YOUV VOICE MATTERS

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...

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

Island Heights School District Bond Referendum *Tuesday, March 8, 2016*

EducationHistoryHeritage

YOW INVESTMENT MATTERS



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Highlights for Island Heights Homeowners

- Total project cost for necessary, no-frills repairs and upgrades is \$2.9 million
- State funding will be 40% of the estimated total project cost
- Estimated tax impact is \$12 per month for 25 years on a home assessed at the average value of \$382,223

Why a Referendum?

Built in the 1950s, Island Heights Grade School is in critical need of basic repairs and no-frills upgrades to maintain a safe and effective learning environment and energy-efficient facility.

The Referendum Will Fund:

- > HVAC upgrades for a new, healthier, energy-efficient system
- > New roofing, interior security doors and windows
- > Siding and stucco repairs
- Bathroom renovations to meet current plumbing codes as well as Federal ADA requirements
- > Replacement of original carpet
- > Safety improvements upgraded fire alarms, new exterior emergency lighting, gas generator for emergency power, phone & PA systems
- > Electrical service upgrades

Why Now?

- > Island Heights will receive 40% in state funding the maximum allowed for the total project costs.
- > The state funds are available and guaranteed only if the referendum passes.
- > Interest rates are low. Combined with the relatively low construction costs, this is an ideal time to move forward with facilities upgrades.
- > Community will save money on school district maintenance costs, which total \$40,000/year and will continue to increase as facilities deteriorate.

Island Heights Grade School

Highly regarded and widely recognized for high student achievement:

Among the Top 100 Schools in NJ Monthly

Real Estate site Zillow's top rating of 10





Good schools, like Island Heights Grade School, help build strong communities, bolster real estate values and insulate a home from market fluctuations.



Island Heights School District Highlights

- Serves 120 children in Kindergarten through 6th grade and employs 24 highly-qualified teachers and staff
- > Consistent enrollment since 1998 average of 115 students/year
- > Small class sizes
- > Full-year World Language for all grade levels
- > Integrated STEAM Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math
- > Technology Chromebooks, iPads, Laptops
- > Music, Art and Physical Education
- > Enrichment for all grade levels
- Character Education
- > Federally funded new Basic Skills Program for all grades
- > After-school activities for grades 2-6
- Participates in Sustainable Jersey for Schools program
 going green to save money and earn grant funding
- School open to and generates revenue from rental to community groups of all ages
- A School Choice District additional funding brings greater stability to school operations

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