

VOTE APRIL 2 PLEASE CAST AN INFORMED VOTE



All eligible school district voters may cast their ballot on election day, April 2, at their normal polling location. Polls are open 7 AM - 8 PM on election day. Voters are required to provide photo identification at polling locations. To learn more, visit: MYVOTE.WI.GOV



Why is there an Operations Referendum?

State revenue limits over the last 15 years have not kept up with the pace of inflation. For example, Brighton School spends approximately \$11,800 per student annually; and can collect revenue for \$11,000 per student. As a comparison, in 2020 the state average cost of educating students for Wisconsin public schools was \$12,740 per student.

What is the total amount being requested?

The referendum question is asking permission to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by:

- \$200,000 for the 2024-2025 school year
- \$225,000 for the 2025-2026 school year
- \$250,000 for the 2026-2027 school year
- \$275,000 for the 2027-2028 school year



What would the Operations Referendum dollars be used for?

The Operations Referendum is intended to maintain current educational programming (small class sizes, guidance program, Spanish class, advanced math) and to take care of annual and ongoing maintenance needs. Examples of these items are: HVAC repairs, resealing blacktop, plumbing repairs, rotation for staff/student desks and chairs (some are over 35 years old, and maintenance of electrical systems and technology needs.

What if the state of Wisconsin changes its approach and begins to fully fund schools like they did approximately 20 years ago?

This is not anticipated. The decisions to place revenue limits AND reduce state aid to schools were largely designed to place the responsibility locally. Less money from the state implies either unsupported schools or increased local support via referendum.

"Where stars are made!"



VOTE
APRIL 2



How does a passed referendum impact the taxpayers?

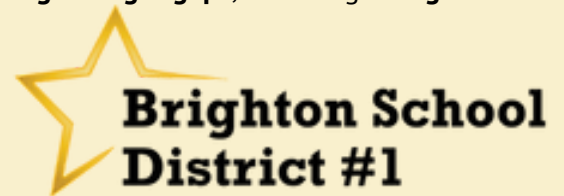
- A passed referendum means an **estimated tax increase average** of **\$5.60 per month** (the cost of a fast food meal), or \$67 annually on a property value of \$100,000. The **duration of the increase is 4 years**.

Why go to Referendum Now?

- Due to stagnant state aid and increased inflation, **annual budgets cannot address prioritized needs**.
- The **average cost** to educate **one student** in Wisconsin public schools is **nearly \$13,000**. Due to state revenue limitations, schools may only collect taxes for \$11,000 per student (without a referendum).
- The district's **reserved funding can no longer sustain** regular budget shortfalls.
- **Without** a referendum the district **will need to short-term borrow to bridge budget gaps**, resulting in **high interest rates**.

What if the Referendum doesn't pass?

- **Staff reductions** necessary.
- **Class sizes will increase**, possibly combined classes.
- Regular building and grounds **maintenance cannot be completed** when necessary.
- **Reduced program offerings** i.e. reduction in guidance program, athletics, band, Spanish, small group advanced math classes



Learn more
about the
**OPERATIONS
REFERENDUM**

SCAN ME

