



BUS REPLACEMENT FACT SHEET

Proposition #2: Bus Replacement

AT NO FINANCIAL IMPACT TO TAXPAYERS, voter approval of this proposition would authorize the District to purchase and pay for five 75-passenger school buses at a cost of approximately \$155,000 each; one wheelchair accessible van at a cost of approximately \$58,500; and one utility vehicle (truck) costing approximately \$39,000 for a total cost not to exceed \$872,500. This proposition will be funded from surplus funds available within the general fund. These funds will be transferred to the capital fund.

Funding:

As a result of negotiating a change in the District's health insurance plan and other contract modifications during this past fiscal year, the District has surplus funds available in the 2013-2014 budget which will be utilized to pay for both this referendum and the track and field replacement project. The funds to complete the project are currently on hand. There is no need to borrow or tax for any portion of the bus replacement proposition or the track and field

Q. Why do the buses need to be replaced?

A. The Transportation Department is responsible for a total of 89 buses and vans, some of which are more than 10 years old with high mileage leading to increased maintenance costs. Some of the current buses are at the end of their useful lives.

Our buses are carefully inspected twice per year by the NYS Department of Transportation. The DOT notifies us when a bus is nearing the end of its useful life. The new vehicles are replacing older buses and vans that were showing signs of rust and general wear and tear, with maintenance costs that outweigh the cost of replacement. These new vehicles ensure safety, reliability and durability and lower the District's bus maintenance costs.



Rust, as shown on the buses pictured above, is one of the concerns affecting the aging buses in need of replacement

Questions and Answers

Q. Will this proposition impact my taxes?

A. No, this proposition will NOT impact taxes since the District has the monies available to fund it. The District will utilize \$872,500 from the general fund for proposition 2 (buses). No borrowing or tax increases are necessary.

Q. Why is there a separate proposition for bus replacements if the District is following a normal replacement cycle? Why do we need to vote in order to enable the District to use its own funds?

A. Even though the District plans to utilize monies from its general fund for the replacement buses, voters must authorize the District to transfer these funds to the capital fund in order to complete the purchase. Voter authorization is required to move funds from the general fund to the capital fund.

Q. Why are five new buses needed when we are experiencing declining enrollment?

A. The District's enrollment is declining, but it is still responsible for the transportation of all students. The District covers a large geographic area which requires a consistent number of bus routes.

The District's buses and vans are not only used to transport students to and from school each day; they are also utilized for purposes such as field trips and athletics. The wheelchair-accessible van enables the District to accommodate students with special circumstances so that they may be provided the same opportunities and services as students riding standard buses. The current buses continue to age and need replacing. There comes a point when it is more cost effective to replace the buses rather than repeatedly repair them.

Q. What happens to the buses that are being replaced?

A. The buses that are to be replaced will either be auctioned publically and sold to the highest bidder or utilized for parts that can still be salvaged.

Bus Replacement Plan History

- Bus replacements have been included as a separate proposition for the past several years.
- For the 2013-14 school year, the District borrowed in order to continue the bus replacement cycle. For the 2014-15 proposition the District would use its general fund surplus to purchase the buses with no need to borrow and no impact to taxpayers.
- The replacement buses that have been purchased in the last several years are equipped with modern safety devices. The standard 78-passenger buses contain Thomas rear engines and the latest pollution control

features. The buses and wheelchair-ready van recently purchased also have interior cameras and "On Spot" safety chains for winter weather conditions.

The wheelchair-ready van, which is essentially a small bus, contains interiors that allow for a variety of seating configurations. This allows the ability to accommodate a combination of up to six wheelchairs or 24 students. The wider vehicle provides more comfort and has improved securement tie-downs for wheelchairs. Unlike vans with manual ramps, the newer van has automatic lifts that have the capacity to handle 400 to 600 pounds.