

Vote Yes for Indianapolis Public Education Campaign Launches Campaign Announces Co-Chairs and Advisory Committee Members

Campaign Kickoff

INDIANAPOLIS, IN — Today, the Vote Yes for Indianapolis Public Education Campaign officially launched its privately funded effort to support all public schools within the Indianapolis Public Schools boundary. The campaign kickoff was held at Shepherd Community Center, located at 4501 East Washington Street in Indianapolis.

Dr. Karega Rausch, newly named Executive Director of the Indianapolis Public Education Corporation, and IPS Superintendent Dr. Aleesia Johnson announced the campaign co-chairs and advisory committee members who will help coordinate community education and build public support for the referendum on the Indianapolis ballot this fall.

The Indianapolis Public Education Corporation is the legislatively created Indianapolis municipal corporation charged with conducting the referendum on behalf of all public schools within the IPS boundary.

Campaign Co-Chairs

- Diane Arnold, former IPS Board member and Board President
- Marianne Glick, Chair of the Board of Directors for the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Family Foundation
- Bart Peterson, former Mayor of the City of Indianapolis
- William Shrewsberry, former Deputy Mayor and longtime Indianapolis community leader
- Morgan Snyder, parent of an Indianapolis Public Schools student

Advisory Committee Members

- Barato Britt, President and CEO of the Edna Martin Christian Center
- Marlin Jackson, former Indianapolis Colt and active Indianapolis community member
- Jay Height, Executive Director of Shepherd Community
- Tom King, longtime community and business leader
- Lacy Johnson, Partner Taft Law Firm, Indianapolis
- Tony Mason, President and CEO of the Indianapolis Urban League
- Venita Moore, former IPS Board member and Board President
- Andrew Neal, CEO of Outreach Inc.
- Max Siegel, CEO of USA Track and Field
- Ahmed Young, President and CEO of the Indianapolis Foundation

Community Support and Campaign Purpose

“Our purpose today is simple: to make sure we can continue to invest in our young people, our neighborhoods, and our families,” Executive Director Rausch said. “This referendum campaign—and the incredible team assembled here today, along with many others—is united in the belief that we must invest in our children. This referendum will allow us to commit more

dollars to classroom education, provide safe and reliable transportation, and continue attracting and retaining the best teachers for our community.”

“Make no mistake: our challenges are many, and they will remain even after we successfully pass this referendum,” said IPS Superintendent Aleesia Johnson. “But the community support we see today—and the support we will continue to build throughout the fall—will help ensure that all public-school students have access to a world-class education right here in our hometown of Indianapolis.”

About the Referendum

In creating the Indianapolis Public Education Corporation, the Indiana Legislature transferred responsibility for conducting an operating referendum to the Corporation. Following a several-week public process, the Corporation passed a resolution on June 22, 2026, to pursue an operating referendum seeking a rate of .372 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

If approved, the referendum would replace the current IPS referendum rate of .19 per \$100 of assessed valuation, which expires on December 31, 2026.

"This 2026 operating referendum isn't a luxury request; it is the foundation of our district's financial survival and operational stability. Winning in November won't solve every systemic challenge we face, and there are still incredibly hard choices ahead. However, this referendum gives our community an opportunity to stand for one another and make a commitment to our children's future," said IPS Superintendent Aleesia Johnson.

Referendum ballot language is available [here](#), as required by Indiana statute. Beginning this year, new referendums will be shared with all public-school types within the district that passes a referendum.

Campaign Website and Ways to Get Involved

In addition to announcing the campaign co-chairs and advisory committee, the Vote Yes for Indianapolis Public Education Campaign also launched its campaign website. The website will share information about the campaign, explain where additional funding would go, and provide opportunities for individuals and organizations to contribute financially or volunteer their time.

The link to the website can be found here:

<https://www.yesforindianapolispubliceducationreferendum.com/>

About the Campaign

The Vote Yes for Indianapolis Public Education Campaign is the privately funded arm supporting the Indianapolis Public Education Campaign. Public dollars cannot be used to advocate for passage of the referendum; all activities of the Vote Yes for Indianapolis Public Education Campaign are privately funded.

Media Contact

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