

**FOR FURTHER ANSWERS, CONTACT:**  
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Answers to our community's questions from the Vote Yes! for Paris Committee's door-to-door conversations.

# PARIS SCHOOL REFERENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Tuesday, JUNE 9th**



## STAND UP FOR PARIS SCHOOL

### YOUR YES! VOTE:

#### GUARANTEES

that we keep our decision-making local and our tax dollars in our own school district.

#### GRANTS

a three-year timeline for the Paris Board of Education to resolve the budget crisis.

#### GIVES

Paris School students a future at one of the best schools in Wisconsin!

# LOCAL CONTROL = QUALITY EDUCATION • PARIS SCHOOL = STRONG COMMUNITY

## WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT SAVING PARIS SCHOOL?

- Because our community has a 30-year history of embracing quality education. Low class sizes and superior education standards make Paris School one of the best schools in our state! LOCAL CONTROL of Paris School keeps our property values up, keeps our school tax dollars in our own district, and keeps our legacy of quality education moving forward.
- If Paris School is forced to dissolve, we all will be subject to the State of Wisconsin's redistricting policy. We will then pay the school tax of the new district PLUS additional taxes to cover the costs of educating our students. These additional taxes will be levied without referendum.

According to the website [greatschools.net](http://greatschools.net), Paris School is "among the few public schools in Wisconsin to receive a distinguished GreatSchools Rating of 9 out of 10." This rating is based on a comparison of standardized test results for all public schools in Wisconsin.

## PARIS SCHOOL WON'T REALLY DISSOLVE, RIGHT?

- Wrong. If the June 9, three-year, non-recurring referendum does not pass, Paris School will be forced to file for dissolution by the August 1 dissolution deadline. Taxes will go up an undetermined amount to support a new school district and Paris School, one of the best-performing schools in Wisconsin, will be gone forever. If the June 9 referendum passes, our community will retain LOCAL CONTROL of Paris School and we will control our maximum three-year tax levy.

## WHAT ABOUT THE PARIS TOWN BOARD? WHAT ABOUT ECONOMIC STIMULUS MONEY?

- To date, the Paris Town Board has allowed no public discussions about funding Paris School.
- Paris School may receive up to \$60,000 in American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds which, in their entirety, may be used to support Title 1 and Special Education programs only. This stimulus money is not enough to resolve Paris School's budget issues.

## CAN LOCAL CONTROL FOR THREE YEARS HELP THE PARIS SCHOOL BUDGET CRISIS?

- Yes. Passing the June 9 referendum provides time for the Paris Board of Education to enact further spending controls and hold teacher negotiations in July. Retirement expenses will decrease in coming years and funding of the Paris School Foundation by public and private donors will provide additional capital. With this budget plan in place, The Paris Board of Education is committed to levying less taxes than the maximum referendum amounts.

Paris School teachers are committed to Paris School, as well, and have issued this statement through their Union:

"The Paris School contracts are negotiated every two years. The present contract expires June 30, 2009. The teachers recognize the need to continue to collaborate in good faith. Teachers and the Paris School Board alike, are committed to working together to maintain quality education for Paris students." — Paris School Teachers

## ARE ANY OTHER SCHOOLS HAVING SIMILAR BUDGET CONCERNS?

- Yes, especially smaller, rural schools. Paris School receives funding based on enrollment. With declining enrollments statewide, smaller schools suffer a greater proportion of funding loss than larger schools. In addition, there is a State funding formula flaw that provides less funding for districts that are property rich with low population.

**VOTE YES! TO KEEP OUR STUDENTS AND OUR COMMUNITY STRONG!**