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**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** Dr. David Russo, Superintendent  
Ms. Courtney Whited, CSBO  
Lincolnwood School District No. 74

**FROM:** Brian R. Bare, Esq.

**SUBJECT:** Building Bond Referendum

**DATE:** September 12, 2025

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I understand that the Board of Education is considering the process of a ballot referendum for authority to sell bonds that would allow the District to both renovate and expand Todd Hall, specifically with the intent to allow CCDC to continue to be a tenant. The next regularly scheduled election in Illinois is the General Primary Election to be held on March 17, 2026.

The School Code does not prescribe an exact form of a building bond resolution. Attached to this memorandum are three versions of a referendum question. All of these track closely to Section 19-3 of the School Code.

The three options are presented in increasing level of detail. In general, we typically recommend avoiding excessive detail in the language of a bond referendum, to avoid any concern that this limits the Board's authority on the use of the bond proceeds. In addition, where the third option provides multiple dollar amounts, there is a concern that this might introduce confusion over the total amount of the bond issuance. The alternative to including these higher levels of detail in the language of the referendum would be to simply include these facts in the District's public statements about the intended use of the funds. The District is allowed to distribute factual information about the nature of the referendum, so long as the District does not advocate for or against the proposition.

Before we make a final selection and prepare the resolution, it would be prudent to discuss these options with the District's financial advisor, the District's bond counsel, and, if possible, Cook County election officials. The deadline for local governing boards to adopt a resolution to place a referendum on that ballot is December 29, 2025. (10 ILCS 5/28-2(c).)

**Conclusion**

The referendum and bond issuance process is lengthy and detailed. We look forward to continuing to assist the District and working with your financial advisor and bond counsel as we have done before. As always, if you or the Board of Education members have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### **Option A**

This is the most simple language option that would meet all necessary legal requirements.

Shall the Board of Education of Lincolnwood School District Number 74, Cook County, Illinois, build and equip an addition to Todd Hall School and alter, repair, and equip Todd Hall School, and issue bonds of said School District to the amount of \$12,100,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?

### **Option B**

This option provides further detail beyond the basic language above. This language is underlined for your reference, and it provides a textual description of the reasons for the building addition (preschool and childcare), as well as for the building renovation (general school).

Shall the Board of Education of Lincolnwood School District Number 74, Cook County, Illinois, build and equip an addition to Todd Hall School to create space for the operation of infant through preschool and childcare programs and alter, repair, and equip Todd Hall School for general school purposes, and issue bonds of said School District to the amount of \$12,100,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?

### **Option C**

This option provides additional detail beyond the expanded language above. This language is underlined for your reference. In addition to the textual description of the reasons, it also provides separate dollar amounts for both components.

Shall the Board of Education of Lincolnwood School District Number 74, Cook County, Illinois, build and equip an addition to Todd Hall School to create space for the operation of infant through preschool and childcare programs at a cost of \$7,100,000 and alter, repair, and equip Todd Hall School for general school purposes at a cost of \$5,000,000, and issue bonds of said School District to the total amount of \$12,100,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?