UNDERSTANDING THE BOND REFERENDUM 

HELPING YOU PREPARE FOR THE NOVEMBER 8 VOTE
This November 8, a question will appear on the general election ballot asking voters to vote **YES** or **NO** on whether Albemarle County should issue **General Obligation Bonds** to finance improvements at 25 of the County’s 26 schools.
One-third of our students currently attend overcrowded schools.

Across the division, we’re using more than 40 trailers to meet the learning needs of our students.

We’re double-busing preschoolers from Agnor-Hurt and Greer to Broadus Wood.

Four schools still lack controlled entrances.

Many classrooms across the division lack adequate power and natural light and no longer meet instructional needs.
THE REFERENDUM PROJECTS

The four referendum projects were recommended by the school division’s Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee, comprised of citizen volunteers from across Albemarle County. The projects then were reviewed and approved by the Albemarle County School Board and the Board of Supervisors.

1. School Security Improvements
2. Woodbrook Addition, Modernization & Renovation
3. Learning Space Modernization
4. Western Albemarle Science Lab Addition & Modernization
SCHOOL SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS = $2.9M

PURPOSE
Complete division-wide project to establish controlled entrances at all schools so visitors are routed to a school’s main office and restricted from direct access to classrooms

- Construct small additions to relocate administrative offices to the front entrance of four schools: Baker-Butler Elementary, Scottsville Elementary, Henley Middle, and Murray High
- Repurpose vacated office space for instructional use
WOODBROOK ADDITION, MODERNIZATION & RENOVATION = $15.2M

PURPOSE
Reduce overcrowding and use of trailers at Woodbrook, Greer and Agnor-Hurt elementary schools

► Add 16 new classrooms, including three to support potential expansion of preschool services available to the Woodbrook, Greer and Agnor-Hurt communities

► Add full-size gymnasium

► Improve the school’s existing spaces, including modernizing classrooms and the media center, renovating bathrooms, and expanding the cafeteria
LEARNING SPACE MODERNIZATION = $10.9M

PURPOSE

Address deficiencies in existing instructional spaces that lack adequate power, natural light, and appropriate furniture, and update science labs that no longer meet instructional needs

- Modernize 25 middle and high school science labs
- Modernize nearly 100 classrooms by increasing electrical outlets, improving access to natural light, and updating furniture
WESTERN ALBEMARLE SCIENCE LAB ADDITION & MODERNIZATION = $6.0M

PURPOSE

Increase the number of science labs to support full implementation of the Environmental Studies Academy and improve existing science labs to support modern instruction for all WAHS students.

- Modernize seven existing science labs that are original to the school’s construction in 1978
- Add three new science labs
25 OF THE COUNTY’S 26 SCHOOLS WILL BENEFIT

- Security Projects
- Individual School Projects
- Modernization Projects
WHY GENERAL OBLIGATION (GO) BONDS?

► Backed by the full faith and credit of the issuer (Albemarle County).
► Offer lower interest rates than our typical financing options.
► Require approval from the voters to be used for financing.
Albemarle County’s current real estate tax rate is $0.839 per $100 of assessed value.

If the four referendum projects are financed by the bond proceeds, it may be necessary for the Board of Supervisors to increase the real estate tax rate by the equivalent of approximately 1.3 cents.

For the median home value in Albemarle County ($285,000), a 1.3 cent real estate tax increase would increase the annual real estate tax bill by $37.05.
AS SCHOOL QUALITY IMPROVES, SO DO HOME VALUES

► The deciding factor for nearly one-third of all home buyers is the quality of schools.—Nat’l Association of Realtors

► 33% of home buyers would pay 5 to 20% more for access to good schools. 50% would sacrifice nearby shopping areas for a good school. 33% would settle for a smaller home for a good school. 20% would give up a bedroom or garage for a good school.—Realtor.com

► For every additional $1 in state spending for education, the value of a house in the school district increases by $20.—Nat’l Bureau of Economic Research
IMPORTANT INFO FOR VOTERS

Albemarle County encourages its citizens to vote. Find links to important voter information, such as how to register to vote, find your polling location, or request an absentee ballot, on the website at: www.albemarle.org/BondReferendum

September 29
Absentee ballots become available

October 17
Voter registration deadline

November 5
Last day to vote by absentee ballot in person

November 8 – Election Day!
Mailed absentee ballots must be received on or before this date.