

Referendum Editorial-Kaley Stroup

On November 4, when you or your parents go to vote, you're voting for more than just the president, you're voting to determine how severely budget cuts will impact Madison schools for the next three years. If you haven't heard, there's a referendum on the ballot November 4, and it's critical that Madison votes yes. The vote you cast on November 4th decides who will be the president of the country for the next four years, but it also determines how strong of an education you and your younger siblings and friends will receive during that time.

A referendum is where the entire voting population of an area gets to vote yes or no on a certain issue. In this case, the question is whether or not to allow MMSD to exceed their state revenue limit. What this means is that property taxes would go up an average of \$33.5 a year for the next three years (based off of a \$250,000 home). With \$35 million in cuts since 2001, the answer seems fairly simple. At a very minimal cost to taxpayers, we can prevent a total of \$13 million in cuts over the next three years. \$13 million. Think about that for a minute. How have you already been affected by budget cuts? 4th grade strings? Buses to sporting events? Italian? What will be next?

We the students are the ones affected by this referendum, but unfortunately, many of us will not have a say when it comes to Election Day. We are far from helpless, however. There is so much we can do to help, and one of the easiest things to start with is simply talking to your parents. Make sure they know what they are voting for on November 4, and make sure they're thinking of you when they're casting their vote. Tell neighbors, tell friends, relatives, and co-workers. We may be young, but we are powerful, and we are the future.