

# Key Points – Referendum '08

## Vote April 26, 2008

- **Transform learning:**

Providing more computer access in all schools and moving children out of mobile classrooms, coupled with existing programs to strengthen teaching and curriculum, help children learn.

- **Good Value:**

This \$162,735,000 building program will cost a county resident \$16 a year more on a \$200,000 home in Beaufort County in the initial year. At its highest tax impact, the referendum will cost about \$24 more a year to the resident owner of a \$200,000 home. The total facilities improvement program with referendum and 8% projects will cost that same resident homeowner about \$44. Even with those increases, residents' property tax bills will be substantially lower than in years past.

- **Good investment:**

The project list includes buying land at **today's** prices, potentially saving taxpayers millions of dollars in coming years, and building at current prices – construction costs have skyrocketed the past five years.

- **Accountability:**

The project list includes just the “**must-haves.**” More than a year of study by the school district and Associated Planning & Research/Kelley Carey, with three months of review by the School Board, created the Referendum '08 plan. Items not critical and essential to our mission of educating children were removed, revised or postponed.

- Six community Town Hall meetings were held across Beaufort County in November to share information about the five-year facility plan and to seek public input to the plan.
- The referendum ballot includes two **new schools** and two **new early childhood centers** to solve the crowding in Bluffton, **renovations** to solve outdated schools, **technology infrastructure** to help students learn in today's world, and **land**.
- Both the elected School Board **and** the Citizens Capital Improvements Advisory Council will provide accountability for projects.

- **Benefits:**

Build

- 2 new elementary schools in Bluffton area
- 2 early childhood centers for existing Bluffton schools
- 650-seat Beaufort Auditorium to serve the Beaufort Cluster
- Battery Creek High wrestling building
- Numerous remodels to P.E. rooms and others

Land for future savings:

- Sites for three Bluffton-area schools and one on Lady's Island

Renovations at all schools, technology upgrades at all schools.

All Beaufort County students, staff and community will benefit from these much-needed improvements.