

Weston School District



EAGLE PRIDE

BALLOT QUESTION



■ **Shall the School District of Weston, Sauk and Richland Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$1,500,000 per year for three years, beginning with the 2026–2027 school year and ending with the 2028–2029 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of operational and maintenance expenses?**



\$300,000
Taxable Value:

Tax Increase:
\$35.75 /mo.



\$100,000
Taxable Value:

Tax Increase:
\$11.92 /mo.



\$200,000
Taxable Value:

Tax Increase:
\$23.83 /mo.



\$9.45 PER \$1,000 OF TAXABLE VALUE INCREASE

EDUCATIONAL FUNDING

Revenue Limits (1993)

- Intended to control property taxes, but over time it created more challenges for districts. Costs continue to rise, but revenue limits are not increasing at the same pace

Referendum Reliant

- Due to these funding limits, more districts are turning to voters for support—62 districts in Spring 2026 will ask their communities to approve operational referenda

Modern Challenges

- Schools are striving to provide high-quality education while maintaining fiscal responsibility—sustaining teachers, programs, and student support services—even as they navigate ongoing funding constraints.



Wisconsin's 2025-27 K-12 Budget: Two Steps Forward, Two Steps Back

Two Steps Forward:

+ \$325
Per-Pupil Revenue
Limit Increase

Granted for both the 2025-26
and 2026-27 school years



Special Education
Aid Reimbursement
Rises to
45%

Increases from 30.6% in
2024-25, providing \$504.7M
over the biennium



High-Cost
Special Ed Aid
Jumps to
90%

The reimbursement rate
for students with costs
over \$30,000 will reach
90% by 2026-27

Two Steps Back:



**\$0 Increase in
General School Aids**

This is the first time since
the 2009-11 budget with
no new general aid



**\$760
Million**

**Shift to Property
Taxpayers**

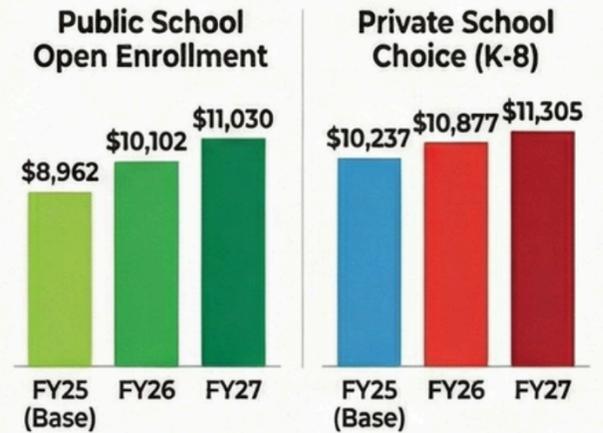
The entire revenue limit
increase must be funded
by local property taxes



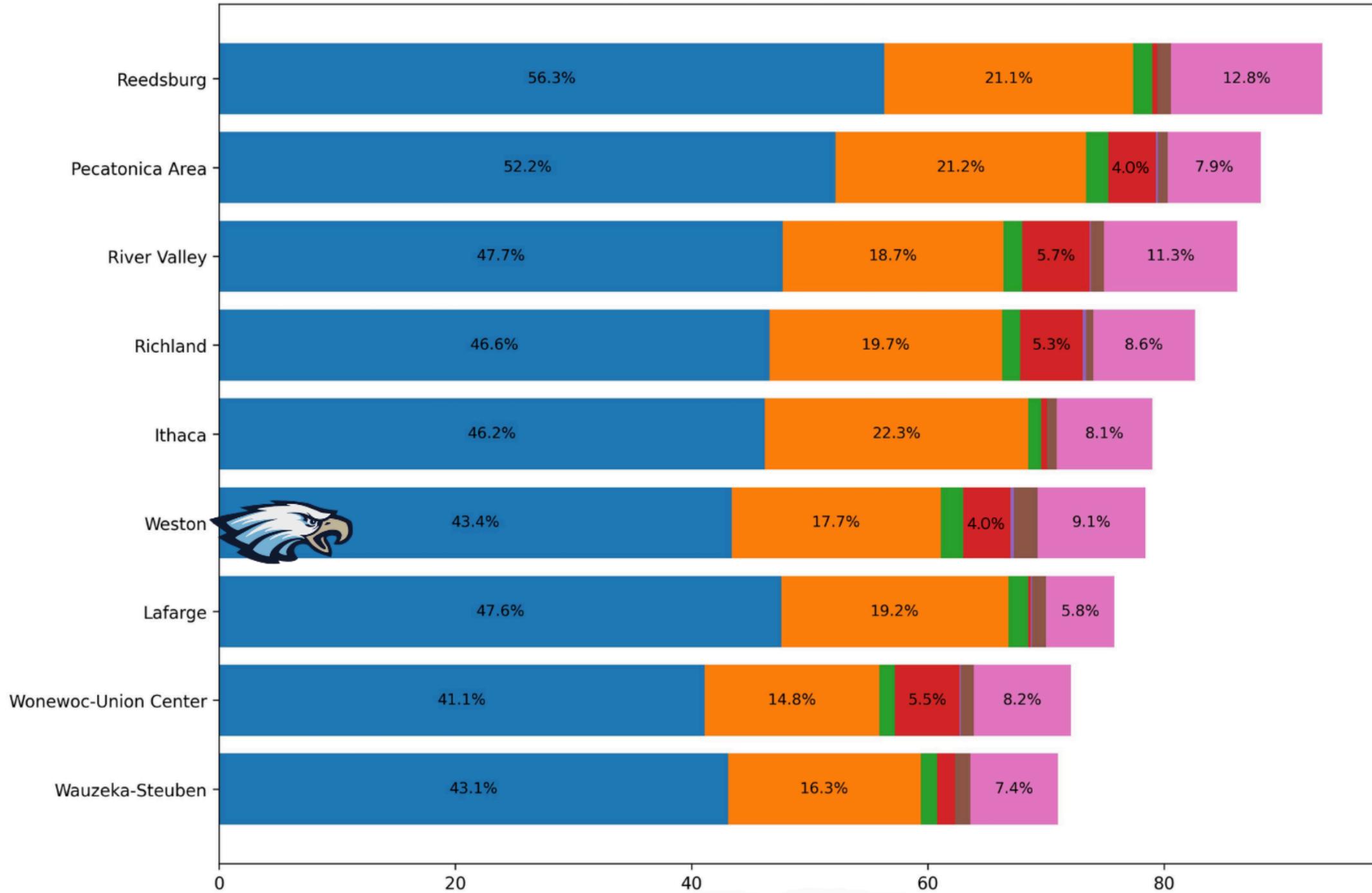
School Funding
Lags Inflation by
**Over \$3,500
Per Pupil**

By 2027, revenue limits will
have trailed inflation for
18 consecutive years

Per-Pupil Payments Growth Comparison



Percentage of Total Overall Budget



- Salaries
- Benefits
- Utilities
- Pupil Transportation
- Debt
- Insurance & Judgements
- Fund 27 Transfer

Detailed Breakdown

- Reedsburg**
■ 1.6% ■ 0.4% ■ 1.2% ■ 0.0%
- Pecatonica Area**
■ 1.9% ■ 4.0% ■ 0.8% ■ 0.2%
- River Valley**
■ 1.6% ■ 5.7% ■ 1.1% ■ 0.1%
- Richland**
■ 1.5% ■ 5.3% ■ 0.6% ■ 0.3%
- Ithaca**
■ 1.1% ■ 0.5% ■ 0.8% ■ 0.0%
- Weston**
■ 1.9% ■ 4.0% ■ 2.0% ■ 0.3%
- La Farge**
■ 1.7% ■ 0.2% ■ 1.2% ■ 0.1%
- Wonewoc-Union Center**
■ 1.3% ■ 5.5% ■ 1.1% ■ 0.1%
- Wauzeka-Steuben**
■ 1.4% ■ 1.5% ■ 1.3% ■ 0.0%

LOCAL SCHOOLS CALL TO ACTION



A UNIFIED STATEMENT ON THE URGENT NEED FOR A BIPARTISAN COMPROMISE ON SCHOOL FUNDING AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FROM THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF SAUK COUNTY



APRIL 7TH REFERENDUM PASSES



SCENARIO #1

- Re-evaluate and improve programs to support student learning and well-being cost-effectively.
- Strengthen fund balance to ensure long-term financial stability.
- Adjust staffing as needed to meet evolving student needs.
- Use a State Trust Fund Loan, if needed, to bridge tax revenue timing gaps (2025–26 to 2026–27).



APRIL 7TH REFERENDUM FAILS



SCENARIO #2



- Weston will pursue a third referendum question in the November 2026 election.
- Due to budget constraints, the district will need to consider making additional staffing changes that impact student programs and services.
- Due to the fund balance being nearly depleted, Weston will need to seek a State Trust Fund Loan to support ongoing operational costs.

NOVEMBER 2026 REFERENDUM PASSES



SCENARIO #3

- Following the failed April 7th referendum, the district obtained a State Trust Fund Loan to support operational costs. Repayment of this loan will create additional pressure on the district's operating budget.
- Re-evaluate and improve programs to support student learning and well-being cost-effectively.
- Strengthen fund balance to ensure long-term financial stability.
- Adjust staffing as needed to meet evolving student needs.
- Continue to partner with other districts to inform legislature of the public-school funding crisis



**NOVEMBER 2026
REFERENDUM FAILS**



SCENARIO #3

- The district may be forced to consider dissolution or consolidation with another school district.
- Note: District debt does not disappear in this process. If Weston were to consolidate with another district, existing debt would carry over, which could result in even higher taxes for residents of the newly combined district.



POINTS OF PRIDE - OUR WHY

- **Small Classes**

Provides personalized, interactive learning that supports academic success and strong student-teacher relationships.

- **1:1 Technology**

Prepares students with essential digital skills for the future.

- **Academic & Career Planning Program- Real World Ready**

Student-driven academic and career planning focused on exploration, goal-setting, and post-secondary success.

- **Weston Sheep Project**

Hands-on agricultural learning opportunities. Weston is the only Wisconsin district with a licensed Dairy Sheep Barn and Processing Room.

- **Inclusivity**

26 clubs and extracurriculars, including FBLA, Forensics, Baseball, and Chess.

- **Scholarships**

Over \$30,000 awarded annually in local scholarships to graduating seniors.

- **Gifted & Talented**

Partnering with CESA 3 to develop intellectual, creative, artistic, and leadership talents.

- **Pre-Kindergarten Program**

Five-day Pre-K program supporting families and early childhood needs.

- **Career & Technical Education**

Program provides a head start on college or career pathways and offers 9 career certifications

- **Elementary Enrichment Programs**

Offered throughout the year, helps students strengthen critical thinking skills, builds confidence, and discover new interests.

- **Summer School Program**

Keeps students engaged and active in learning, supports working families, and provides summer meal program for any child 18 or younger.

- **Community Events**

Strengthens school-community relationships and increases family engagement in education, creating a community hub.



SCHOOLS IMPACT ON COMMUNITY

Jobs & Local Spending

- Schools are often major employers in small towns. Staff wages, plus school purchasing, help support local businesses.

Property Values

- Strong schools help keep property values stable. When a school closes, home values typically drop.

Attracting/Retaining Families

- Families choose communities for their schools. Without one, population decline usually speeds up as families move away.

Workforce Development

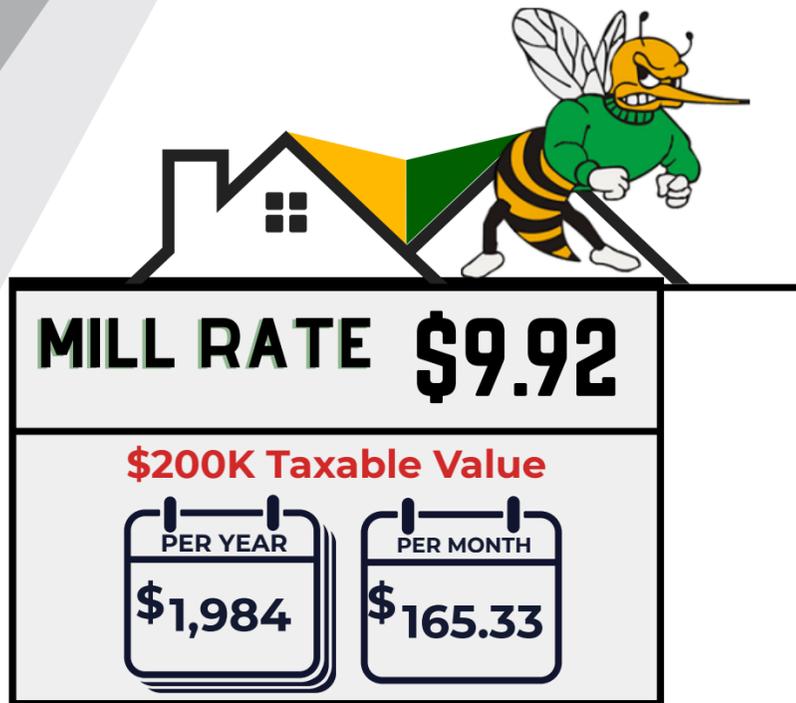
- Schools prepare students for local jobs. Losing a school weakens the future workforce for area businesses.

Community Identity & Activity

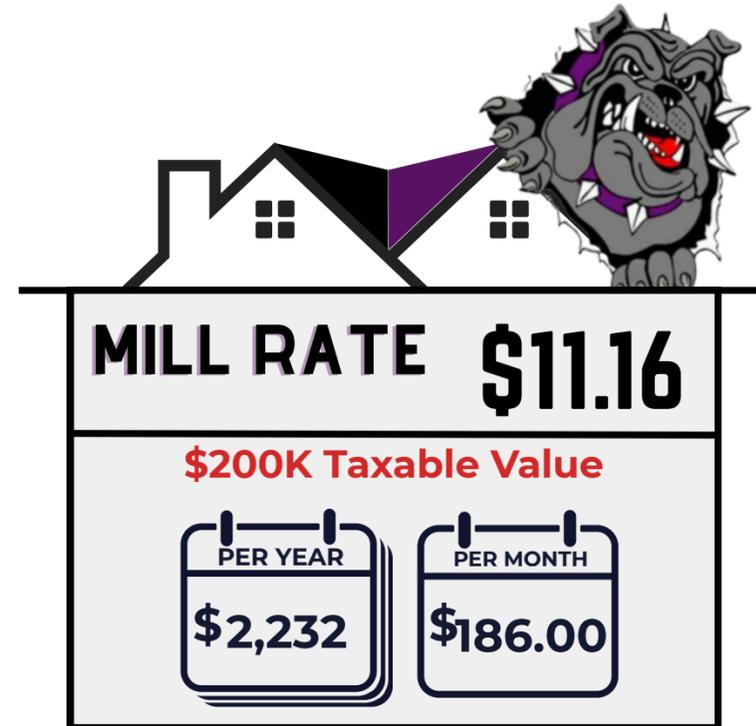
- Schools bring people together through events and activities, supporting local commerce. Without them, the community loses a central gathering place.



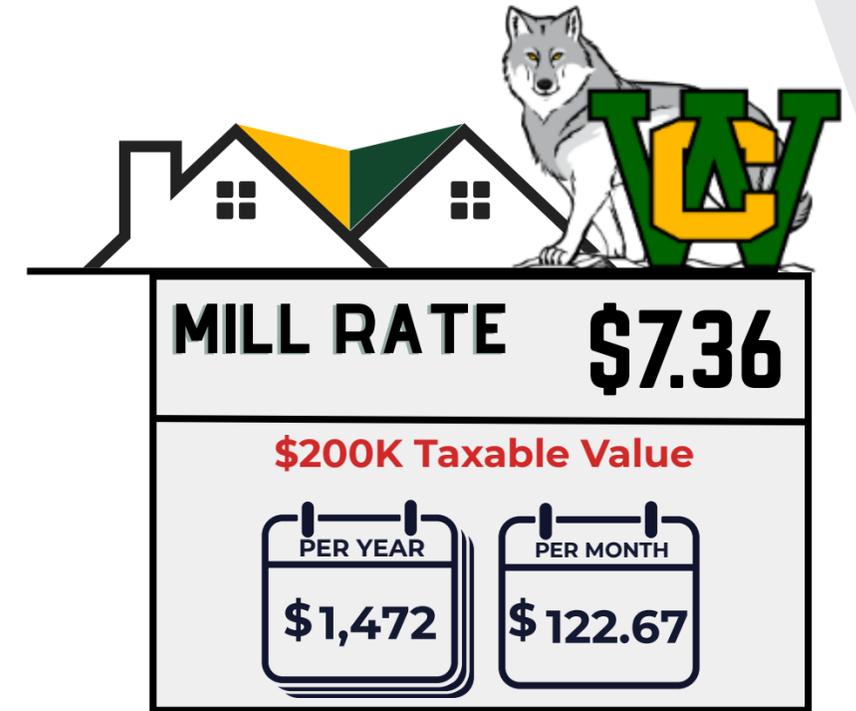
HOW DO SIMILAR SIZE SCHOOLS COMPARE?



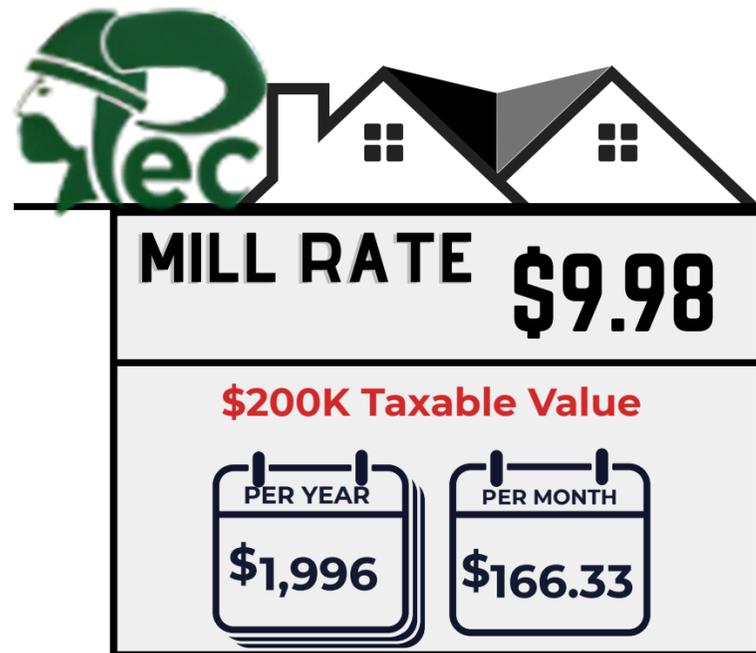
Operational Referendum Expires -2026



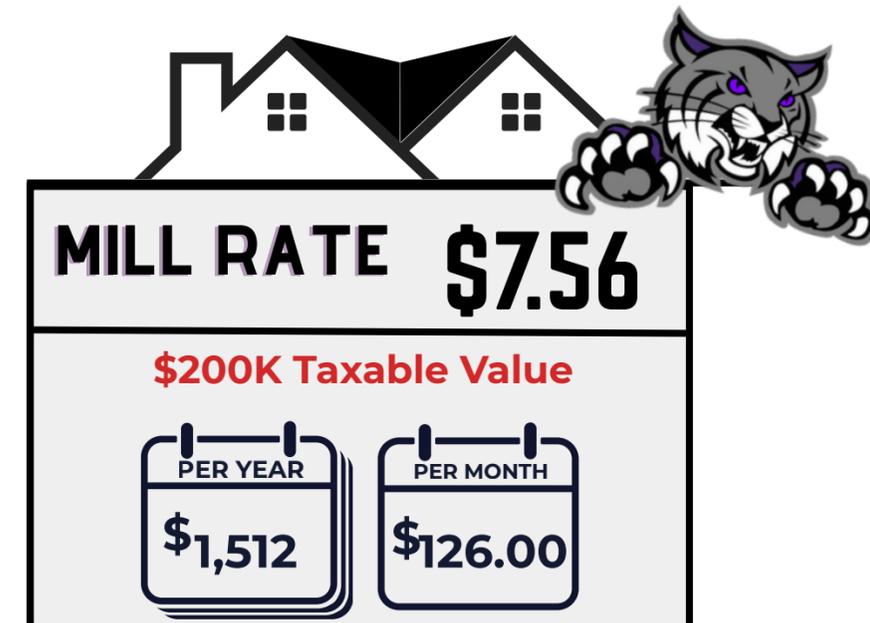
Operational Referendum Expires- 2028



Recurring Referendum since 1998, 2001, 2006, and 2020

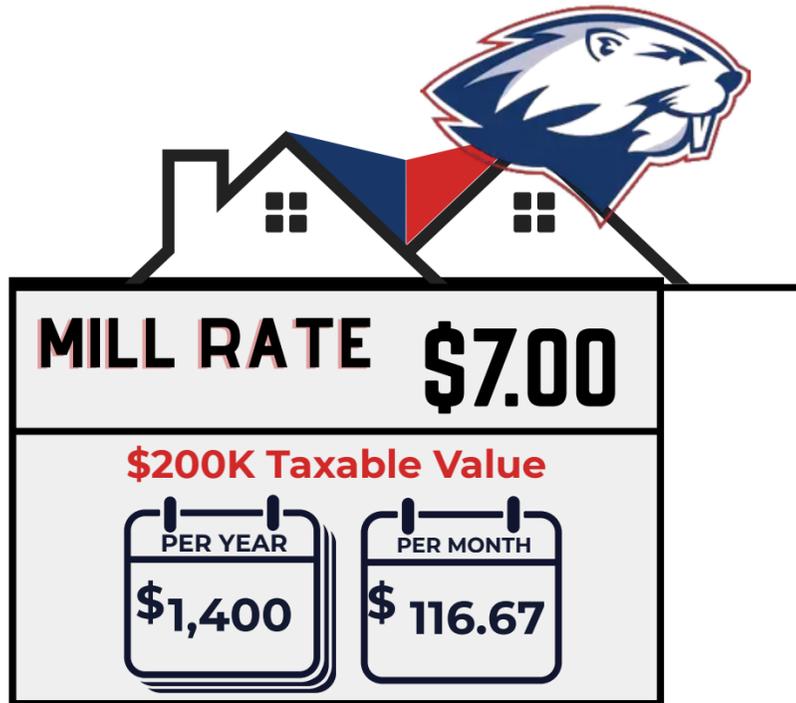


Recurring Referendum since 1991, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2011, 2017, and 2020

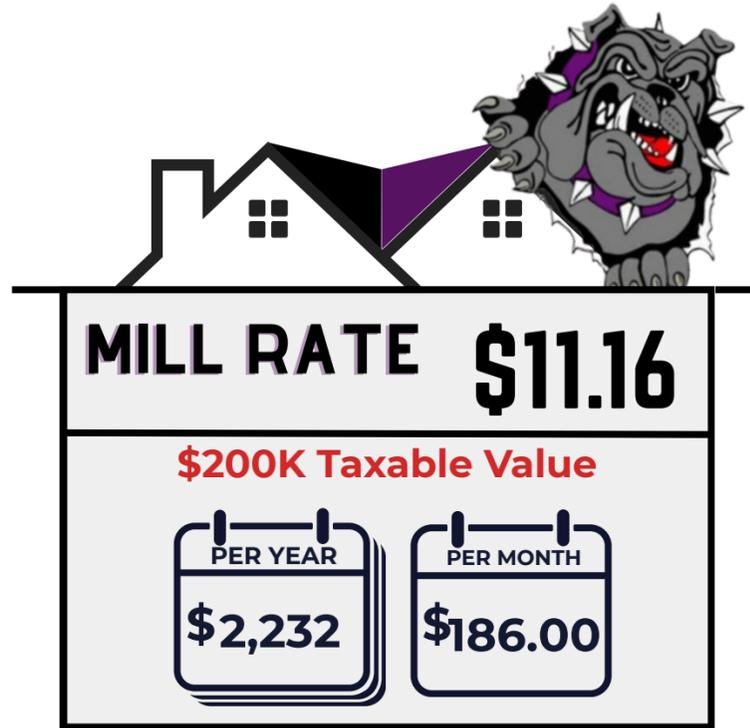


Recurring Referendum since 2008
Operational Referendum Expires- 2027

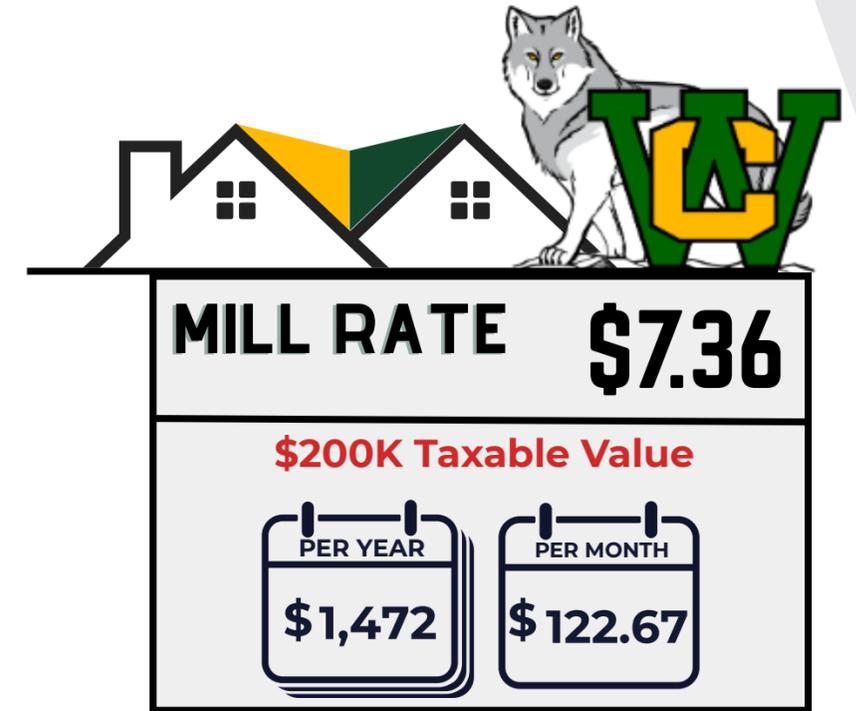
HOW DO OUR NEIGHBORS COMPARE?



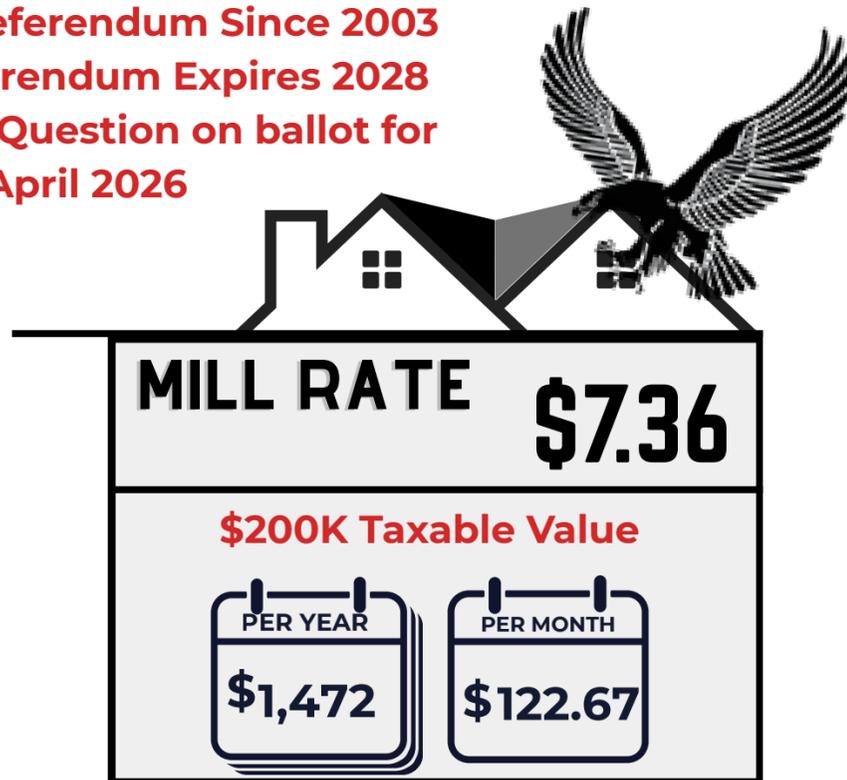
Recurring Referendum Since 2003
 Capitol Referendum Expires 2028
 Operational Question on ballot for
 April 2026



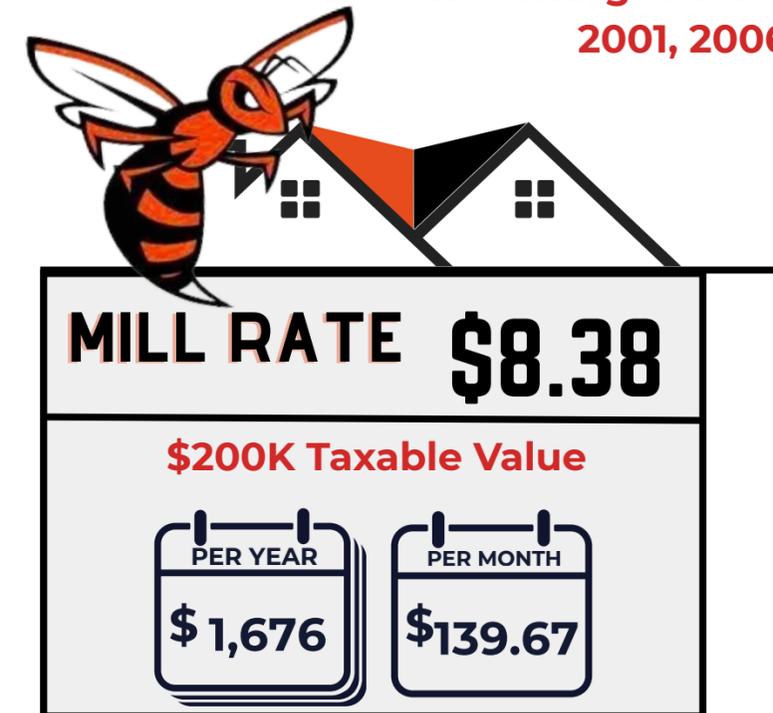
Operational Referendum Expires- 2028



Recurring Referendums since 1998,
 2001, 2006, and 2020

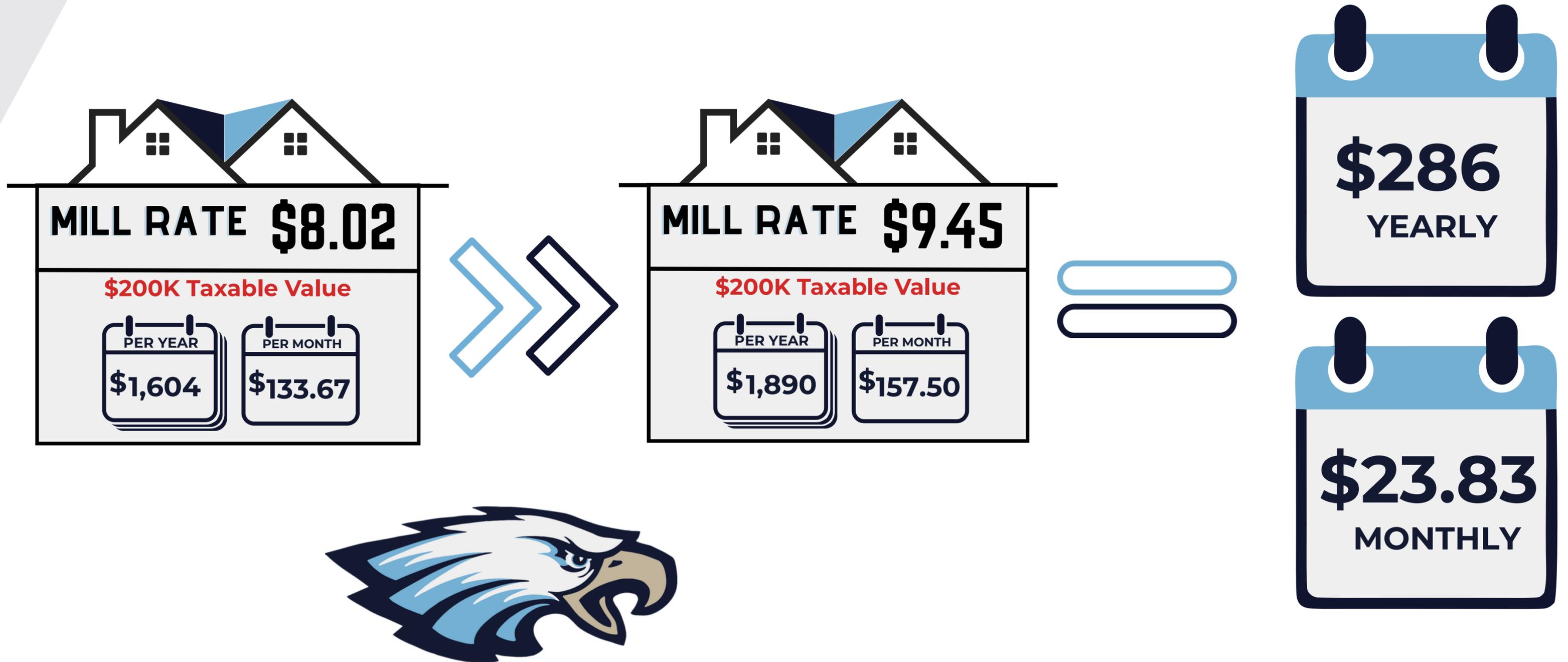


Recurring Referendum Since 2010
 Operational Referendum Expires 2028



Operational Referendum Expires 2028

MILL RATE IMPACT IF REFERENDUM PASSES



Weston School District



EAGLE PRIDE

<https://www.weston.k12.wi.us/page/referendum>

