

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PRESS CONTACT**

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## **ICYMI: Two Madison Elected Officials Endorse School Referendum**

MADISON, Wis.— This week, [State Senator Risser publicly announced his support for the two referenda that will appear on the November ballot](#). Senator Risser is the longest serving state legislator in the United States and has represented the City of Madison and the Village of Shorewood Hills since 1962.

“I am proud to endorse the referenda to support Madison public schools, our students, and staff. The time is now to invest in our students’ futures while supporting them through the COVID-19 pandemic, and together these referenda provide the crucial investment to do so.”

Risser’s endorsement comes on the heels of an [op-ed in Madison365](#) from Savion Castro a member of Board of Education of the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD), outlining why Madison needs these referenda. Castro is a MMSD alumni and is the youngest member to ever serve on the Board of Education.

“As a board member and former MMSD student, I see firsthand the tragic inequities and manifestations of systemic racism in our school system. While we have made progress recently, it is not enough. Given our budgetary environment, we need to reinvest in high leverage equity strategies we know will have an impact to build even more academic momentum for our scholars. These referenda are vital to achieving the goals of justice, equity, and excellence in education for all students.”

Melinda Heinritz, the Executive Director of Schools Make Madison Advocacy highlighted the broad generational support that exists for the referendum campaign. “Senator Risser and MMSD BOE Member Castro bring such unique and distinct experiences to their roles representing the Madison community, yet, they both

understand the important role that our schools play in the community, and the need to pass both referenda to help move our district forward. We are honored to have their support.

The “Vote Yes 2 Invest” campaign is a coalition of community and business leaders, local families, educators and education advocates, working in support of the proposed Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) referenda. The “Vote Yes 2 Invest” Campaign is powered by Schools Make Madison Advocacy, Inc., an affiliate of the Foundation for Madison’s Public Schools.

Learn more at <https://yes2investmsn.org/> and stay connected on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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