

Addressing Financial Needs in the School District of Wisconsin Dells



Election Day: November 8, 2022

Locked into a Low Revenue Limit

- Wisconsin schools operate under a state-imposed revenue limit that restricts the amount of money a district can receive.
- Our district's revenue limit has always been lower than most other districts. This is because when revenue limits were created by the state in 1993, low spending, frugal districts like ours were locked into a very low limit.
- Our district spends \$767 less than the state average per student every year, making the School District of Wisconsin Dells one of the lowest spending districts in Wisconsin.



Low Revenue Limit



- Enrollment has increased.
- Student needs have increased, especially in the areas of special education and mental health; our district receives inadequate funding for these state- and federally mandated services.
- Costs for things like running our buses and heating our schools continue to increase, as do other expenses out of the district's control.

*The Wisconsin Department of
Public Instruction indicates that
it **does not see the funding
formula for schools changing**
in the foreseeable future.*



Responsible Spending



- The district has been able to manage its financial challenges in recent years thanks to the support of our community.
- We're one of the lowest-spending districts in the state. While we continue to seek efficiencies, budget cuts would directly impact vital educational services.
- The new high school was finished on time and under budget. The district's new auditorium will be completed on donated land, with building costs solely covered by donations.

Did You Know?

Since January 2013, **507** operating referendum questions have been asked by **227** unique districts (**54%** of the state) with a collective passage rate of **79%** per the Department of Public Instruction.

Unless Wisconsin changes its school funding formula, districts like Wisconsin Dells will continue to need operational referendums to avoid significant cuts to programs and services.

Operational Referendum

- District residents will vote on a referendum on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.
- An approved referendum would allow the district to exceed the revenue limit by \$1.2 million per year for the next four years.
- If approved by voters, the **November 8, 2022 referendum** would address ongoing costs for the district's day-to-day operations.



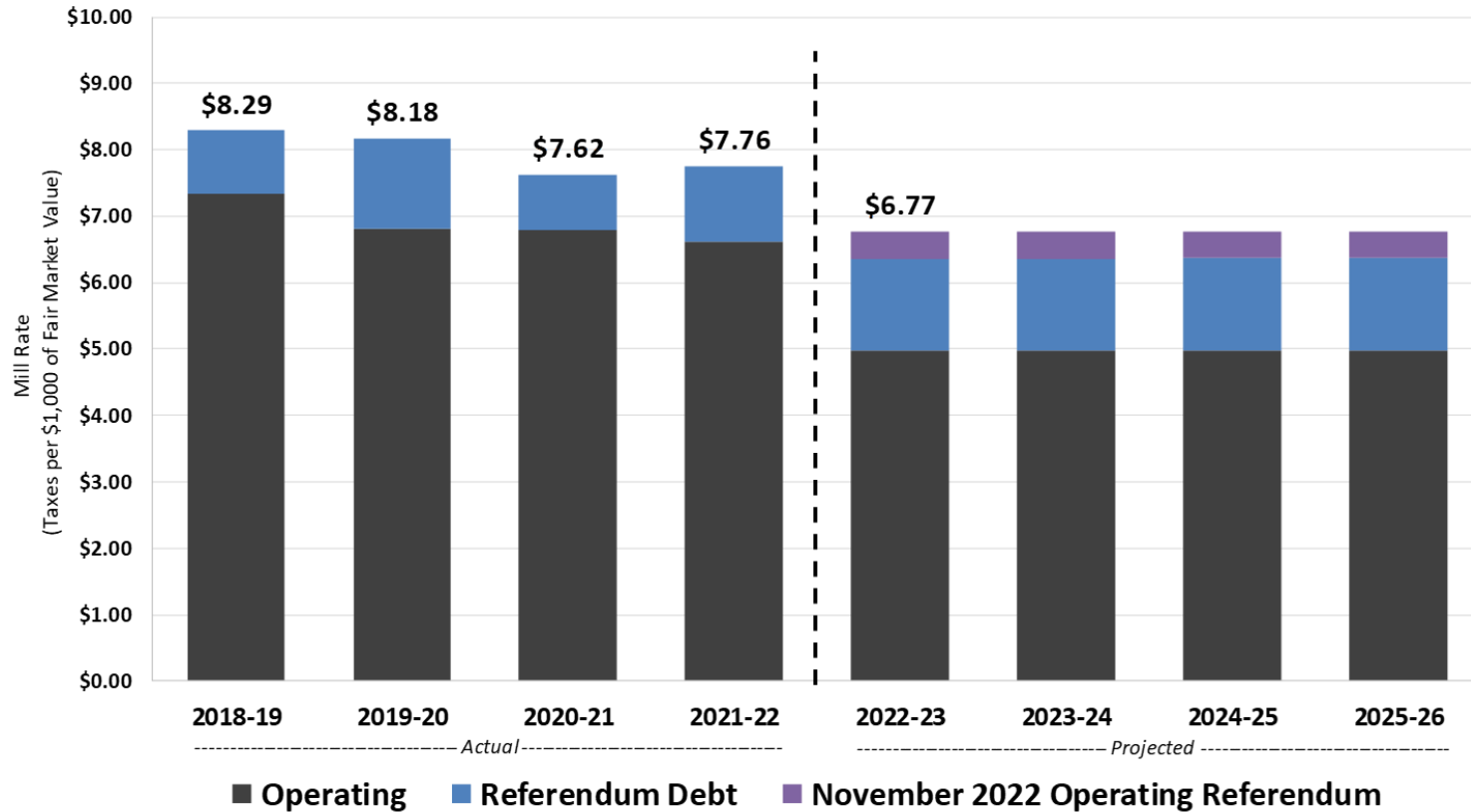
Property Tax Impact

- The mill rate will drop from \$7.76 in 2021-22 to \$6.77 or \$0.99 lower in 2022-23. To clarify, the mill rate will drop more than 10% even with the referendum's passage.
- Due to an increase in state aids the board has adopted a 2022-23 tax levy \$19,856,872. This is \$140K less than last year. Resulting in a decreased tax levy increase.



School District of Wisconsin Dells

DISTRICT MILL RATE



Mill rate based on 2022 Equalized Valuation (TID-OUT) of \$2,934,412,882 with annual growth of 1.00% thereafter.

LEARN MORE

*Scan the QR code with the
camera on your mobile
device or visit:*



www.sdwd.k12.wi.us/Ref2022

A group of approximately ten children are looking up towards the camera, their faces arranged in a circular pattern. The background is a solid, vibrant blue. The children are of various ages and are smiling or looking directly at the viewer.

Thank You!

QUESTIONS?

