

DATE: Release Date: 03/07/05
TO: Board of Education
Interested Citizens
FROM: Active Citizens for Education
Don Severson, President
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RE: Polling Costs for Proposed May, 2005, Referenda (using **2003** cost figures)

On the Channel 27 early morning news, February 3, 2005, Tara Arnold and Roland Beres interviewed Bill Keys, President of the Board of Education of the Madison Metropolitan School District. The topics included the proposed school district referenda projected to be held in May, 2005. Mr. Keys stated "the April election is typically low voter turnout and that's part of the reason we chose to go with the referendum in May." He also went on to say there aren't any real contests making it a hot priority for voters. He further stated that "it's only \$15,000 more (\$90,000) to wait until May rather than go for the April election, which will only cost \$75,000."

Here are the FACTS regarding the costs to the school district associated with referenda polling. The following information was obtained from the City Clerk of Madison, Dane County Clerk and the clerks of the municipalities listed below.

The **ONLY** cost billed to the school district for referenda included in regular county-wide balloting is the cost of graphics and wording space on the ballot. This cost is variable and dependent upon the number of referenda questions to be put to the voters and the extent of the wording used for each question.

All other costs of special balloting for referenda at a time other than a regular county-wide ballot are billed to the school district. The costs billed, based upon **2003** figures, include:

- \$61,000 City of Madison costs including legal fees, notification costs with print media, placement of voting machines and labor costs (on site 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. plus) for site officials, volunteer stipends and other associated costs.
- \$10,000 Estimated costs for approximately 40,000 ballots printed at approximately \$.25 per ballot. The city determines the number of ballots to be printed, authorizes that number to the county which orders the printing. The printed ballots are delivered and billed directly to the city.
- \$10,950 Dane County charges of \$150 each for memory pack coding of 73 voting machines

\$?	County charges for graphics and percentage of space on ballots for referenda questions
\$700	Town of Madison for polling site costs (labor, etc.)
\$800	Shorewood Hills for polling site costs (labor, etc.)
\$389	Maple Bluff for polling site costs (labor, etc.)
\$504	Blooming Grove for polling site costs (labor, etc.)
\$No Cost*	Burke for polling site costs (labor, etc.)
\$No Cost*	Westport for polling site costs (labor, etc.)
\$3000	Fitchburg for polling site costs (labor, etc.)
\$No Cost*	Town of Middleton for polling site costs (labor, etc.)
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\$87,343 total	(without ballot graphics and space costs) reported by the Clerks of Dane County and affected local municipalities based on 2003 billings for the special school referenda balloting in June.

*No Cost entry indicates that the handful of households with eligible voters in a Madison School District special referenda balloting in those municipalities are referred to a nearby Madison polling site; therefore, there are no polling costs incurred.