

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated 3/30/22

1. What is on the April 5 Ballot?

The School District of Lodi’s Board of Education has proposed a non-recurring referendum of \$5.98 million for each of the next five years, which consists of combined annual amounts of \$3.85 million for operations and \$2.13 million for maintenance and technology upgrades.



2. Why another Referendum?

In 2016, district taxpayers approved the current five-year non-recurring referendum of \$1,700,000. This referendum expires at the end 2021-2022, the current fiscal year.

State Aid reductions and stringent revenue limits imposed by the State have severely limited the District’s ability to fund educational programs and daily operations. The 2016 referendum provided funding to maintain the district’s exceptional educational staff and quality educational programming. Over the past five years, the District has been able to accomplish its priorities. Unfortunately, the same budgetary limitations face the District now in 2022, as they did in 2016. Further, costs for labor, utilities, educational materials, insurance, and maintaining our existing buildings continue to outpace the revenue limits imposed on the District by the State.

The fact that we have to again ask our tax payers for help in supporting and maintaining existing programs and facilities are the outgrowths of less state support and increasing costs.

The five year (\$5.98 million per year) non-recurring referendum is based on the financial analysis provided by the District’s financial advisor R.W. Baird Public Finance, as well as input from the community (via the strategic planning process), the Board of Education, the District’s administration, and the staff.

3. Why propose an operating referendum now?

Because there was no scheduled November 2021 election, the district was not able to ask a referendum question at that time. The next opportunity the district has to ask its taxpayers for financial support through referendum is April 5, 2022.

4. Why are we consistently going to referendum?

The need for the School District of Lodi to continuously go to referendum, much like other districts in the state, is the product of a school funding formula that just doesn’t work for many schools.

The simple fact is that strict revenue caps don’t allow districts to keep up with the increasing costs associated with funding the normal operations of a school district.

Therefore, districts are forced into a decision, which is to reduce staff and educational programming or ask its taxpayers to provide enough financial support to maintain the staffing and programming needed to provide an excellent education to our children.

A district can get out of this cycle for a short time by going to a recurring referendum. A recurring referendum permanently increases a schools revenue authority. The Lodi Board of Education may look at something like this in the future.

According to data from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website approximately 41% of schools in the State of Wisconsin (173 of 426) are currently operating under a recurring or non-recurring operational referendum.

5. What will the 2022 referendum pay for?

The additional taxpayer funds would allow the School District of Lodi to:

- Maintain current instructional programming,
- Pay employees a fair, yet competitive wage, enabling the district an opportunity to attract, recruit and retain high-quality staff,
- Provide for needed building maintenance,
- Support technology needs, such as infrastructure, which supports current and future student educational needs.

6. The requested \$5.98 million operating referendum is considerably more than the current \$1.7 million operating referendum. Why is such an increase being requested?

Both the proposed \$5.98 million and the expiring \$1.7 million referenda are above and beyond our base revenue cap set by the State of Wisconsin.

The District is asking to maintain the current \$1.7 million (annually) and add another \$2.15 million (annually) for school district operating expenses. This totals \$3.85 million per year to maintain current class sizes, current program offerings and to help retain our exceptional staff, as well as attract and recruit future staff. These priorities were products from the community as developed in the District's strategic plan.

Additionally, the district is asking for \$2.13 million annually for deferred maintenance projects, capital improvements and needed technology upgrades, which our annual operating budget cannot fund. More specifically, both the high school and elementary/OSC buildings roofs need to be replaced, the HVAC control systems at the middle school and elementary school/OSC need to be updated, the Wi-Fi and cabling throughout the district needs to be upgraded, and the track needs replacing as it has come to the end of its useful life.

7. Why hasn't the District budgeted for the repair of the elementary/OSC and high school roofs and other maintenance and technology upgrades so these should not be a surprise?

The District does have an annual budget for maintenance and technology needs. Further, the District levies \$50,000 annually into a capital improvement fund, which has a current balance of around \$310,000. However, neither of these funding sources can provide enough funding to cover the \$10 million in building maintenance and technology needs.

The District does track the useful life cycles of these systems and works collaboratively with CG Schmidt and North American Mechanical Inc., professional service providers to fully understand replacement timeframes. The April 2022 referendum is purely and simply at the same time as the end of life of these systems.

8. What if the referendum does not pass?

- As many as 15-20 staff positions, including teachers, educational assistants, administrators and support staff could be reduced or eliminated.
- Increased class sizes and elimination of educational and co-curricular programs will be considered.
- Maintenance projects and upgrades will continue to be deferred.

- Technology upgrades will be put on hold, or remain on hold, which will result in slower devices and internet access, more instances of systems being down, and frustration for students and staff.
- Retaining and attracting high-quality staff will become even more difficult.

9. What have we done? Over the past 10 years:

- Reduced approximately 17 staff FTE in past 10 years
- Required employees to pay more of their health insurance costs
- Froze long-term staff retirement plans
- Delayed facility improvements and updates
- Provided low cost-of-living increases to employees
- Reduced educational programming (i.e., Family & Consumer Education at the high school)
- Engaged contracted service providers, such as contract cleaning companies, to reduce cost

10. What is the Estimated Impact to Taxpayers

If the referendum passes, next year’s “school district mill rate” is projected to decrease from 11.11 to 11.00 (a .11 mill decrease from the previous year).

While it is very difficult to predict how this mill rate decrease will impact every property owner in each of the nine (9) different municipalities that make up our district, we can assume that if all variables remain the same, a homeowner with a property valued at \$250,000, could see a decrease in their tax bill of \$25.00 next year. However, we cannot guarantee every homeowner in our district, with a similar property in value, will all realize the same result.

YEAR	PROJECTED ANNUAL IMPACT	PROJECTED MONTHLY IMPACT
2022-2023	-\$25.00	-\$2.08
2023-2024	-\$12.50 or no impact	-\$1.04 or no impact
2024-2025	No impact	No impact
2025-2026	No impact	No impact
2026-2027	No impact	No impact

We are also projecting that in the following years, district property owners will continue to see slight decreases in their tax bills, again if all the variables remain the same.

There are many factors that are out of the District’s control which contribute to tax bill fluctuations. A primary factor is property valuation, including some of the following: municipality reassessment, equalized value adjustment, home sales and improvements, TIF district establishments, land zoning & conversion (agriculture to residential developments), etc.

Last year an equalized valuation adjustment in the Town of Lodi increased the total value by 16%, which had a significant impact on individual property owner's taxes. This was done by the State Department of Revenue and was completely out of the control of the District and the Town of Lodi.

Next year, we understand that continued development of the Tanamirah Ridge Development in the Village of Dane as well as the City of Lodi reassessment will all impact property values, which could in turn impact taxes for property owners in those municipalities.

What the District does know is if the referendum passes, the District will levy an additional \$5.98 million which will be spread amongst the 9 municipalities which make up our district.

11. How is it possible to ask for a \$5.98 million non-recurring referendum and have the tax rate go down?

This is possible because the Board of Education has intentionally kept the mill rate flat at 11.13 over the past several years, with the 2021-2022 mill rate at 11.11. The Board has accomplished this by utilizing a debt service pay down mechanism called defeasance. Defeasance is levying more than the annual debt service payment to prepay debt principal, thereby saving the district taxpayers interest on debt and also reducing the total number of payments on the life of that debt. The Board of Education has saved the district over \$2.5 million in interest by using defeasance and has also reduced the total debt cycle by approximately two years on the 20-year loan for the new primary school, all while keeping the mill rate flat. If the taxpayers approve the 2022 referendum, the Board of Education no longer plans to utilize defeasance, as the mill rate (base revenue cap, plus the referendum) is projected to stabilize at around 11.00 mills or less over the next several years.

12. If the referendum fails, won't my taxes go down even more?

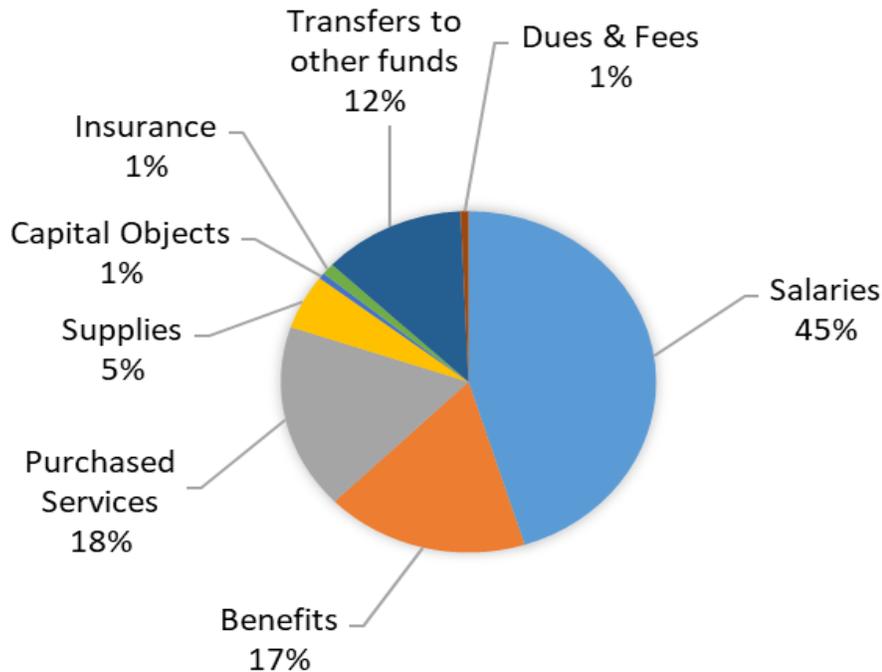
Yes, the property taxes across the district would go down. However, this would need to be offset by significant reduction to our educational programming. Options that the Board will have to explore include:

- **REDUCING STAFFING** - As many as 15-20 staff positions (10 % of the current staff) could be eliminated within the various employee groups of teachers, administrators, educational assistants, building and grounds staff, and other support staff.
- **INCREASED CLASS SIZES** - Reducing staff would reduce the number of classes the district can offer. Depending on how the final cuts get spread out among the various employee groups, class sizes could grow to as large as 27 at the Primary/Elementary/OSC levels.
- **CUT TECHNOLOGY AND DEFER MAINTENANCE** - Much of the last two referendums were invested in enhancing students' learning with technology. The district would have to look at cutting back on the replacement cycle or eliminating the current 1:1 Chromebook and iPad initiative putting Lodi students at a real-world disadvantage.
- **INCREASING FEES** - Fees for instructional material would have to go up along with consideration of charging fees for community programs to use district facilities.

This level of reduction will still not balance the current budget, but would allow the District a year to identify how much of fund balance and other federal and state grants could be used to function in the 2022-23 school year. The District would have to look at even more significant reductions in the following years.

13. How is the current budget allocated?

Schools typically allocate 70-80% of their budget on personnel. The graphic below represents our 2021-22 budget. An initial look at the chart indicates that salary and benefits for staff make up 62% of the budget. However, the 12% transfer to other funds is a transfer out of our general fund to help cover the cost of special education staff salaries and benefits which increase this total to 74% for staff salaries and benefits. The two biggest areas in purchase services are also connected to people through the personnel associated with bus contracts and our cleaning service.



14. How much of the current budget goes toward athletics and co-curriculars? Would it help to increase the amount that students pay?

The entire co-curricular budget for the District (athletics and other co-curriculars) is approximately \$500,000. Currently, high school students pay \$60 for each sport they play in unless they meet the family maximum of \$240. Most other co-curriculars at the high school have a fee of \$35 per participant.

An increase in fees will be one of the items considered if the referendum does not pass in April.

The Board has looked at fees in the past and always tries to balance providing students access to these important activities (which should be available to all students), against the level of fee that could potentially dissuade someone from participating.

15. Why is there not a surplus from schools being virtual for part of the last school year?

The District did incur a 2020-2021 budgetary year-end surplus of approximately \$688,000. This occurred because several of the contracted services, building functions and staffing areas came in under budget. This money was placed in the District's fund balance. This information was shared with the Facility and Finance Committee, the Board of Education, and at the District's annual meeting. A portion of this money will be used to offset needs the 2022 referendum will not be able to support.

16. What were the COVID-19 (ESSER funds) used for? Why were they not used for the roofs and building improvements?

ESSER stands for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Grant Program. The federal government has provided three rounds of COVID-19 relief funding to schools to help offset the cost of the COVID-19 pandemic. They were meant for one-time costs that were associated with the pandemic and not ongoing costs. However, state legislators took these COVID-19 relief funds into consideration when building the state budget. They decided to provide no additional funding for schools, instead asking schools to use the COVID-19 relief funds to offset any increased cost that districts invariably face from year to year. Therefore, a significant portion of the ESSER money (approximately \$300,000) had to be used to offset yearly operational expenses, which increased state support typically covered. This has limited how these funds could be used by the district.

The way that the ESSER funds have been set up by the state is the District needs to spend these monies and ask for reimbursement from the state. Therefore, there is a lag between when these funds were expended and when the district can apply and receive reimbursement from the State of Wisconsin. The District has access to the following COVID-19 relief funds:

ESSER I, ESSER II, and ESSER III

The District was awarded approximately \$97,000 of ESSER I funding, \$508,000 of ESSER II funding, and \$863,406 of ESSER III funding. All of the funds from ESSER I and ESSER II, along with some ESSER III funds, have been (or will be) spent on the following:

2020-2021 School year

- Four (4) permanent long-term substitutes (one of each building) for the second semester of the school year
- Personal Protective Equipment (masks, shields, Plexiglas, hand sanitizer, etc.).
- Addition of a Health Aide position at the PS/ES/OSC
- Addition of a part-time Contract Tracer position for the district
- Additional nurse, health aide, and support staff compensation for time spent contract tracing after hours on nights and weekends
- Increased technology - hot spots for families without internet access, document cameras, subscriptions to online instructional support services (SeeSaw, iReady), headsets, lightboards, etc
- Busing cost for extra midday routes, and extra buses for co-curricular events

2021-22 School year

- Three (3) permanent long-term substitutes for the entire school year
- Additional English as a Secondary Language coordinator position to support our growing population in this area and to meet state and federal requirements
- Additional technology support position
- Addition of a Health Aid position at the PS/ES/OSC
- Addition of School Nursing position for second semester of the school year
- Additional nurse, health aide, and support staff compensation for time spent contract tracing after hours on nights and weekends

The District has created an ESSER dashboard so families and community members can track information about how the ESSER funds have been used in the School District of Lodi. This ESSER dashboard can be found on the District's website or at the following [link](#).

17. Remaining ESSER III funding

If the referendum passes, the District will use the remaining ESSER III funds on staff development in the areas of reading and math. ESSER III funding has to be completed by September 2024. To supplement these staff development opportunities, the district will purchase reading and math materials and intervention materials in both of these areas over the next three years. In addition, the District will be funding an English as a Second Language Teacher out of these funds to meet the increasing needs that the district is seeing along with meeting state and federal guidelines in this area.

If the referendum is not supported by the community, the District will be using ESSER funds to support staff positions that would otherwise have to be reduced. Specifically, we will use these funds to continue funding a reading specialist position at the primary school, a reading specialist position at the elementary school, and the instructional coach position at the middle and high school. These positions are currently funded as part of the District's operational budget. The District would also use ESSER III funds to support an English as a Second Language Teacher across the District, and other similar positions for the next couple of years.

The District has created an ESSER dashboard so families and community members can track information about how ESSER funds have been used, or are budgeted to be used, in the School District of Lodi. A draft budget for ESSER III funds was approved by the Board of Education on March 14, 2022 at their regular monthly meeting. This budget was approved based on the referendum being supported by the community and will need to be revised if the referendum fails. The ESSER III approved budget is located on the District's ESSER dashboard which can be found on the District's website or at the following [link](#).

18. Can we save money by using e-books rather than textbooks? How often are chromebooks and laptops updated?

E-textbooks are reviewed and considered during any textbook adoption cycle. Oftentimes, we have discovered that purchasing an e-textbook instead of a traditional textbook would not provide substantial savings. Sometimes the cost is more in the long run due to the yearly subscription costs.

The District has been purchasing Chromebooks on a 4 year lease but keeping them for five years. After 4 years, performance drops off and failure rates increase dramatically. The general rule of thumb for student-issued devices is 4-5 years. The District pays a little extra for an extended warranty to cover our Chromebooks for 4 years.

In the past, the District has tried to get 5-6 years out of a desktop or laptop, after purchasing used devices that were 3-4 years old (therefore devices would be 8-10 years old). The District believes that due to the cost of parts and time to maintain those used devices, it would make fiscal sense to purchase new desktops and laptops and keep them for 6-8 years. The District projects it will spend a little more upfront but can keep the devices functioning better for a longer time, saving money in the long run.

19. Can we offer more career and technical education classes?

The District has made a substantial investment into STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) classes across the district. Students at the high school are required to take ½ credit of STEAM education as a graduation requirement.

In addition, the District has worked to develop a Fabrication Lab at the high school that students can access through the Career & Technological Education program. The District has also increased support for the agriculture program through the addition of a new greenhouse at the high school. As part of implementing the strategic plan, the middle and high schools are providing more academic and career planning time and instruction, the high school is developing a career fair, and there has been an increased focus on the youth apprenticeship program. It is the District's hope that these investments in these areas will continue to grow these programs.

If the referendum is not supported by the community, each of these areas would also be subject to reductions which potentially will reduce offerings to students in these areas.

20. How much do the employees contribute to their healthcare cost? Can they shoulder more of the cost?

Currently, a benefits-qualifying staff member contributes up to 33% of the cost of a Point of Service family health insurance premium (\$7,569 annually) and 26% of the cost of a HMO family health insurance premium (\$5,616 annually). Considering a starting teacher makes about \$38,500 per year in Lodi, these costs can consume a considerable amount of an employee's annual income. Shouldering the burden of more health insurance on the employee is financially challenging, and our current staff members are finding that neighboring districts pay more in both wage and benefits, making it very difficult to retain staff in Lodi.

21. How old are our facilities? Do you have a 5, 10, and 15 year plan? What is the life expectancy of the elementary school building?

The Lodi Elementary School/OSC was built in two phases, with the south side of the building (including the library and gymnasium) built in 1959, with the North side addition (including the auxiliary gym) added in 1963/1964. Lodi Middle School was completed in 1997, Lodi High School was completed in 1999, and the New Primary School was completed in 2018.

As part of implementing the recently completed strategic plan, the District worked with CG Schmidt to do a comprehensive walk through with our staff of all of our existing facilities. This resulted in a 10-year facilities master plan which was adopted by the Board at their December 2021 meeting. This comprehensive master plan is the basis for the maintenance portion of the referendum.

As part of that facilities master plan, with the upgrades to the roof and other maintenance suggested, the Board's plan is that the Lodi Elementary/OSC building will continue to serve students in its current capacity for at least 20 more years if not longer.

22. Can busing/transportation costs be reduced?

The District is reviewing the prospect of reducing transportation, whether that be a route or some combining of current routes. However, these considerations all come with a substantial increase in student rider times.

Also, the District is being told that bussing costs will increase between 5-8% next year due to labor costs, fuel prices, replacement bus costs and other typical business costs increases. Therefore, even considering a reduction in bus routes, may still not decrease the budget very much.

23. Why does the middle school parking lot need to be resurfaced when it was just completed?

The parking lot in front of the Middle School does not need to be resurfaced as was done in 2017. The area at the middle school that is in need of being redone over the next five years is the portion next to and behind the middle school. The same holds true for the high school parking lot. The area in front of the high school was resurfaced in 2014, but the portion next to and behind the building and the Performing Arts Center parking lot need to be redone.

24. Can more fundraising help the budget?

The majority of our high school co-curricular teams currently fundraise to ensure they have the equipment and supplies they need for their season. Fundraising works for specific, one-time items that people may want, but don't have the funding for. Fundraising typically doesn't work well for ongoing maintenance types of items as it is hard to get people excited about giving for a roof or HVAC system. Fundraising also does not work well for items that have ongoing costs associated with them, like staff salary or benefits.

25. Is it really necessary to redo the track? Is there a plan to put artificial turf inside the track?

The existing track and field facility is beyond its useful life and requires annual repair in order to host competitions. Due to poor drainage of the base layers, the paved base cracks and shifts with the seasons, which tears the top surface layer. Despite recent patching, the track surface still experiences annual sinking which requires further patching. There are dips and divots due to subsurface sinking, which creates safety concerns when athletes run at top speed or participate in hurdles.

While the program continues to draw 100-150 high school and middle school students each spring, the wear and tear, continual shifting and sinking, and annual patching continues to cause safety concern for participants for a very popular sport.

When the track is being redone, it is the perfect time to redo the field inside the track. This past year the field held up great due to the dry summer and fall that we had. However, most years a significant portion of the field becomes unusable in late fall and through the spring due to water drainage issues. When the track is being redone, the District will look at adding drainage and irrigation to the field to make it more usable to all sports throughout the year.

In doing their due diligence, the District did explore the cost of putting artificial turf inside the track. This would have allowed this area to be used more often, but came with a significant up front cost which would have increased the cost of the current referendum. Therefore, it became cost prohibitive for the Board to pursue this option.

26. What is the current starting salary for a teacher in Lodi compared to other area districts?

Last year, CESA 5 Administrator Jeremy Biehl conducted a statewide survey on starting teacher pay. The School District of Lodi ranked 37th lowest of 262 school districts responding, placing us in the 14th percentile on starting teacher wage. Of the 35 school districts that make up CESA #5, Lodi has the second lowest starting salary at \$38,000.

27. What is the current cost per pupil in the School District of Lodi. What was it five years ago?

The per pupil cost to educate a student in the School District of Lodi was \$14,730 per student in 2020. Compared to the 35 other school districts in CESA #5, Lodi ranks in the middle of these districts with the 17th highest cost per pupil. The cost per pupil five years ago was \$13,765 per student which ranked Lodi 10th highest in CESA #5 in 2016.

28. At the first coffee with the superintendent, a question was asked about the Town of Lodi and the substantial increase in taxes due to the recent re-evaluation. The President of the Board replied that "the town was underpaying before." Is this the position of the district and board?

The District's financial advisor from RW Baird reviewed the history of the past several years of the municipality's property values increasing within the district. He suggested that the current Town of Lodi increase may have been due to the Department of Revenue not updating the evaluation of the Town of Lodi in the past few years. Therefore, Town of Lodi property value increases may have been a result of this equalized value update. That was information shared by our independent financial consultant, this was not surmised by either the Board or Administration.

29. How much did the district pay for surveys the past 2 years?

The District spent \$10,373.76 on surveys the past two years.

The District has done many surveys over the past few years. The District has surveyed families about COVID-19 on multiple occasions throughout the pandemic. The District gathered information on

- COVID Mitigation
- The choices families were going to make when we switched from the virtual to the blended instructional model

- The choices families were going to make when the District switched from the blended to the inperson instructional model
- Frequently asked questions that families had regarding COVID which were used to generate frequently asked question references for families
- Referendum survey that was sent out to not just families, but to the entire community

30. I am interested in knowing exactly how you will help our teachers be paid a fair wage? Will this be done as a percentage increase or a specific increase across the board? If this is a priority, this needs to be on the top of the list. So many years our amazing teachers have gotten a “raise” of a percentage or two but that ends up disappearing with the increase from their portion of insurance.

As a result of the strategic planning process, the community's vision for the District, as a top priority, is to attract and recruit excellent teachers as well as provide fair compensation which will allow the district to retain our current outstanding staff. The referendum is built on the priorities set in the strategic plan. Currently, Lodi has the highest ACT score in CESA 5, but the second lowest starting salary for teachers in CESA 5. This needs to change if we are going to retain the district’s outstanding teaching staff. This referendum is set to give a significant flat rate pay increase to all of our support staff and teaching staff across the district. The referendum funds are also planned to increase the district’s contribution to staff benefits. With fewer and fewer applicants for positions (which is not just an issue in education) we need to ensure that we remain competitive in our salary and benefit package so we can continue to attract, recruit and retain the staff our students and community deserve.

31. Do we have a large enough population to support 4 schools?

This was the question that was on the referendum for voters in 2016. The Board of Education had made the decision to close the old primary school. The referendum option put to the voters was to build a new primary school and maintain four school buildings. The District shared during this process that if that referendum failed, the District would go back and consolidate the four schools into three buildings, but that would take some remodeling at the buildings to make that occur. For example, if the 7th and 8th grade would have moved to the high school, there would have been a need to add on space for physical education, art, technology education, and music education to name a few areas. Given this choice, the voters in 2016 approved the building of a new primary school.

32. Why did you use CG Schmidt to get a quote for the referendum? Why not get a second opinion?

The District utilized CG Schmidt to do a maintenance walk through and develop a 10 year maintenance plan for the District. The District has a long standing relationship with CG Schmidt as they were involved in building the new primary school and other remodeling projects around the District. The District did explore other entities for conducting this type of walk through, but they were all in the same price range.

If the referendum is approved, the maintenance projects in the referendum will go out to bid. The prices listed for each of these projects is an estimated cost. After bids are received for these projects, the District will select vendors for these projects based on the submitted bids.

33. You stated that the government does not pay it’s fair share for Special Education students. What does this mean?

As noted by the Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding and highlighted by research from the Wisconsin Policy Forum, Wisconsin continues to trail the nation in funding support for students with disabilities. Of all states with a reimbursement system, Wisconsin's rate of 28.18% is the country's lowest reimbursement rate. This funding flows to support students most in need, while ensuring the schools they attend have adequate resourcing to meet their needs.

In addition, under the 1975 IDEA legislation, the federal government committed to pay 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure for special education. However, that pledge has never been met, and current funding is at just 15.7 percent.

Note: The Wisconsin Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding was established by Assembly Speaker Representative Vos and Senate Majority Leader Senator Scott Fitzgerald in December of 2017. The chairs of this commission were Representative Joel Kitchens and Senator Luther Olsen.

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35. Why does the wording of the referendum question on the ballot seem so complicated?

There are several legal requirements which go into any referendum question. For that reason, it is imperative that school districts utilize legal counsel to draft resolutions to ensure that their question(s) meet the statutory requirements.

36. What are the average class sizes now and what will they be if the referendum does not pass?

Current class sizes at the primary and elementary school typically range from an average of 19-21 students per class. This will change to consistent average class sizes of 24-25 students in a class, with some grades having average classes sizes of 26-27.

Current core academic classes sizes at the middle school are an average of 22-23 students per class. This will change to an average of 28-30 students per class.

The high school currently is a little more difficult to provide a standard answer as student choice of courses drives enrollment in many classes. There are currently classes as big as 28-29 students at the high school and some that are as small as 10 for some advanced classes. If the referendum fails, these numbers would need to increase in the core academic areas and some elective options may have to be eliminated.

37. What percentage of the referendum is the operating budget?

The School District of Lodi has around a \$19.0 million budget that covers the day to day operation of the district such as salaries/benefits, heating/cooling, supplies, etc. The operating referendum of \$3.85 million would make up approximately 20% of the District's day to day operational budget.

38. If the state would have maintained their rate of support that they did from 1993-2010 through this current year, would the district's operational portion of the referendum still be \$3.85 million?

With so many unknown variables, this is a very difficult question to answer. However, we can do calculations under the premise that the revenue limit continued to increase by \$285 each year from 2010 to the current year and all other variables remained the same. This calculation would show the District receiving more in yearly revenue (from state aid and property taxes) than what is currently being asked for in the operation portion of the referendum. Therefore, the District would not need an operating portion of the current referendum if funding had remained at those levels. The following paragraphs outline the rationale.

From 1993 to 2010 the revenue limit had an annual increase tied to inflation. Had this continued, school

districts would have received increases of about \$285 per student each year since 2010 (that was the average increase per year from 1993-2010). Under that premise, the School District of Lodi's current revenue limit would be approximately \$3420 per student higher than it currently is, which would translate into approximately \$5.13 million more in revenue for the district (\$285 per year X 12 years x approximately 1500 students) each year. Instead, the total per-student revenue limit increase allowed over the last 12 years has been \$112, or an average of \$9.33 per student per year.

In lieu of changes to the revenue limit, Legislators provided a "per pupil categorical aid", a state aid schools receive which is outside the revenue cap, which started in 2013-14. This past budget cycle, schools received a \$0.00 increase for each of the two years (2021-2022 & 2022-2023) in the State's Biennial Budget. So currently, this "per pupil categorical aid" is set at \$742 per student, the same as it was the past two years. The School District of Lodi has approximately 1500 students, so by using this method to fund schools, the state increased the school's revenue beyond the current revenue limit by approximately \$1,113,000 (\$742 x 1500 students).

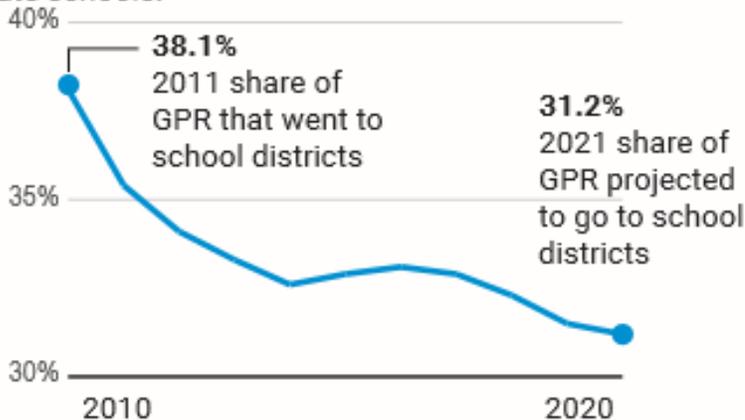
Therefore, the School District of Lodi current revenues would be \$4,017,000 higher than they currently are (\$5,130,000 - \$1,113,000 = \$4,017,000) if the state had continued with annual increases to the revenue limit that were tied to inflation rather than using per pupil categorical aid. This increased revenue would have been funded through a combination of state aid and local property taxes.

Note: Above data provided by DPI and R.W Baird and that approximately 1500 student enrollment for the District was used for simplicity.

General Purpose Revenue

School Districts Receiving a Smaller Share of State Tax Revenue

General Purpose Revenue spending for school districts as a share of total GPR. Spending on school districts excludes property tax credits, aid to non-district charter schools, and aid to private schools.



Source: Legislative Fiscal Bureau

WISCONSIN BUDGET PROJECT

Another way to look at the school funding is at the percentage of the General Purpose Revenue that the State of Wisconsin spent on school districts as a share of the total GPR. The following graphic was provided by the Wisconsin Budget Project with data provided by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau which shows the support for school from the State of Wisconsin decreasing from 38.1% of General Purpose Revenues in 2010 to 31.2% of General Purpose Revenues in 2020.

39. What did the last Capitol Referendum Project go to?

The Capitol Referendum that was approved by the voters in 2016 was to help build a new primary school and do remodeling, safety, and building upgrades across the District. In addition to the new primary school, the following projects were completed:

Project	Cost
New Primary School Site & Building	\$13,764,222
Land Purchase	\$1,500,230
MSA Zoning and SIP Preparation	\$584
Security CCTV	\$15,000
Security Access Controls	\$24,517
High School Security Upgrades	\$57,000
Phone & Data - Equipment	\$8,000
Outside Fiber	\$17,427
ES: LES/OSC Remodeling Scope <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Relocation of Office and created a secure entry ● Turned old office space into Spec Ed rooms ● Remodeled OSC Wing to fit program 	\$1,752,811
ES Mold and Boiler Demo Project	\$36,240
ES Concrete work	\$2,500
ES Gym Floor Refinishing Project	\$16,662
ES Gym Bleacher Replacement Project	\$30,768
ES Restroom Refurbishing	\$62,051
ES Asbestos Testing/Abatement	\$55,150
MS Remodeling Scope <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Relocation of office area and secure entry ● old office became collaboration & STEAM classroom ● painted and replaced all carpet and tiles in 6th & 8th Gr wing ● replaced lockers in 6th Gr. wing ● gym floors-sanded, repainted & refinished, added security camera 	\$756,484
MS Gym Floor Refinishing Project	\$10,000

HS Remodeling Scope <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Add single user bathroom ● Created small locker room ● Repurposed classroom into athletic training room ● carpet in locker area of commons 	\$182,876
Gym Repainting Project	\$10,000
Miscellaneous Referendum Items:	
Asphalt: HS & MS Parking Lot Repair	\$359,923
District Fund 41 Allocation	-\$156,000
HVAC:	
HS Dectron Unit Replacement	\$201,452
District Office Rooftop Unit Replacement	\$150,000
Elem. Rooftop Unit/Exhaust Fan Replacement	\$66,500
Elem. RTU's - Electrical Cost	\$3,050
Focus on Energy Grant	-\$17,500
District Office HVAC Replacement	\$149,706
District Office HVAC Electrical Replacement	\$33,000
Roofing:	
Roofing Allowance Remaining	\$76,368
MSA District Wide Roofing Study	\$5,000
Building Envelope Professionals (roof specifications and inspections)	\$39,242
District Office Roof Replacement	\$171,640
MS Base Bid Roof Replacement (Gable Roof)	\$181,300
MS Roof Replacement Alt #1 (Gym Roof)	\$146,900
MS Masonry Repair	\$29,550

City of Lodi:	
Traffic Study	\$13,269
City Street & Water Booster Station Shared Cost	\$222,112
Subdivision Road to Bus Loop shared Cost	\$156,793
Electrical Service - Lodi Utilities	\$156,973
Utility Impact Fee - City of Lodi	\$21,008
Retention Pond Shared Cost	\$74,558
Architectural and Engineering Construction Fees	\$1,569,803
Furniture & Equipment	\$100,000
Existing Furniture Moving cost	\$54,000
Outdoor Playground Equipment	\$35,000
Volleyball Equipment	\$30,481

\$22,332,651

These were additional projects that were completed due to money saved on the projects above and accrued interest documented below.

Project	Final Cost
Gym Painting	\$11,400.00
Gym Bleacher	\$4,700.00
OSC Security	\$6,610.00
OSC Kitchen	\$5,914.76
HS Music Wing Floor	\$25,300.00
Primary Acoustical Panels	\$4,500.31
Playground Path Repairs	\$2,000.00
PTO Playground Donation	\$4,500.00
OSC Basketball Hoop Relocation	\$140.31
Design Studio Playground Design	\$18,525.00
PS Shed Painting	\$1,430.00
MS Steam Lab	\$45,030.90

HS Fab Lab	\$50,297.74
HS Green House	\$176,047.56
Property Purchase - Easement for PS	\$83,100
Pools Frequency Drive Pool pump & Drive	\$12,185.79
STEAM - ES	\$22,744.68
Athletic Field Storage Shed	\$36,741.10
ES Technology	\$8,634.00
Board Meeting Room Renovation	\$74,086.17
Performing Arts Center Updates	\$133,801.00
PS Lunch Room Coat Racks	\$1,825.00
STEAM - PS	\$3,871.41
ES/OSC Update PA System	\$1,514.00
HS Sidewalks Sauk St to PAS Tennis Court Sidewalk repairs Add'l cost	\$37,151.75
MS, ES/OSC & DO Parking lot light	\$22,950.00
HS Classrooms (desks to tables) 10 Classrooms Art room	\$61,840.88
Primary Extension & Streetlight Install	\$21,104.78
add'l ES Office Cabinets	\$7,385.00
Total	\$885,332.14
Interest on referendum money	
Sub-201	\$82,830.02
Sub-202	\$234,312.38
Total interest to help with add'l projects	\$317,142.40

Where do I go to vote?

City of Lodi

Lodi City Hall
130 S. Main Street
Lodi, WI 53555
608-592-0713
Polling Hours: 7:00am - 8:00pm

Village of Dane

Village of Dane Hall
102 W. Main Street
Dane, WI 53529
608-849-5422
Polling Hours: 7:00am - 8:00pm

Town of Arlington

Arlington Community Bldg
200 Commercial Street
Arlington, WI 53911
608-635-4808
Polling Hours: 7:00am - 8:00pm

Town of Dane

Dane Town Hall
213 W. Main Street
Dane, WI 53529
608-849-4335
Polling Hours: 7:00am - 8:00pm

Town of Dekorra

Dekorrra Town Hall
W8225 County Road JV
Poynette, WI 53955
608-635-2014
Polling Hours: 7:00am - 8:00pm

Town of Lodi

Lodi Town Hall
W10919 County Road V
Lodi, WI 53555
608-592-4868
Polling Hours: 7:00am - 8:00pm

Town of Roxbury

Roxbury Town Hall
7167 Kippley Road
Sauk City, WI 53583
608-643-8281
Polling Hours: 7:00am - 8:00pm

Town of Vienna

Vienna Town Hall
7161 County Road I
DeForest, WI 53532
608-845-3800
Polling Hours: 7:00am - 8:00pm

Town of West Point

West Point Town Hall
N2114 Rausch Road
Lodi, WI 53555
608-592-7059
Polling Hours: 7:00am - 8:00pm