

Dear Monticello School Community,

The unofficial results for the Monticello School District Referendum are in. I am saddened to share that all three referendum questions have failed. The unofficial totals are:

Question 1: 1,056 Yes Votes, 1,842 No Votes

Question 2: 980 Yes Votes, 1,914 No Votes

Question 3: 956 Yes Votes, 1,944 No Votes

I want to say thank you to all that turned out to vote in favor of the Monticello School District referendum.

There is no doubt that we are disappointed in the result, and I would be lying if I said that I'm not still reeling a bit from the impact this will have on our staff and students. We understand that raising taxes is always a tough ask. We felt, and continue to feel, like the value, the impact and the need merited the ask.

The reality is that this isn't an issue that will go away anytime soon, unless the State of Minnesota or federal government changes the way they fund school districts. Therefore, we will continue to explore options for financially supporting our staff, students, and programs in the way that they deserve. But the harsh reality we now face is that the failure of the referendum means there will be significant budget reductions this year.

This, of course, is the life of a public school district. We've been through these cuts before, as has every district around us. They will sting, and the impacts will be felt by many. However, we're fortunate to have countless great leaders and educators that will continue to do everything that we can for our students.

Lastly, and most importantly, our fight for funding is far from over. We will continue to explore new avenues, from grant funding to lobbying the state, until we feel our funding allows us to give our students and staff the resources they need and deserve.

I'm going to end my message with the same sentiment I shared at this time last year. Thank you to all of you that exercised your civic right by voting in this election. We remain proud of how engaged and active this community is, and we are proud and grateful to be a part of it.

Superintendent Eric Olson