

Questions From Our Residents – Value for Our Senior Citizens

How will this impact seniors on fixed incomes with no children or grandchildren in the schools?

As has always been the case in the past, the entire community bears the cost of the referendum. But, having said that, the Florham Park District structured this referendum keeping in mind the tax impact and is attempting to minimize the increase in taxes to pay for these projects. Specifically, if only question #1 passes, the tax impact will be felt for approximately three years and because of the close proximity to current debt expiring in 2022, beyond that year, the residents will experience a net reduction on average. If both questions pass the total tax impact on average will be \$48/year over 20 years.

In addition, what we hear from realtors and real estate professionals in town is that the first question that potential homeowners ask is “How is the School District?”. Keeping our facilities up to date means higher property values for all.

With respect to seniors on a fixed budget, the State does have a senior tax freeze. Seniors can apply and if they qualify, they will not bear increase in their real estate taxes. See www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ptr/

In addition, by paying for these projects over 20 years, the cost of the improvements is spread over the many generations that will use the facilities. If the Board were to undertake these improvements in the budget over several years, the impact would be felt in just those years and those families that move into town going forward would not be paying their fair share.

In terms of community benefit, the community impact will be the continued support of both the Adult School of the Chathams, Madison and Florham Park as well as The Jerry Gibson Theater. Both organizations are important to the community and our facilities are important to them. Both will benefit by our inclusion of renovations to our classrooms and auditorium. The facilities are public spaces as you are aware and can be used by the Florham Park Seniors Group, The Rotary Club, American Red Cross to name a few if desired in accordance with our policy.