



Bond Referendum

What is a bond referendum?

A bond referendum is a provision permitting voters in a school district to accept or reject the granting of school board authority to issue (sell) bonds to generate revenue for the purpose specified in the referendum. Authorized expenditures include acquiring, building, enlarging, furnishing, or otherwise improving buildings or school grounds, or for any other exclusive use of the public schools within the district.¹ Prior to a bond referendum, a school board must adopt a resolution authorizing that an election be held for the purpose of determining whether bonds shall be issued for the stated amount and purpose. The resolution must be approved by the Department of Education prior to school board adoption.² The bonds are generally issued for a 20-year period and are repaid with property tax revenue.

How many school districts have approved bond referendums?

Since the 1985-1986 fiscal year, 19 school districts have approved bond referendums totaling \$2.68 billion. The table below provides a summary of the school districts with approved bond referendums.³

<i>School District</i>	<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Amount of Bonds (millions)</i>
Alachua	1988-1989	100.0
Broward	1986-1987	317.0
Charlotte	1987-1988	37.0
Duval	1986-1987	199.0
Flagler	1988-1989	19.3
Hernando	1987-1988	44.0
Indian River	1990-1991	61.4
Leon	1987-1988	86.1
Marion	1986-1987	60.0
Miami-Dade	1987-1988	980.0
Osceola	1986-1987	40.7
Palm Beach	1986-1987	317.0
Pasco	1986-1987	62.0
Putnam	1986-1987	22.0
St. Johns	1988-1989	47.0
St. Lucie	1995-1996	60.0
Seminole	1985-1986	105.0
Volusia	1985-1986	112.0
Wakulla	1994-1995	8.0
TOTAL		2,680.0

¹ Section 1010.40, F.S.

² Section 1010.41(3), F.S.

³ Email, Florida Department of Education (Aug. 12, 2008).

Where can I get additional information?

Florida Department of Education

Office of Educational Facilities

(850) 245-0494

<http://www.fldoe.org/edfacil/>

Florida House of Representatives

Appropriations Committee

(850) 488-6204

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>

Florida House of Representatives

Education Committee

(850) 488-7451

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>