

On March 20, Berwyn Park District is asking voters in Berwyn to approve a tax rate increase that will generate revenue for additional staffing related to maintenance and recreation operations, and planned and future capital needs. This increase would result in an extra tax of \$21.86 – or \$1.82 per month – \$.42 per week - \$.06 per day for the owner of a home with a fair market value of \$100,000.

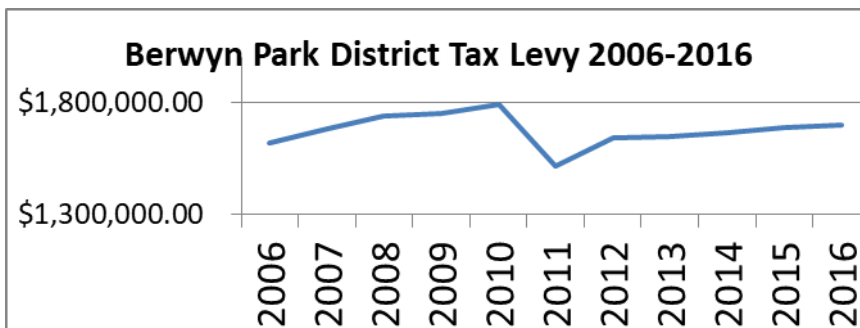
Berwyn Park District Ballot Question:

Shall the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for the Berwyn Park District, Cook County, Illinois, be increased by an additional amount equal to 0.078% above the limiting rate for levy year 2016 for park purposes and be equal to 0.414% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein for levy year 2017?

Why is Berwyn Park District asking residents for this referendum?

We are asking residents to approve a tax rate increase that will generate revenue to hire additional park maintenance and recreation personnel, to remain competitive with other employers particularly for part time and seasonal staffing wages, and to help fund costs of planned and future capital projects. Some of these projects include playground replacements, facility upgrades, park pathway replacements, and soccer field renovations among other projects.

The Berwyn Park District Tax Levy and Budgets have remained relatively flat for several years as referenced in the following graph. The Park District obtains its revenues through property taxes, users' fees, and grants. The Park District is seeking the increase in order to continue to meet and exceed the expectations as expressed by the residents.



How much is the referendum?

The referendum would generate an estimated \$300,000 per year, which would be used to help operate and maintain Park District Facilities and programs. The Berwyn Park District currently receives \$.0286 cents from every resident's tax dollar. The approximate cost to the owner of a \$100,000 fair market value home would be about \$.06 per day, \$1.82 per month, or \$21.86 per year.

Property taxes help support and maintain 13 park sites which include 8 playgrounds, 1 synthetic soccer field, Freedom Park Children's Waterpark, Karban Dog Park, 2 baseball/softball fields, and 4 facility locations including Proksa Park, Freedom Park, Sunshine Maintenance Facility, and Liberty Cultural Center; among other activities and locations.

What are some examples of planned and future capital needs for which the referendum funds will be applied?

- The replacement of park pathways throughout the park system.
- Replacement of playground equipment at several parks including Freedom, Sunshine, and Proksa Park in the next few years.
- Freedom Park Synthetic Soccer Field surfacing replacement
- Facility roof replacements including Proksa Activity Center, Freedom Park Children's Water Park, and the Liberty Cultural Center.
- Facilities – just like a family home – are always in need of repairs, big and small. Plumbing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), electrical

Where do my property taxes go?



Percentage of Tax Dollar by Agency	%
City of Berwyn/Library	34.25
Berwyn South School District 100	29.02
J. Sterling Morton Dist. 201	21.01
Morton Community College	4.4
Cook County	3.86
Berwyn Park District	2.86
Metro Water Reclamation Dist. Of Greater Chicago	2.62
Township	1.98
	\$1.00

Berwyn Park District tax rate compared to area park districts

2017 Park District Tax Limiting Rates	
Park District of Forest Park	0.791
Oak Park Park District	0.616
Hawthorne Park District	0.555
Mc Cook Park District	0.446
Clyde Park District	0.433
Park District of Franklin Park	0.379
Summit Park District	0.357
North Berwyn Park District	0.348
Forest View Park District	0.344
Berwyn Park District	0.336
Broadview Park District	0.324
River Forest Park District	0.296
Maywood Park District	0.281
Bridgeview Park District	0.206

Why is the referendum question being asked now?

Going back to at least 2006, the park district levy has been relatively flat. And while the Board of Commissioners continues to believe in a very fiscally responsible approach to the budget and operations, our current staffing and maintenance needs exceed our budget. Residents expect more of their park facilities and recreation programs and we need to be competitive to attract and retain quality staff.

What happens if the referendum is not approved?

Without the passage of the referendum the park district will have to further delay important maintenance projects and not staff appropriate to the needs of the district. Even with passage, we can't fund every need in one year. There is also the possible elimination of free special event activities and increased park program fees. The Board of Commissioners would prioritize which facilities it is able to update and repair with available funds as well as which programs and events to maintain.