



School District of Marshfield

OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM

Referendum

On Tuesday, November 3, 2020 the School District of Marshfield will ask residents to vote on a recurring operational referendum. This would authorize the District to exceed the revenue limit by \$3.5 million each year beginning with the 2021-22 school year and every year thereafter.

Is the \$3.5 million in addition to the current \$3 million? No, the \$3 million expires at the end of the 2020-21 school year. The \$3.5 million would take effect beginning with the 2021-22 school year.

What are the referendum dollars used for?

Preserving a high quality education.

The Marshfield community has always valued and supported a high quality education for all students. The referendum dollars are used to support the programs and opportunities that would otherwise not be available due to limited state and local funding. Even with these additional funds, the school district remains one of the lowest spending school districts in the area. The referendum dollars are used to preserve the high quality education and variety of educational opportunities the residents of the Marshfield have come to expect.

Reasons for an operational referendum

Decrease in state and federal funding

- Voucher system
- School choice
- State imposed revenue limits

Increase in state mandated initiatives

- Educator Effectiveness System
- PALS Literacy Screener
- Academic and Career Planning

(ACP) Increase in operating costs

- Utilities
- Insurance
- Online Learning
- Transportation
- Student Behavioral Needs

Public schools across Wisconsin are funded in basically the same way, with their primary source of revenue coming from a combination of state and local taxes. Revenue caps, implemented in 1993 as a means to control escalating tax increases, were imposed on school districts using their overall revenue amount at the time as a baseline for any future increases. As Marshfield was a comparatively low spending District at the time, the District has needed to continually make reductions and seek referenda to meet its operational needs.

What will be reduced or eliminated if the referendum fails?

The Board of Education will likely vote on the proposed reductions list at the October Regular Board of Education meeting. It has been customary for this vote to take place prior to the vote to help tax payers, the community and staff members know what is at stake. Approximately \$1.4 million of these funds are directly related to instruction. Other items included are reductions in teacher assistants, custodial and clerical staff, administration, salary freezes and a variety of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Instructional items on the proposed list include:

- Eliminate Gifted & Talented Teacher (over 550 students benefit from these Enrichment programs and services)
- Reduce 1 Family & Consumer Education Position (higher class size or less students able to enroll in classes he/she want)
- Reduce 1 Technical Education Program (higher class size or less students able to enroll in classes he/she want)
- Eliminate Drivers Education (approximately 200 students annually)
- Eliminate 1 Social Worker (only have 2 District wide)
- Eliminate French (lowest enrollment Foreign Language)
- Consolidate AP & Honors classes with low enrollment (increase class size)
- Reduce 1 teacher in EACH Core Areas (increase class size in Science, Reading, Math & English)

Co-curricular and extra-curricular items on the proposed list include:

- Eliminate MMS Sports (replace with intramurals)
- Cut MHS Athletics with lowest enrollment (possibly golf or swimming)
- Eliminate District funding for clubs and organizations (include FBLA, HOSA, FCCLA, Skills USA, Student Government and many more)
- Eliminate Drama/Musical (Up to 100 students participate each school year)

A full list of reductions with detailed descriptions is available on our website: www.marshfieldschools.org/vote2020

The reductions list is listed as "proposed" because this document went to print prior to the Board of Education vote.

For more information, please visit:
WWW.MARSHFIELDSCHOOLS.ORG/VOTE2020

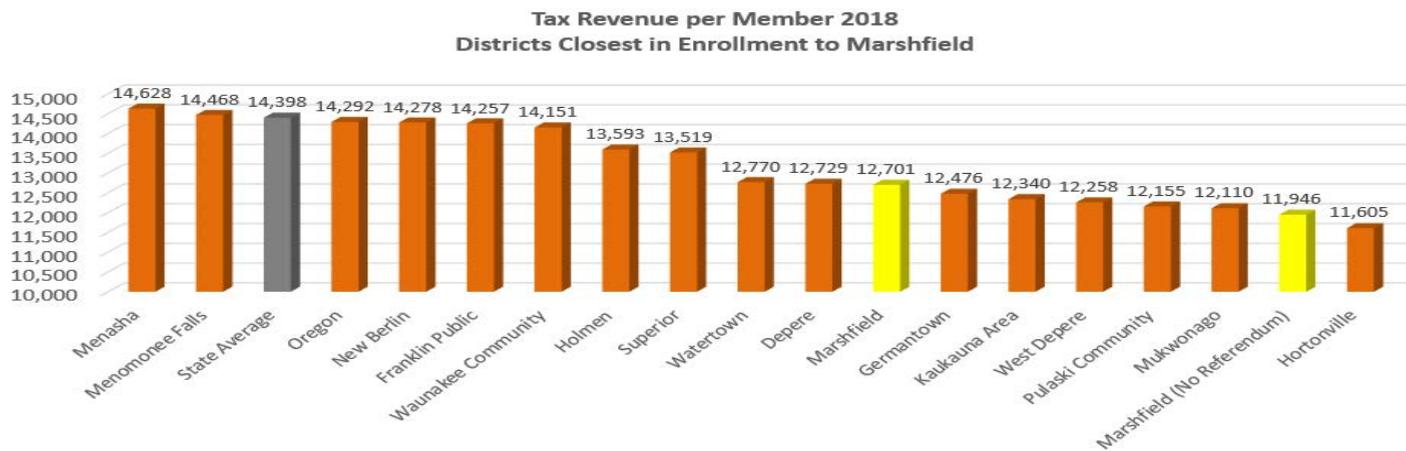
Thank you for valuing education VOTE November 3, 2020



How would the referendum affect my taxes?

With a successful referendum, the tax rate is expected to increase around .21 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value. A house worth \$100,000 would see an increase of about \$21. However, because the community is currently supporting a \$3 million referendum that will expire after 2020-21, a failed referendum would mean a decrease in the tax rate of approximately \$1.25/thousand or a \$125 decrease on a \$100,000 home.

The chart shows that without referenda, Marshfield would receive the second lowest revenue per member out of 17 similar sized school districts. The chart also shows that even with the *current* referendum proceeds, Marshfield still remains in the lower half of school systems and well below the state average.



The chart below shows Marshfield's *current* tax rate compared to its neighbors and districts in the Wisconsin Valley Conference. ACT scores are also provided to illustrate Marshfield's outstanding academic achievement. *Even with a successful referendum, the tax rate in Marshfield would still be one of the lowest in the area and well below the state average.*

