



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FRANKFORT PARK DISTRICT  
Borg Warner Referendum Results**

The Frankfort Park District had a Non-Binding referendum on the April Consolidated election regarding the purchase of property. This year, Borg Warner announced they are closing the Frankfort plant at the end of 2021. The Board and staff saw this as a unique opportunity to evaluate the property for possible improvements that would allow for increased recreation programs and facilities designed to enrich the lives of Frankfort residents.

The Park District had a non-binding referendum question on the ballot to gauge resident's support of the Park District purchasing and renovating the property that would result in a tax increase. The election results indicated that 56% residents supported the Park District looking further at the acquisition and opportunity of the Borg Warner site. *The non-binding advisory question did not affect property taxes for residents.*

The Park District is moving forward with the next steps that will include engaging the community, developing an architectural design and cost and an operating budget for the proposed facility. As the District moves forward through the process, decisions will be evaluated on when the Binding Referendum question would go before the residents for an approval of the purchase of the property. Executive Director Gina Hassett said "the tough work begins now! It is important that the Park District fully evaluate the property, the construction and operating costs to make sure we know what it will cost and can the District afford the investment. Staff has heard there continues to be buzz about the opportunity. We are excited to hear that, but we have got to do our due diligence for the community."

The park district would need to pass a binding referendum to issue bonds to purchase and renovate the property. The earliest the questions would be posed would be in March of 2022. If the community supported a binding referendum, it would be approximately two years from the vote before the space would be occupied.

The acquisition of the site will allow the park district to consolidate aging facilities that need significant capital investment while providing a recreation campus for indoor and outdoor activities. Consideration of amenities for the Borg Warner plant include but are not limited to swimming, turf fields, sports, preschool, fitness and more. Information on the non-binding referendum can be found on the District's website at <https://www.frankfortparks.org/frankfort-park-district-referendum-overview/>

To impact property taxes, the district would need to have a binding referendum which, if successful, would provide funds to purchase and renovate the property. The next opportunity that could be done would be in 2022, impacting the 2023 property taxes.

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