



# WINTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

PO BOX 310  
6585 W GROVE STREET  
WINTER, WI 54896



TUESDAY, APRIL 7TH

## OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM // FACT SHEET

### WHAT IS ON THE BALLOT TUESDAY, APRIL 7TH?

The Winter School District has proposed an Operational Funding Referendum asking district taxpayers for an additional \$2 million for each of the next four years, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. Funds would be used for costs associated with school safety, sustaining or updating curriculum and programs, deferred facility maintenance, 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"

# 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 \$2 million for each of the next four years, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. Funds would be used for costs associated with school safety, sustaining or updating curriculum and programs, deferred facility maintenance, 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
- Building maintenance and safety upgrades

- Learn more at [www.winter.k12.wi.us](http://www.winter.k12.wi.us)
- Email questions to Superintendent Craig Olson at [colson@winterwarriors.org](mailto: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

## WHAT WILL THE REFERENDUM COST?

If the operational referendum is approved on April 7th by a majority of the district voters, the school portion of residents' property taxes would increase by approximately \$247.00 per year for every \$100,000 of property value for the next four years.

| Operational Referendum<br>\$2,000,000 Per Year (Average<br>Increase of \$247 per \$1,000 of<br>Property Value) | Estimated Tax Increase Per Year for<br>Four Years (2026/2027 to 2029/2030) |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Sample Property Values:                                                                                        | Per Year                                                                   | Per Month |
| \$100,000 of property value                                                                                    | \$247.00                                                                   | \$20.58   |
| \$150,000 of property value                                                                                    | \$370.50                                                                   | \$30.88   |
| \$200,000 of property value                                                                                    | \$494.00                                                                   | \$41.17   |
| \$300,000 of property value                                                                                    | \$741.00                                                                   | \$61.75   |

(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  
APRIL 7TH!