WINTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM NOVEMBER 3, 2026
INFORMATIONAL PACKET

"WORK"

School District of Winter

Craig Olson, District Superintendent – colson@winterwarriors.org
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

MISSION STATEMENT / PILLARS OF EXCELLENCE

BOARD OF EDUCATION

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERIES SCHEDULE

OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM MEETING SCHEDULE

OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM FLYER

STUDENT ENROLLMENT HISTORY

PROJECTED BUDGET INFORMATION

WHY DID WE GO FROM $2 MILLION TO $1.5 MILLION, AND WHAT WAS CUT?

REFERENDUM PASSES - “WHAT WILL THE MONEY BE SPENT ON?”

REFERENDUM FAILS - “WHAT WILL BE CUT?”

REFERENDUM FAILS - DISSOLUTION PROCESS SUMMARY

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

"WORK"

WINTER'S PILLARS OF EXCELLENCE

- STUDENTS HEALTH & SAFETY
- PARENTS & COMMUNITY
- STAFF
- CURRICULUM & ACADEMICS
- EXTRA CURRICULARS
- FACILITIES & FOOD SERVICES
- FINANCES
- SCHOOL BOARD

WINTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

"WORK"

"WINTERIZE IT"

Rooted In

Small Town Values

www.winterwarriors.org

Winter School District
Board of Education

Greg Ripczinski - President

Joseph Bodo - Vice President

Andrew Winiarczyk - Treasurer

Donna Knuckey - Clerk

Mike Kinsley - Member

Desiree Velazquez - Member

LET'S "WORK" TOGETHER

WINTER SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERIES

Please join us for the following community engagement events scheduled for the next six months. These meetings will be interactive/transparent sessions to discuss all things regarding the Winter School District. These community engagement events will provide all stakeholders with the opportunity to ask questions and provide individual feedback on the direction of the Winter School District. Mr. Olson will be leading these sessions and is looking forward to a very collaborative series of events. If you have any questions, please contact Craig Olson at 715-631-1050. As always, if you would like to schedule a special event, please reach out to Craig, and he will get your requested event scheduled. The event dates and times are as follows:

May 18th	**5:00 p.m.**	**Winter Barry Bay Auditorium**
June 15th	**5:00 p.m.**	**Winter Barry Bay Auditorium**
July 20th	**5:00 p.m.**	**Winter Barry Bay Auditorium**
August 17th	**5:00 p.m.**	**Winter Barry Bay Auditorium**
September 21st	**5:00 p.m.**	**Winter Barry Bay Auditorium**
October 26th	**5:00 p.m.**	**Winter Barry Bay Auditorium**

Win the Day!
Craig



MEETING Dates

WINTER SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUM
INFORMATIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE

DATE	GROUP	LOCATION	TIME
SEPTEMBER 8	VILLAGE OF WINTER	WINTER VILLAGE HALL	5:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 14	TOWN OF DRAPER	DRAPER TOWN HALL	5:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 21	WINTER SCHOOL DISTRICT	AUDITORIUM	5:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 21	REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING	SCHOOL LIBRARY	7:00 PM
OCTOBER 4	CHURCH CONGREGATION	ZION LUTHEREN CHURCH - WINTER	11:30 AM
OCTOBER 6	TOWN OF WINTER	WINTER TOWN HALL	4:00 PM
OCTOBER 26	WINTER SCHOOL DISTRICT	AUDITORIUM	5:00 PM
OCTOBER 26	ANNUAL & REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING	SCHOOL LIBRARY	7:00 PM

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SCHEDULE A PERSONALIZED OR GROUP MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT SUPERINTENDENT, CRAIG OLSON.

COLSON@WINTERWARRIORS.ORG
715-266-3301 EXT. 2250



WINTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

PO BOX 310
6585 W GROVE STREET
WINTER, WI 54896

VOTE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD

OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM // FACT SHEET

WHAT IS ON THE BALLOT TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD?

The Winter School District has proposed an Operational Funding Referendum asking district taxpayers for an additional $1.5 million for each of the next four years, beginning with the 2027-2028 school year. Funds would be used for costs associated with school safety, sustaining or updating curriculum and programs, deferred facility maintenance, fund balance restoration, and staffing.

WHY IS THE DISTRICT PROPOSING AN OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM?

- Our community values a quality school, retaining highly qualified staff members to support achievement, and protecting a tradition of excellence.
- We cannot continue to provide essential programs and curriculum, continue with deferred maintenance projects, hire, develop, and retain quality staff members within the District's allowable revenue limit.

WHAT IS AN OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM?

An operational referendum asks voter permission to exceed the state imposed revenue limit for the purpose of funding annual school operations. It is not a referendum to incur debt for construction of new schools.

WE ARE NOT ALONE

Since the state-imposed revenue limit system began, approximately 87% of Wisconsin's 421 school districts have turned to the voters for an operational referendum. In 2024 alone, a record 148 operational referendum questions were posed to the voters. Wisconsin currently uses operational referendums as the main revenue source to fund education.

PROJECTED BUDGET

2024-2025
Deficit: **$-1,003,362**

2025-2026
Deficit: **$-792,820**

2026-2027
Deficit: **$-829,563**

2027-2028
Deficit: **$-868,432**

2028-2029
Deficit: **$-909,470**

2029-2030
Deficit: **$-952,719**

2030-2031
Deficit: **$-998,224**





"WORK"

colson@winterwarriors.org

www.winter.k12.wi.us

OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM // FACT SHEET

WHAT WILL THE OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM PAY FOR?



The Winter School District has proposed an Operational Funding Referendum asking district taxpayers for an additional $1.5 million for each of the next four years, beginning with the 2027-2028 school year. Funds would be used for costs associated with school safety, sustaining or updating curriculum and programs, deferred facility maintenance, fund balance restoration, and staffing.

- Balance the current budget to assure stability and sustainability in the future
- Replenish the fund balance to ensure short-term borrowing is not needed
- Curriculum and updated course materials to support our educational goals and alignment with current standards in our neighboring districts and state
- Hire, develop, and retain the best and brightest staff members to assure student achievement and social growth
- Continue to grow our Tech Ed courses and offerings
- Deferred maintenance and student safety upgrades

WHAT WILL THE REFERENDUM COST?

If the operational referendum is approved on November 3rd by a majority of the district voters, the school portion of residents' property taxes would increase by approximately $162.00 per year for every $100,000 of property value for the next four years.

Operational Referendum $1,500,000 Per Year (Average Increase of $162 per $100,000 of Property Values**)**	**Estimated Tax Increase Per Year for Four Years (2027/2028 to 2030/2031)**	
Sample Property Values:	**Per Month**	**Per Year**
$100,00 of property value	$13.50	$162.00
$150,000 of property value	$20.25	$243.00
$200,000 of property value	$27.00	$324.00
$300,000 of property value	$40.50	$486.00

(Please note that these estimates are based on the fair market value of your property.)

WHAT IF THE REFERENDUM FAILS?

- **Reduction** of staff, resulting in the elimination of some programs and services
- **Reduction** in the ability to attract and retain high-quality staff members
- **Reduction** in curriculum offerings and essential course materials to meet higher standards and goals
- **Reduction** in extra-curricular opportunities
- **Reduction** in expenditures for building maintenance and safety improvements
- **Possible** consolidation with a neighboring school district
- **Eventual** dissolution of the Winter School District. Dissolution would reassign your tax dollars to another district

HELP US WIN THE DAY!

MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION ON NOVEMBER 3RD!

- Learn more at www.winter.k12.wi.us
- Email questions to Superintendent Craig Olson at colson@winterwarriors.org
- Please see the attached informational meetings schedule
- If you would like to schedule a personalized or group meeting, please contact Superintendent Craig Olson

colson@winterwarriors.org **www.winter.k12.wi.us**

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Year	FTE Loss	Gain
2011-12	334	-9
2012-13	320	-14
2013-14	318	-2
2014-15	320	+2
2015-16	310	-10
2016-17	293	-17
2017-18	281	-12
2018-19	277	-4
2019-20	280	+3
2020-21	260	-20
2021-22	272	+3
2022-23	274	-2
2023-24	257	-17
2024-25	233	-24
2025-26	217	-16
2026-27		

Open Enrollment

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Open Enrollment IN	10	14	17	
Open Enrollment OUT	41	40	46	

PROJECTED BUDGETS
WINTER SCHOOL DISTRICT
“WORK”

2024-2025
Deficit: **$-1,003,362**

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Deficit: **$-829,563**

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Deficit: **$-868,432**

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Deficit: **$-909,470**

2029-2030
Deficit: **$-952,719**

2030-2031
Deficit: **$-998,224**



WHY DID WE GO FROM $2 MILLION TO $1.5 MILLION, AND WHAT WAS CUT?

First and foremost, we heard from the Winter Community that $2 million per year was too much, so we reduced the request to $1.5 million.

Items that were cut by asking for $1.5 million compared to $2 million are as follows:

- Instead of putting $500,000 into fund balance restoration per year, we are putting $250,000.
- Instead of putting $500,000 into deferred maintenance (bus garage, etc.), curriculum, and school safety restoration, we are putting $250,00.

These items were planned on a per year basis and have now been decreased to meet the expectations of the Winter Community.



WINTER SCHOOL DISTRICT
(REFERENDUM PASSES)
"What Will the Money Be Spent On?"
2027-2028
"WORK"

$1.5 Million Dollars per year for four years.

One year total:	**$1,500,000**	
Four year total:	**$6,000,000**	
2027-2028	**$1,500,000**	**Year 1**
Deficit	$-868,432	
Remaining Balance	$631,568	
Deferred Maintenance (including bus garage):	$250,000	
Remaining Balance:	$381,568	
Fund Balance: Restoration:	$250,000	
Remaining Balance:	$131,568	
Curriculum and School Safety Restoration:	$131,568	
Remaining Balance:	$0	
2028-2029	**$1,500,000**	**Year 2**
Deficit:	$-909,470	
Remaining Balance:	$590,530	
Deferred Maintenance (including bus garage):	$250,000	
Remaining Balance:	$340,530	
Fund Balance Restoration:	$250,000	
Remaining Balance:	$90,530	
Curriculum and School Safety Restoration:	$90,530	
Remaining Balance:	$0	



2029-2030	**$1,500,000**	**Year 3**
Deficit:	$952,719	
Remaining Balance:	$547,281	
Deferred Maintenance (including bus garage):	$250,000	
Remaining Balance:	$297,281	
Fund Balance Restoration:	$250,000	
Remaining Balance:	$47,281	
Curriculum and School Safety Restoration	$47,281	
Remaining Balance:	$0	
2030-2031	**$1,500,000**	**Year 4**
Deficit:	$998,224	
Remaining Balance:	$501,776	
Deferred Maintenance (including bus garage):	$250,000	
Remaining Balance:	$251,776	
Fund Balance Restoration:	$251,776	
Remaining Balance:	$0	
Curriculum and School Safety Restoration	$0	
Remaining Balance:	$0	

Total Deferred Maintenance Investment (Over 4 years)
$1,000,000

Total Fund Balance Restoration Investment (Over 4 years)
$1,001,776

Total Curriculum and School Safety Restoration (Over 4 years)
$269,379



WINTER SCHOOL DISTRICT
(REFERENDUM FAILS)
"WHAT WILL BE CUT?"
2027-2028
"WORK"

The goal of this plan is to simply balance the budget. Here is an example of probable cuts if the November 3, 2026 Operational Referendum FAILS!

BUDGET REDUCTION OPTIONS:
12 Staff Members:
WORK Club:
Summer School:
Middle School Athletics / Related Arts:

Total Four Year Savings:	**$1,060,487**
Total Four Year Deficit:	**$-998,224**
Total Four Year Surplus:	**$62,263**

Please note that this budget projection does not include any additional revenue in the fund balance and is based on last year's student enrollment.



Initiation to Dissolve:
November 4, 2026 - January 31, 2027
The Winter School Board must adopt a resolution stating it will consider dissolving.

School Board Action:
July 1, 2027
The Winter School Board may order the district dissolved by adopting the resolution. (I don't know what the resolution looks like at this time)

Advisory Referendum:
Fall of 2027
At the time of the School Board's final dissolution order (July 1, 2027), the School Board can direct that an advisory referendum be held. (Fall of 2027)

State Review and Final Order:
September 2027-January 15, 2028
Between the second Tuesday of September and January 15th, the State School District Boundary Appeals Board (SSDBAB) reviews the dissolution and issues an order approving or denying the School Board's Decision. A school district cannot dissolve if it has constructed a new building within the prior 3 years and still has outstanding debt for it.

Asset and Debt Reassignment:
January 15, 2028- July 1, 2028
If the dissolution is approved, the state reassigns students, assets, and financial obligations to adjoining school districts.
Official Dissolution
July 1, 2028

On July 1, 2028, the Winter School District ceases to exist.

Timeline of Dissolution Summary:

November 3, 2026	Referendum Fails
November 4, 2026 - January 31, 2027	School Board Resolution to Dissolve
July 1, 2027	Official Resolution to Dissolve
Fall of 2027	School Board Vote to Hold an Advisory Referendum
Fall of 2027	State Board Reviews the Dissolution
January 15, 2028	State Board Must Issue Its Final Decision
July 1, 2028	Official Date of Dissolution

