students.

2. What is the referendum money being used for?

The referendum money will directly address the operating costs. Operating costs are the yearly expenditures that keep our schools staffed, transportation moving, and buildings maintained. The money will be used to keep staffing levels, allow us to continue to address buildings needs (including 25 year old rubber roofs and 50+ year plumbing), upkeep the bus fleet that only gets more miles each year.

3. If it does not pass, will the HVAC project still be done?

This project was part of the reserves, not operating costs. It is being completed this summer and is not part of the referendum.

4. You keep mentioning operating costs vs. reserves, what is the difference?

Operating costs are the yearly expenditures to keep the schools running. *Reserves* are money used to offset an expenditure in a given year or to fund a larger project. To compare, *operating costs* are like a family's budget to get through the month and year. *Reserves* are like a savings account. You can use your savings to pay a bill, but it is not a practice you would want to use for a long time.

5. Can you explain what 5.75 means to me?

That is the rate Will County will use to multiple your EAV (assessed value) to figure out how much your property is taxed for the school. If you look at your 2021 tax statement, Beecher 200U has a **6.3528** rate listed next to it.

6. You keep saying EAV, where can I find mine?

It is listed on your tax statement for your home. In general, it is the total value of your property divided by three (3). \$300,000 property would have EAV (roughly) of \$100,000.

7. If my property value goes up, does the school get more money?

No. This is like a teeter-totter. If your property value goes up, your rate goes down. The school requests a total revenue from the county and they take the total (county/township) property values and divide the payments across all owners. The increase is limited to a CPI formula. The property values in Beecher went up **6.4%** last year. The revenue request went up only **1.9%**. See the YouTube video for more information on the teeter-totter example.

8. If the referendum does not pass, how will it affect my student?

Your student may experience increased class sizes, higher student to faculty ratio, less opportunities for sports and activities, aging buses, building needs not addressed in the immediate future, or other cuts to programming/staffing.

9. Where can I find more information?

All information can be found online at <https://www.beecher200u.org/referenduminformation>, on our Beecher 200U YouTube Channel, or on our Beecher 200U Facebook page.

10. Where can I get a sign?

They can be picked up at the school offices or requested through email referendum@beecher200u.org