



SPRING 2019 OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM

You Spoke, We Listened.

Community Survey Results Show Residents Value Teachers, Programs, & Services

The Wisconsin Heights School District has historically offered excellent programs and services for students while demonstrating fiscal responsibility. Our ability to continue this level of excellence depends on having adequate funding. In October, the District administered a survey to residents and 650 community members responded, informing the school board on what priorities they support through additional funding.

In the 2018 community survey, over 80% of respondents indicated they would support renewing the district’s operational referendum with no tax increase.

WHAT IS AN OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM?

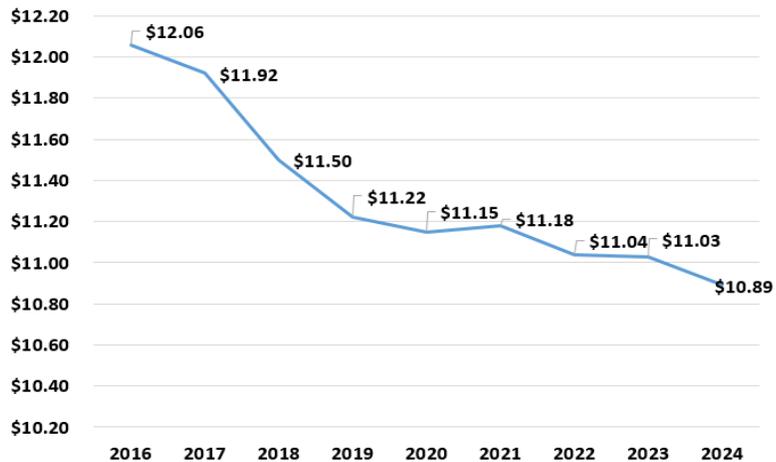
An operational referendum asks permission from voters to exceed the state imposed revenue limit for the purpose of funding school operations. It is not a referendum to incur debt to complete facility projects.

WHAT IS THE TAX IMPACT OF THE 2019 OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM?

2020 property taxes are projected to decrease 7 cents per \$1,000 of property value over the current tax levy rate.

The mill rate is the amount per \$1,000 of property value that is used to calculate local property taxes. Assigned mill rates are multiplied by the total taxable value of the property in order to arrive at the property taxes. A mill rate of \$11.15 equals \$1,115 of tax on a \$100,000 home.

WHSD Mill Rate



2016 – 2019 are historical mill rates
2020 – 2024 are projected mill rates

Mill rates project to remain lower than the six-year historical average throughout the next five years

QUESTION ON THE APRIL 2 BALLOT

Shall the Wisconsin Heights School District, Dane and Iowa Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$2,200,000 per year beginning with the 2019-20 school year and ending with the 2023-24 school year, for nonrecurring purposes consisting of sustaining educational programming and operational expenses?

SURVEY RESULTS SHOWED:

- » Our community believes Wisconsin Heights does well at building pride in our community, delivering a high-quality educational experience, and keeping the public informed.
- » Almost 80% are highly satisfied or satisfied with the district.
- » The community overwhelmingly said they want to maintain our existing programs and staffing level.

Based on community feedback, the Wisconsin Heights school board has made the decision to ask voters for additional operating support on the April 2, 2019 ballot. If taxpayers vote in favor of the referendum, our schools will continue to offer the programming and services our community expects over the next five years. During that time, the board will continue to plan for the long-term future of the school district.

WHAT THE OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM WILL FUND

- » Retention of high-quality staff who provide excellent programs and services for students.
- » The utilization of educational practice to support diverse learning styles and to assist students in academic and career planning.

WHAT IF THE OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM FAILS?

- » **Reductions** in staffing and the ability to attract and retain high-quality teachers.
- » **Reductions** to programs and services for students.
- » **Reductions** in all district budgets – including technology, classroom supplies and facility maintenance.

WHY THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT?

- » The mandated state revenue limits– the combination of State Aids and Allowable Property Taxes – has not kept up with operational costs.
- » A decade of declining enrollment (through 2014), coupled with increasing local property values, has resulted in drastically reduced levels of state funding.
- » The costs associated with a quality education continue to grow each year – staffing, supplies, maintenance, transportation, utilities, etc...

WHAT WE'VE DONE TO BALANCE OUR BUDGET & BE FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE

- » Improved programming and district communication to retain our students and to attract other students through open enrollment.
- » Implemented competitive, yet fiscally responsible compensation plans for our professional and support staff. This has allowed us to accurately budget for years to come.
- » Actively sought grant dollars through federal, state and local sources – over \$200,000 in 2018-19 alone.

LEARN MORE

Email: jsinz@wisheights.k12.wi.us

Call: Jordan Sinz, District Administrator @ 608-767-2595 ext. 1000

Attend: Referendum Information Sessions:

March 11, Black Earth Elementary at 6:30 pm

March 18, Mazomanie Elementary at 6:30pm

MAKE AN INFORMED CHOICE: WWW.WISHEIGHTS.K12.WI.US >>> **VOTE APRIL 2!**