

**WESTON SCHOOL  
DISTRICT**

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**OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM**

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**APRIL 7, 2026**

# 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?**

PER PUPIL SHORFALL(\$3,571) X CURRENT MEMBERSHIP AVG (254)

\$ 9 0 7 , 0 0 0

### The Long-Term Impact: A Cumulative Crisis

#### CUMULATIVE SHORFALL

**\$3,571**  
Per-Pupil Shortfall  
(Since 2009, indexed  
to inflation)

#### REDUCED BUYING POWER

Schools have less purchasing power per student today than they did in the 2008-09 school year.



2005-08  
School Year

vs.



Today

#### WIDE DISPARITY IN DISTRICT FUNDING



LOWEST PER-PUPIL REVENUE  
**\$11,037**



HIGHEST PER-PUPIL REVENUE  
**\$26,363**

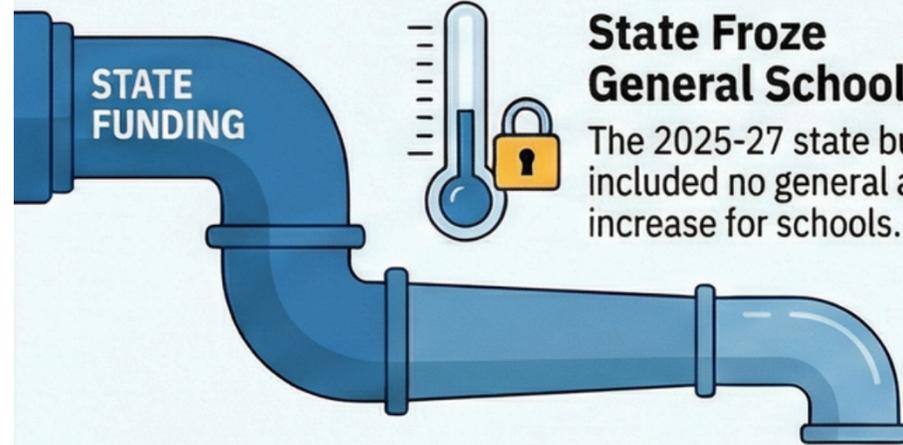


# RECENT TAX INCREASES

## Why Are Wisconsin Property Taxes Rising?

A Look Beyond Your Local School Board

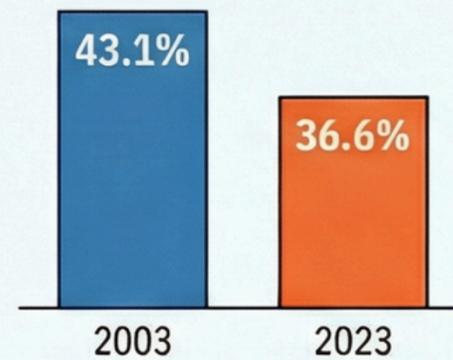
### THE STATE FUNDING SHIFT



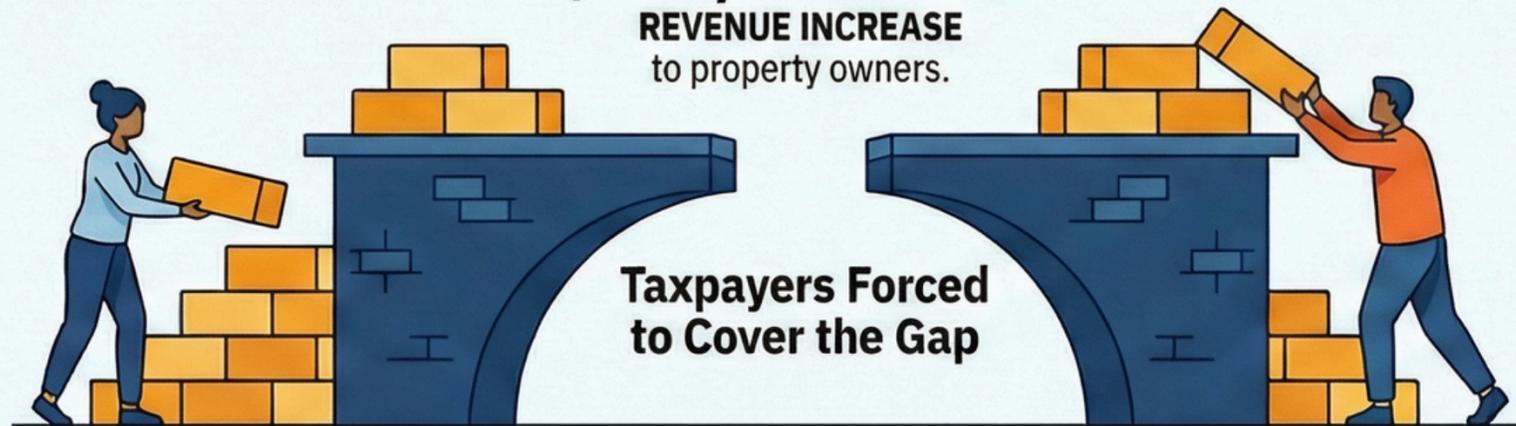
#### State Froze General School Aid

The 2025-27 state budget included no general aid increase for schools.

### Schools' Share of State Budget is Shrinking



SHIFTED ENTIRE COST OF **\$325/STUDENT** REVENUE INCREASE to property owners.



Taxpayers Forced to Cover the Gap

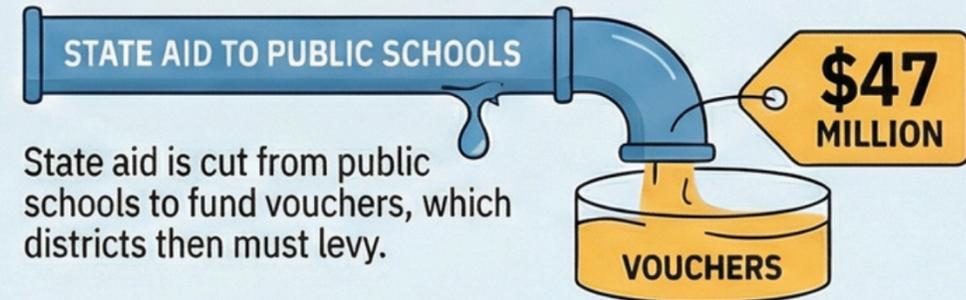
### COMPOUNDING FINANCIAL PRESSURES

#### Record-High School Referenda

With state funding lagging inflation, districts must ask local voters to raise their own taxes.



#### Private School Vouchers Added \$47 Million to Property Taxes



State aid is cut from public schools to fund vouchers, which districts then must levy.

#### Property Assessments Matter

Your individual tax bill also depends heavily on shifts in local property values.



# ADJUSTING TO THE SHORTFALL

- **Budget Reviews & Reductions**

- Ongoing reviews across:
  - Maintenance
  - Extracurricular programs
  - Classroom spending
  - Athletics

- **Transportation**

- Reduced school bus use and routes
- Approximately \$80,000 in savings

- **Co-op Agreements**

- Pursuing cooperative partnerships to enhance district financial sustainability

- **Related Services**

- Contracted services in Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, School Psychologist, and Physical Therapy

- **Online Courses & Potential Shared Services**

- Contracted Used to support hard-to-fill positions, including Spanish

- **Additional Cost-Saving Strategies**

- Flexible Staffing
- Job Sharing
- Day-to-day operational efficiencies
- Scheduling



# STAFFING ADJUSTMENTS FOR BUDGET EFFICIENCIES

22-23

\$62,867.28

- COMBINED .5 AG/.5 SCIENCE

23-24

\$80,694.17

- REDUCED .5 FTE SCIENCE TEACHER

24-25

\$249,377.31

- REDUCED 1 ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION
- REDUCED 1 CUSTODIAL POSITION
- STAFF ATTRITION
- BENEFIT PACKAGES

25-26

\$40,490.63

- REDUCED 1 FTE CUSTODIAN (2- PT CUSTODIANS WITHOUT BENEFITS)
- STAFF ATTRITION -NURSING POSITION, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, AND 2 PARAPROFESSIONALS

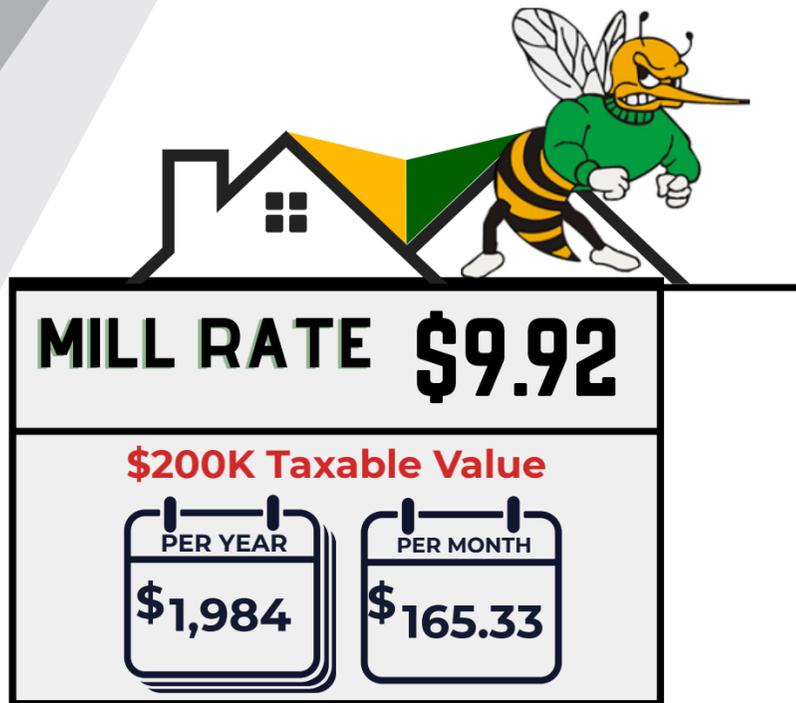


# BUILDING IMPROVEMENT & LONGEVITY

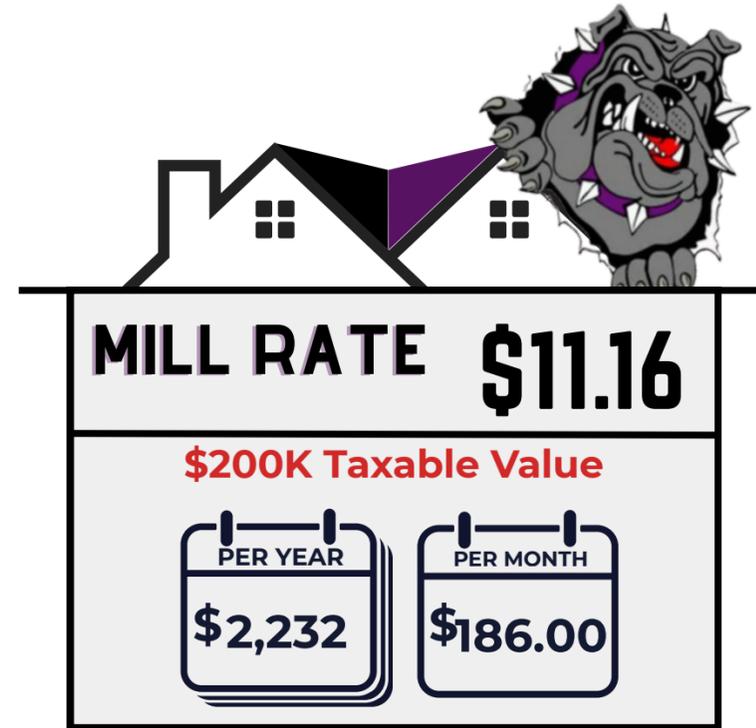
- 1 ELEMENTARY BOILERS
- 2 HIGH SCHOOL ROOF
- 3 ASBESTOS REMEDIATION & NEW FLOORING
- 4 WINDOW REPLACEMENT
- 5 GYM BLEACHERS REPLACED (HS & ELEMENTARY)
- 6 PARKING LOT & SIDEWALK REPLACEMENTS
- 7 HIGH SCHOOL GYM FLOORING
- 8 PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT ADDITIONS



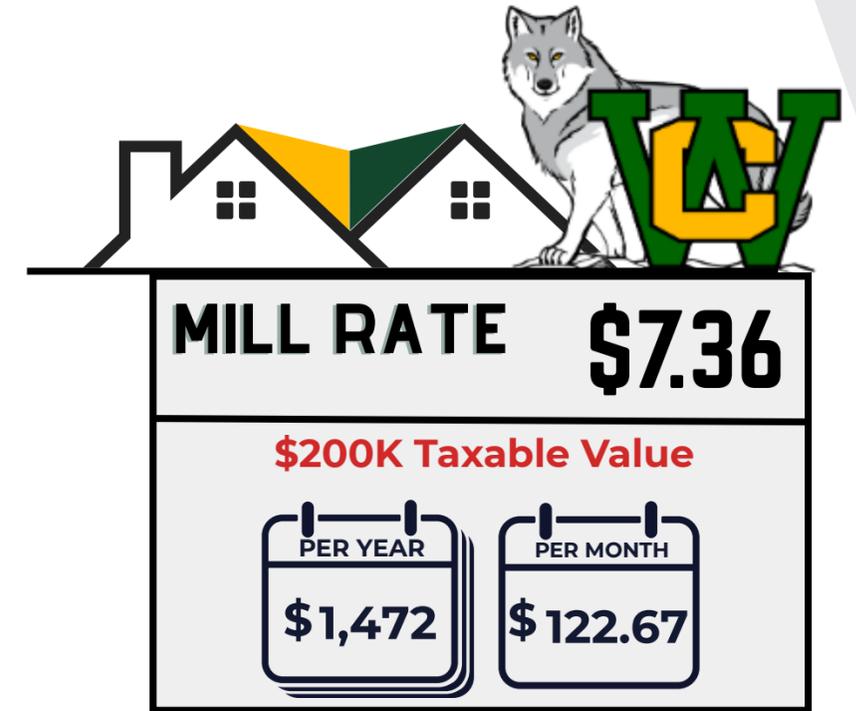
# HOW DO SIMILAR SIZE SCHOOLS COMPARE?



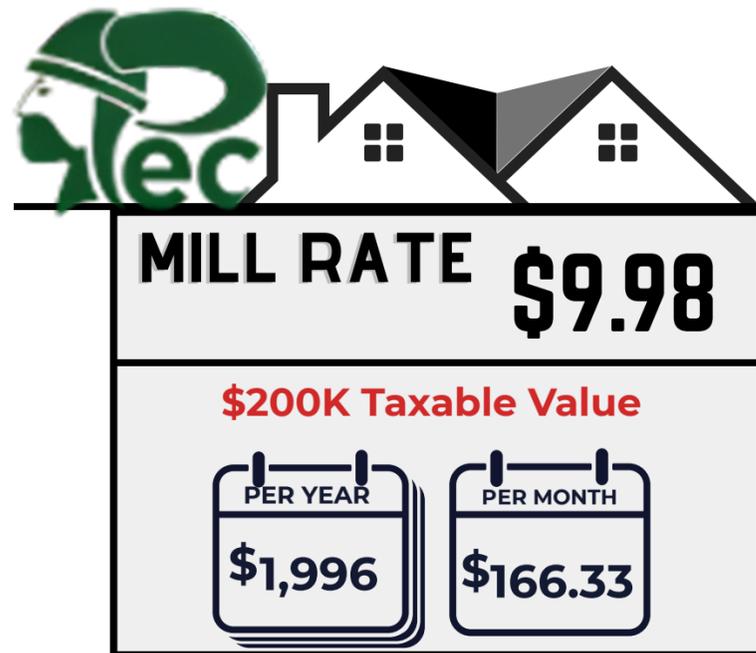
Operational Referendum Expires -2026



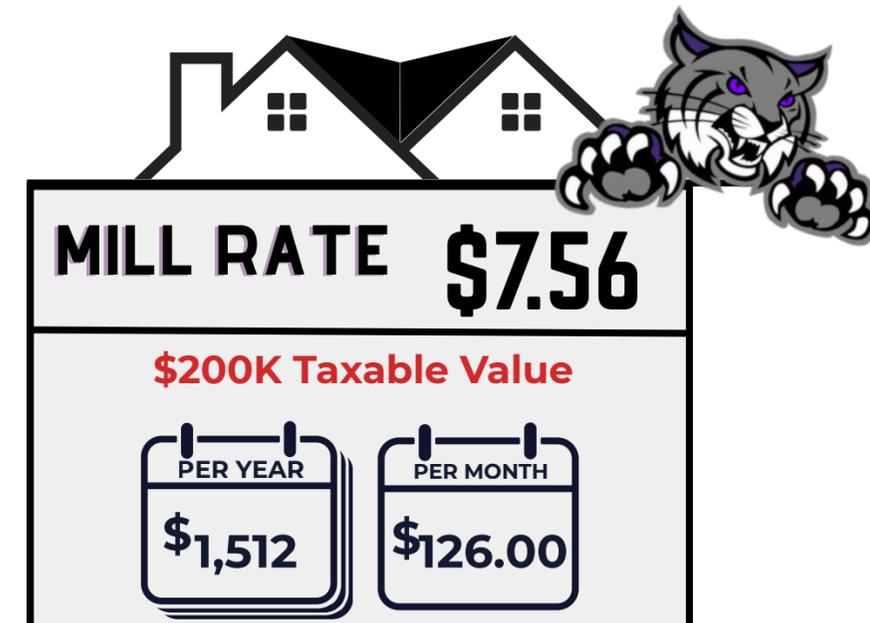
Operational Referendum Expires- 2028



Recurring Referendum since 1998, 2001, 2006, and 2020

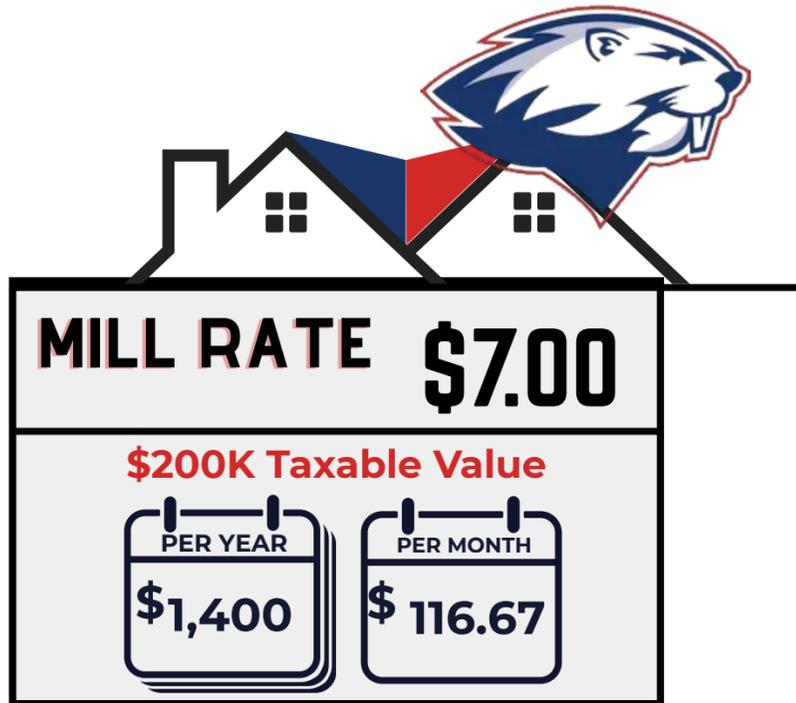


Recurring Referendum since 1991, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2011, 2017, and 2020

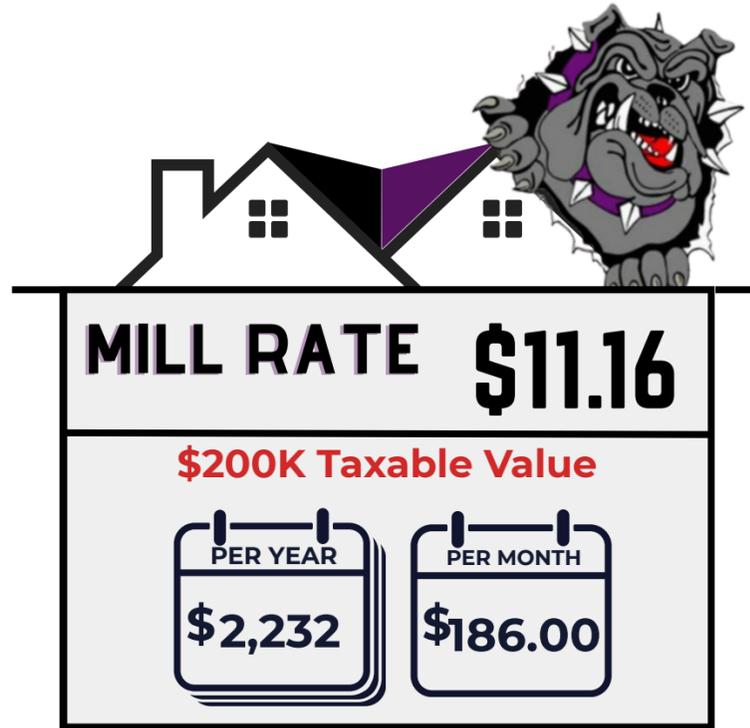


Recurring Referendum since 2008  
Operational Referendum Expires- 2027

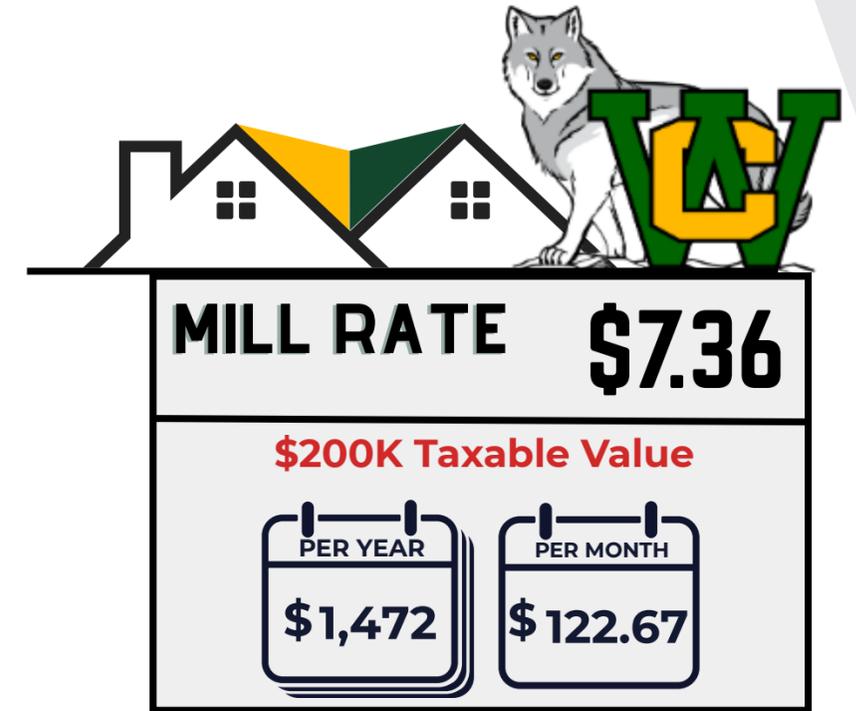
# HOW DO OUR NEIGHBORS COMPARE?



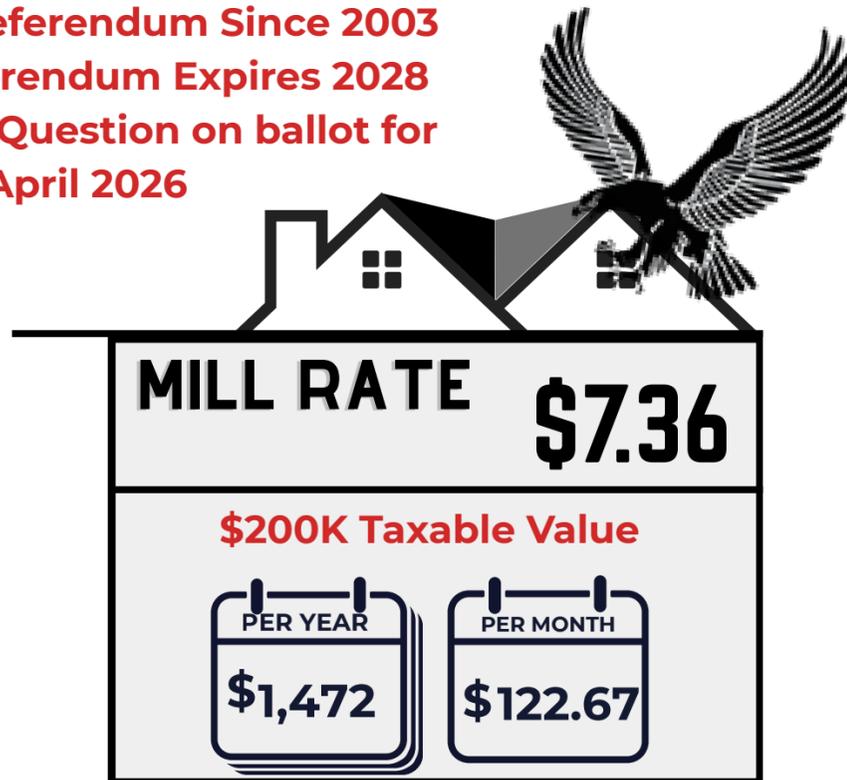
Recurring Referendum Since 2003  
 Capitol Referendum Expires 2028  
 Operational Question on ballot for April 2026



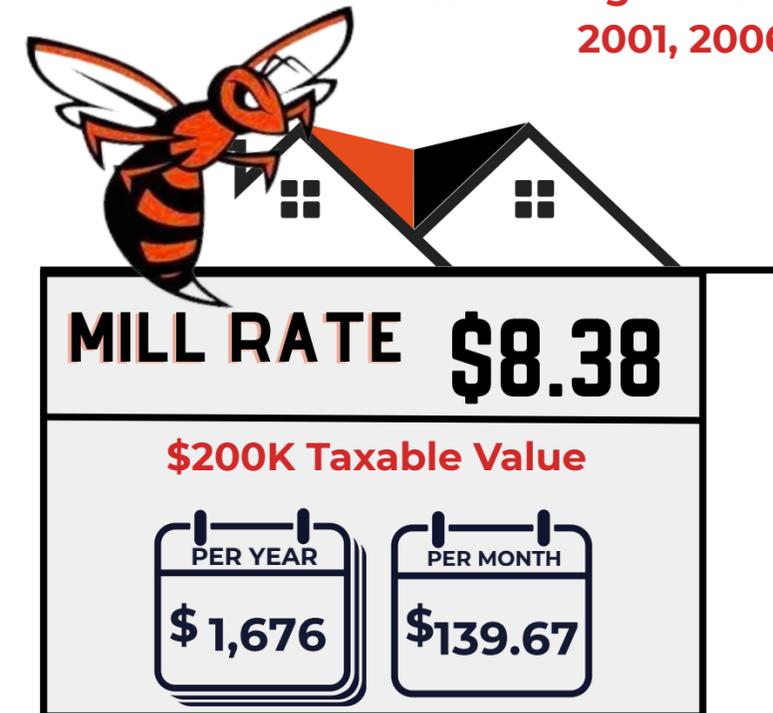
Operational Referendum Expires- 2028



Recurring Referendums since 1998,  
 2001, 2006, and 2020



Recurring Referendum Since 2010  
 Operational Referendum Expires 2028



Operational Referendum Expires 2028

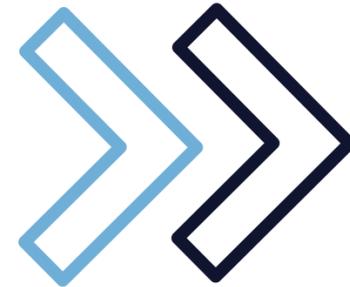
# MILL RATE IMPACT IF REFERENDUM PASSES



**MILL RATE \$8.02**

**\$200K Taxable Value**

PER YEAR	PER MONTH
<b>\$1,604</b>	<b>\$133.67</b>



**MILL RATE \$9.45**

**\$200K Taxable Value**

PER YEAR	PER MONTH
<b>\$1,890</b>	<b>\$157.50</b>



**\$286**  
YEARLY



**\$23.83**  
MONTHLY





**\$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**

# WHAT A PASSED OR FAILED REFERENDUM COULD MEAN

## SCENARIO #1

### OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM PASSES

- Weston is committed to re-evaluating and enhancing our programs and services to support student learning and well-being in the most cost-effective way.
- We will continue strengthening our fund balance, ensuring greater financial stability for the future.
- We will regularly review and adjust staffing to best meet the evolving needs of our students.
- Because of the timing of tax revenue, we may need to take out a State Trust Fund Loan to cover the gap between the 2025–26 and 2026–27 fiscal years.

## SCENARIO #2

### OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM FAILS SPRING 2026

- Weston will pursue a third referendum question in the November 2026 election.
- Due to budget constraints, the district will make staffing changes that impact student programs and services.
- Weston will need to seek a State Trust Fund Loan to support basic day-to-day operations due to fund balance being nearly depleted.

## SCENARIO #3

### OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM FAILS A THIRD TIME

- The district may be forced to consider dissolution or consolidation with another school district.
- It's important to note that 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.

