

MONTEVIDEO PUBLIC SCHOOLS Just the Facts

RIGHT PLAN. RIGHT NOW! Winter 2026 Bond Referendum for Buildings Vote on or before February 10, 2026



Montevideo is a community of connection, learning, and growth. It's a place where the vast horizon of farms and prairie fields reminds residents of their independence and their interdependence, where differences are acknowledged and shared values of family, faith, and community create lasting bonds.

Our schools serve as the backbone of that community, and have critical facility needs that must be addressed. The **Right Plan. Right Now! Bond Referendum for Buildings** provides a solution to address the most urgent needs.

THE RIGHT PLAN. RIGHT NOW! BOND REFERENDUM FOR BUILDINGS IS ABOUT:

- * A new, fully equipped performing arts center for student and community use.
- * Plumbing improvements at the high school.
- * Updated learning and gathering spaces at the high school (Science labs and home economics/FACS classroom, weight room, and cafeteria).
- * Enhanced security at Sanford and Ramsey Elementary Schools, and the Middle School.

A PHASE 2 PLAN TO ADDRESS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

- * Our elementary schools, built in the 1950s, are crowded and have significant facility challenges that must be addressed.
- * The school district will consider these facility needs in the future. The School Board has stated that another referendum will NOT happen before 2033.

THE NEED

The **Right Plan. Right Now! Bond Referendum for Buildings** projects are a direct result of extensive stakeholder engagement to select the most urgent facility needs impacting student learning. **Look inside our schools to see the needs:**



Elementary and middle school visitors enter & have full school access without office check-in.



All music performances are in the HS Gym with poor sound & bleacher seating.



Students use multiple downtown buildings for costume changes during theater performances at the Hollywood on Main theater.



HS cafeteria is too small, requiring multiple lunch periods, and has outdated equipment.



HS science classrooms are cramped, labs are outdated, and gas lines are inoperable for experiments.



Plumbing under the FACS room sink (pictured) is beyond repair. Six plus years ago, a company cut through the wall to access and clean the pipes during a 2-3 month process to make repairs at each station.



HS plumbing is original and beyond repair. Pipes are clogged and urinals overflow often.



HS weight room is cramped, outdated, and inefficient for instruction and athletics.

THE PROCESS

In summer 2024, the district surveyed the community to identify priorities for Montevideo's schools. The following year, district leaders engaged staff through meetings and surveys to gather their input. **The feedback from both efforts shaped the proposal that will appear on the February 2026 Right Plan. Right Now! Bond Referendum for Buildings ballot.**

WE HEARD YOU! THIS REFERENDUM IS DIFFERENT

The Winter 2026 **Right Plan. Right Now! Bond Referendum for Buildings** represents a more focused, fiscally responsible approach:

- * Smaller investment, bigger impact. We've significantly reduced the dollar amount from the previous bond referendum, ensuring we're asking taxpayers only for what's truly essential.
- * One clear question. Instead of a complex ballot with multiple items, voters will answer a single, straightforward question — making it easier to understand exactly what you're voting for.
- * Strategic priorities. We've listened to community feedback. This referendum focuses on critical facility needs and does not include a new elementary school, keeping the scope manageable and costs down.
- * Future focused. This referendum is a streamlined proposal that addresses our most pressing needs without overreaching.



Montevideo Public Schools
2001 William Avenue
Montevideo, MN 56265

THE PLAN

The one-question bond referendum addresses serious needs within the district:

The Winter 2026 **Right Plan. Right Now! Bond Referendum for Buildings** represents a more focused, fiscally responsible approach:

- * A performing arts center addition on the west end of the high school would support band, choir, and theater programs performances, including rehearsal spaces, practice rooms, a green room, set construction/storage spaces, and prop storage rooms. This space will also be designated as the school’s storm shelter to meet MDE’s requirements.
- * Security enhancements at the two elementary schools and middle school.
- * A new weight room to address existing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) challenges.
- * Renovations at the high school to address deteriorating plumbing, outdated science rooms, ADA compliance, undersized and outdated learning spaces, outdated library/media center, and undersized cafeteria spaces, and the outdated home economics/FACS classroom.

THE COST

The owner of a home valued at \$200,000 would pay an additional \$22 per month in property taxes (\$264/year) if the referendum is approved.

Tax Impact on Three Home Values

Home Value	Monthly	Annually
\$150,000	\$15	\$180
\$200,000*	\$22	\$264
\$400,000	\$50	\$600

*Average home value.



Tax Calculator

Scan the QR Code to access the Tax Impact Calculator to determine your personal tax impact. The Ag2School Tax Credit is reflected in the tax calculator.

Or go to:

www.ehlers-inc.com/calculator/montevideo2026/#calculators

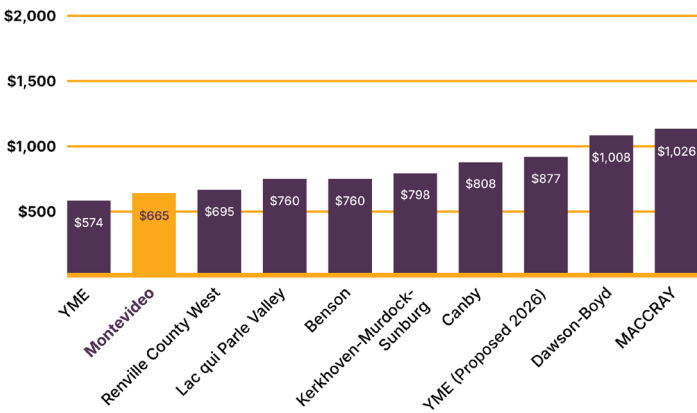
Did You Know? The Homestead Credit Refund is designed to provide tax relief to low-income homeowners whom the state has determined are paying too much in property taxes. The Homestead Credit Refund has powerful benefits for households with income less than approximately \$139,320 — many households in the Montevideo Public School District may qualify for this refund. The refund is based on:

- * Total household income
- * Home value
- * Total property taxes paid

For more information:

Call the Ehlers School Finance Team at 651-697-8500.

Montevideo School District
Comparable School Taxes



The State of Minnesota will pay approximately **\$15 million** of the referendum through the Ag2School Credit program.

DO YOU OWN AGRICULTURAL LAND?
A 70% Tax Credit is here for YOU!

If you own agricultural land, the State of Minnesota will pay for a large portion of the total referendum project through the Ag2School Tax Credit program. This is an automatic reduction of property taxes paid — you don’t need to take any action! The legislature successfully passed this legislation in the 2017 session and it remains today.



CONNECT WITH US

Call: 320.269.8833
Email the Superintendent: jskjeveland@montevideoschools.org
Visit the Referendum Website at: www.MontevideoReferendum2026.com
Social: www.facebook.com/Montevideoschools

Vote on or before February 10, 2026
Early voting begins on Friday, December 26
Make a plan to cast your vote

Vote early at the Chippewa County Auditor’s Office
629 N. 11th Street, Montevideo, during their regular
business hours: 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday