



# 2023 OPERATING REFERENDUM

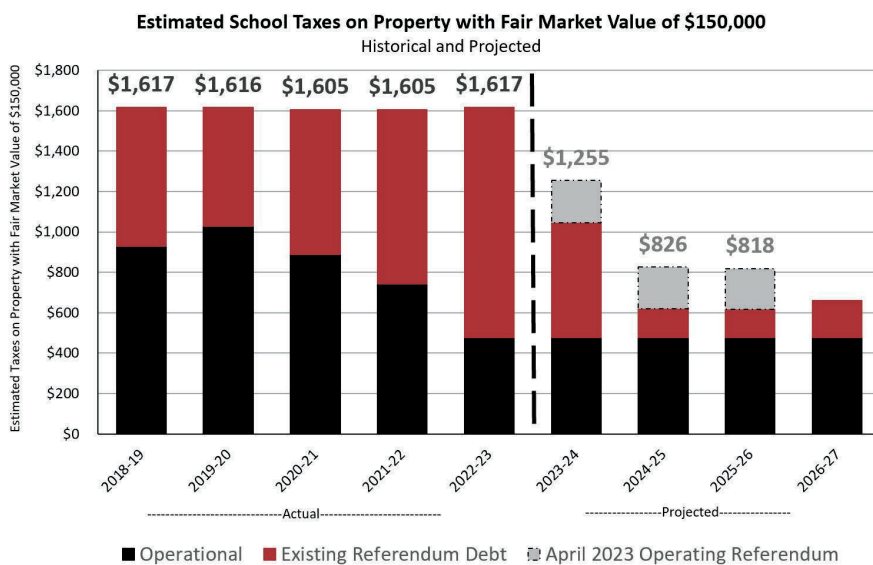
In April 2023, the School District of Arcadia is asking residents to vote on a \$750,000 non-recurring operational referendum question.

## WHY OPERATING REFERENDUM?

- **LACK OF STATE FUNDING** - there has been a 0% increase in ongoing per pupil funding authorization by the State of Wisconsin for two consecutive years.
- **INFLATION** - inflation has increased at unprecedented rates.
- **A COMPETITIVE MARKET** - to maintain our ability to retain and attract the best educators and staff in an increasingly competitive job market, we must offer competitive salaries.

## REDUCTION IN TAXES ON A \$150,000 HOME

History of tax payments based on the mill rate over the past five (5) years.



**Assumptions**  
Based on 2022 Equalized Valuation (TID-OUT) of \$524,912,517 with annual growth of 2.00%.  
Existing referendum debt, net of effect of 2023 hypothetical defeasance.  
Assumes no change in current State Funding formula and operational levy remains flat.

\*\*The mill rate could fluctuate if the Board were to levy dollars to pay down outstanding debt early, but any change would not exceed the current mill rate of \$10.78.



### Continue Student Opportunities

- Field Trips
- Athletics
- Clubs & Organizations
- Course Offerings



### Recruit & Retain Highly Qualified Staff

- Raises to keep up with inflation
- Competitive benefits
- Recruit staff for open positions



### Facility Maintenance and Updates

- Roof Replacement
- Upgrade boilers
- Plumbing upgrades
- Window replacements



### Equipment Purchases

- Bus Fleet Replacement
- Technology Upgrades



## WHAT IS THE EXACT WORDING OF THE REFERENDUM QUESTION THAT WILL BE ON THE BALLOT?

Shall the School Board of the School District of Arcadia be authorized to exceed the revenue limit under Section 121.91 of the Wisconsin Statutes beginning with the 2023-24 school year through the 2025-26 school year on a non-recurring basis by an amount of \$750,000 each year for the purpose of paying District operating costs for staff salaries and benefits, facility maintenance and equipment purchases as provided in the foregoing resolution?

## WHY NON-RECURRING REFERENDUM?

Non-recurring will buy time to see how the state decides to fund schools in the next biennium budget. After two years of no additional per pupil funding from the state, it is unclear how the state is going to fund schools moving forward. Three years allows funding to stabilize so the district knows how to plan in the future.

## IMPACT

We are already planning to reduce budgets at the building levels by 20% for the 23-24 school year. If the district were to receive additional funding from the state and a successful referendum to exceed the revenue cap we would be able to restore some, if not all, of those funds. If not, we may have to look at academic and athletic programs, clubs and organizations, etc. for possible reductions.

## IT STATES IN SOME INFO POSTED THAT IT'S A NON-RECURRING REFERENDUM BUT THEN SAYS IT WILL EXCEED MORE THAN ONE YEAR.

Non-recurring simply means that it does not go infinitely. A non-recurring referendum goes on for the time frame that is listed in the referendum resolution. In our case, the non-recurring referendum would start in 2023-2024 and have its last year in 2025-2026. A recurring referendum is one, if passed, never has an end date.

## DISTRICT EARLY DEBIT PAYMENTS

Since 2019, the district has paid down principal of \$3,565,000. This equated to savings of approximately \$852,000.

## WHAT DOES A "YES" VOTE MEAN, AND WHAT DOES A "NO" VOTE MEAN?

A "YES" vote allows the district to ask taxpayers for additional dollars to be used for operating expenses. A "NO" vote means the district may have to make reductions in a number of areas because of lack of funding to cover operating expenses. This could affect co-curricular and other non-academic opportunities and programs.

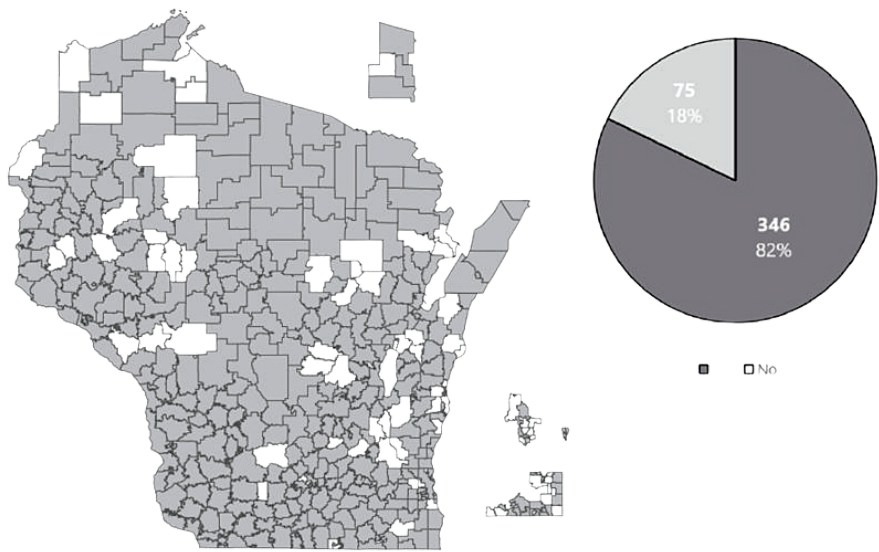
# school finances

## HAS STATE FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS CHANGED?

In 2002 Wisconsin was ranked 11th in the nation for school funding. By 2020, our state had fallen to 25th. This is the largest drop in the national ranking of any state over this time period. In fact, Wisconsin public school funding in 2020 was 6% below the national average, and there has been no increase in state per-pupil funding for the two years since then. The nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau has estimated that for the state to meet the CPI (index for inflation) for the past two years and in the next budget cycle, the state would need to increase per-pupil funding for school districts by \$1,510 per pupil in the coming biennium.

## ARE OTHER DISTRICTS GOING TO REFERENDUM?

Yes, almost 100 districts in the state went to referendum in November and many more are anticipated in April. Over the years, more of the responsibility for funding schools has moved from the state to local property taxpayers, via referendums. In fact, since revenue limits were put into place in 1992, 82% of the Districts in the State have gone to operational referendum. See chart below:



Wisconsin School Referendums March 2015 - November 2023

| Passed         |     | Failed         |    |
|----------------|-----|----------------|----|
| Non-Recurring: | 271 | Non-Recurring: | 58 |
| Recurring:     | 94  | Recurring:     | 27 |



## DISTRICT REVENUES

- Local Property Tax
- State Equalization Aid
- State Categorical Aid
- Federal Aid
- State Grants

## WHAT DETERMINES EQUALIZATION AID?

### DISTRICT FACTORS

- equalized property value
- student enrollment
- spending (shared cost)

### STATE FACTORS

- cost ceilings
- guaranteed valuations per member

Aid is inversely related to district property value per member.

One pot of money is split over 422 school districts based on district values, membership, and shared costs. Changes in individual district data affect every other district's aid.





# 2023 OPERATING REFERENDUM

- ✓ State funding DOES NOT cover full costs of education
- ✓ Non-recurring will buy time to see how the state decides to fund schools
- ✓ Three year operational referendum would start in the 2023-24 school year

## BALLOT QUESTION

Shall the School Board of the School District of Arcadia be authorized to exceed the revenue limit under Section 121.91 of the Wisconsin Statutes beginning with the 2023-24 school year through the 2025-26 school year on a non-recurring basis by an amount of \$750,000 each year for the purpose of paying District operating costs for staff salaries and benefits, facility maintenance and equipment purchases as provided in the foregoing resolution?

## INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

| MARCH                        | MARCH                             | MARCH                                  | MARCH                      |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 6                            | 13                                | 20                                     | 27                         |
| 6:30 PM<br>Glencoe Town Hall | 6:30 PM<br>Waumandee Fire Station | 6:30 PM<br>Arcadia High School Commons | 6:30 PM<br>Dodge Town Hall |

## WHERE TO VOTE?

Your assigned polling place is based on address

- Find your polling place
- View your polling place's hours
- Learn about absentee voting



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