

On **Tuesday, March 8, 2016,** the Island Heights School District will ask you to vote on a special reduced \$2.9 million bond referendum.

You Spoke...

We Listened.

The Community Spoke... The School District Listened.

Last fall, the Island Heights School District asked voters to approve a bond referendum to fund necessary improvements to the Island Heights Grade School. The referendum was not approved and many of you asked the district to consider other options. These included reducing the scope of work and related project costs or closing the school and bussing Island Heights elementary school students to a neighboring community.

You Spoke...We Listened.

The Island Heights Board of Education and Administration:

- **>** Brought together community members, parents and borough leaders to review the district's options and provide input on the future of the Island Heights Grade School.
- **>** Weighed the advantages vs. disadvantages of closing the school from a range of perspectives financial, educational and historical (See page two).
- ➤ Slashed the scope of work to the absolute minimum including roof repairs, HVAC and related mechanical upgrades, and improved security systems. This reduced the total project cost from \$4 million to \$2.9 million.
- ➤ Reduced the tax impact on the average assessed home from \$16 to \$12 per month.
- ➤ Ensured the district still qualifies for **state funding of 40**%.





Island Heights School District's tax rate is one of the *lowest* in Ocean County.

The rate may increase if Island Heights Grade School closes.



You Benefit When Island Heights School District Stays Open

For More Information: www.islandheights.k12.nj.us | 732.929.1211

	Island Heights Grade School Remains Open	Island Heights Grade School Closes
School District Status	IH continues as a full-functioning, high-achieving school district	IH becomes a non-operating school district; continues to incur state-mandated expenses without students
Property Values	The IH community retains one of its most valuable property assets – a high-quality grade school	IH homeowners lose one of the most influential amenities considered by homebuyers – proximity to good quality schools*
School Tax Rates	IH school tax rate, which has consistently been among the lowest in the county, is maintained	The school tax rate is determined by the district that agrees to a send/receive relationship with IH
Local Control	IH maintains local control of every aspect of the district – finances, facilities, curriculum, extra-curricular activities and grant funding	IH loses local control of the school district in a send/receive relationship with a neighboring district
Building Maintainance	Referendum funds repairs and upgrades to maintain a safe and energy-efficient school	District is responsible for ongoing maintenance of building and grounds
Administrators Salaries/Benefits	Salaries/benefits for superintendent, business administrator, board secretary, principal and administrative support staff are maintained	Non-operating district is required by state mandate to pay salaries and provide benefits for superintendent, BA and board secretary.
Student Safety & Security	The bond referendum funds upgrades to safety and security at the IH Grade School	IH depends on the safety and security measures implemented by the district that receives our grade school students
Transportation Expenses	Expenses remain flat	Expenses increase to bus students to neighboring district
State Funding	District takes advantage of current 40% funding	District loses 40% state funding for repairs and upgrades

*2014 National Association of Realtors Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers



If Island Heights Grade School closes taxpayers remain responsible for statemandated expenses - maintenance, transportation, administrators salaries/benefits