

YOUR GUIDE TO THE 2024 OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM

VOTE NOVEMBER 5TH, 2024



WHAT HAS THE DISTRICT DONE SINCE THE LAST REFERENDUM?

Budget reductions totaling **\$1.75 million** were made for the 2024–2025 school year.

STAFFING:

Staff Reductions: 12 positions were eliminated:

- 1– Full-Time Music Teacher
- 1– Full-Time Tech Ed Teacher
- 1– Full-Time Counselor
- 1– Part-Time Music
- 1– Part-Time Art Teacher
- 1– Full-Time Instructional Math Coach
- 4– Full-Time Classroom Teachers
- 2– Full-Time Elementary Special Education Teachers



Staff Restructuring:

- Transitioning Special Education Paraprofessionals from Full-Time to Part-Time
- Consolidated Academic Intervention Coordinator and Talented and Gifted Coordinator Positions

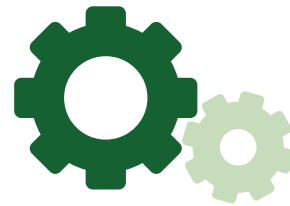
ADJUSTMENTS IN EMPLOYEE SALARY & BENEFITS:

- Reduction in Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) Funding Levels
- Transition to a Self-Funded Health Insurance Model
- Increase in Employee Healthcare Contributions
- Reduction in Paid In-Service Days



OPERATION CHANGES:

- Reduction in Department Budgets
- Deferring Maintenance Projects
- Policy Changes for Open Enrollment
- Increase in Fees for Co-curricular and District Facility use
- Increase in Classroom Sizes as a Result of Staffing Reductions



★ BALLOT QUESTION ★

Shall the Waterford Graded School District Joint No. 1, Racine County, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$3,000,000 per year for four years, beginning with the 2025–2026 school year and ending with the 2028–2029 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of operational and maintenance expenses?

**SCAN TO
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WERE THE REDUCTIONS ENOUGH AND WHAT IS BEING ASKED FOR?

Despite substantial budget cuts and operational changes, the Waterford Graded School District (WGSD) is still facing a budget shortfall and depleted fund balance.

- To balance the budget and replenish fund balance, we are asking for \$3 million per year for the next four years.
- WGSD is facing a minimum deficit of \$1.2 million.
- The deficit may continue to grow due to increases in operational costs and lack of state funding.
- The projected 12.53% fund balance is well below the district's 25% policy. Adequate reserves are crucial for schools to cover costs, avoid debt, and manage unexpected expenses.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF A REFERENDUM DOES NOT PASS?

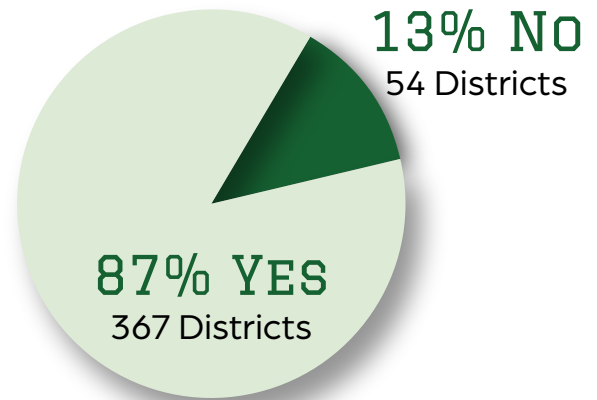
While WGSD prioritized maintaining program offerings, we have reached a point where significant program reductions are unavoidable if a referendum does not pass.

All programming not required by state and federal law will be considered for elimination.



WE ARE NOT ALONE

Districts who have asked an Operational Referendum Question (since 1990)



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10/9** 6pm Listening Session Woodfield Elementary
- 10/10** 4-6pm Open Doors Fox River Middle School
- 10/16** 6:30pm Facebook Live with the School Board
- 10/17** 5:30pm "Listening Session Trailside Elementary"
- 10/23** 5pm Referendum Presentation Waterford Library
- 10/28** 6pm School Board Referendum Update Presentation

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Learn voting requirements



Request an absentee ballot

Early in-person voting starts 10/22 and goes until 11/3

Request absentee ballot online by 10/31