

Shawano School District: Referendum 2024

What if the referendum fails?

The school district has received questions about what happens if the referendum on April 2nd does not pass. This referendum is a critical first step in moving the school district and community forward. Consideration has been given to the next steps after the referendum is approved. There are no options that have been considered if the referendum is not approved, but there will be impacts if that occurs.

The timing of this referendum is deliberately planned to minimize any impact on the school's portion of the mill rate. If the referendum passes, there will be no increase on the school's portion of the mill rate because the district is paying off previous debt. For that same reason, if the referendum fails, the school's portion of the mill rate will go down meaning your school tax should go down.

The school district has established a long-term maintenance plan to address accumulating building needs. If the referendum fails, that crucial maintenance will be put off further. The needs assessment identified renovations and updates at our facilities that are critical to complete. Many of these improvements carry a substantial cost and cannot be covered in the normal operating budget (Heating, cooling, roofs, etc.) Referendum dollars will allow the district to address these issues properly.

There are financial issues to consider. Having some debt in a district plays a factor in the aid Wisconsin returns to our community from our own tax dollars. By maintaining some amount of debt, Shawano will receive more aid from the state, helping our overall budget and requiring fewer local dollars.

An additional factor that impacts our school district's finances is enrollment. Families, students, and staff coming to our community contribute positively to our budget. The improvements being presented in this referendum will help attract and retain new families and staff.

The board of education listened carefully to feedback from community and staff. Our ultimate goal with this referendum is to address needed improvements while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

The community survey results and corresponding board working sessions and community listening sessions can be found on the District website:
(Referendum 2024 | Shawano School District (shawanoschools.com)