GREEN BAY AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026 OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM

BUILDING ON MOMENTUM
VOTE NOV. 3
STUDENT GROWTH • STRONG PROGRAMS • SAFE SCHOOLS

The Green Bay Area Public School District (GBAPS) has built strong momentum in student growth, high-quality programs, and safe, supportive schools. To continue that progress, GBAPS is asking residents to consider a four-year, non-recurring operational referendum on the November 3, 2026 ballot. This referendum has **no new tax impact** and maintains the current voter-approved tax levy. It is designed to preserve the priorities families and community members expressed should be protected as the District manages budget pressures.

Student Growth



Strong Programs



Safe Schools



Visit gbaps.org/2026referendum to learn more about how GBAPS is improving academic outcomes, offering a diverse range of programming to meet each learner's needs, and providing safe schools.

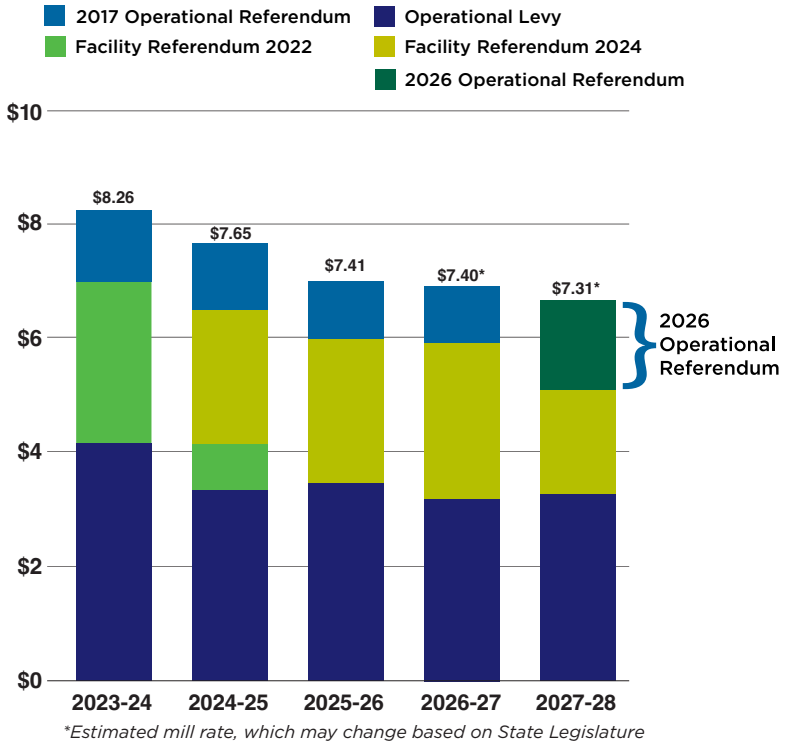
Tax-Neutral Impact, While Maintaining Community Priorities

Property taxes will not increase as a result of an approved referendum.

The 2026 Operational Referendum is a four-year, non-recurring request for additional revenue needed to **keep pace with rising inflation.** It allows GBAPS to maintain its current efforts to improve academic outcomes, keep class sizes stable, and preserve the diverse programming families and community members have said they value. **The referendum is not to add programming or expand costs.**

Rather than ask for a set amount for the life of the referendum, the District is requesting what it needs for each of the following years:

- $29 million for 2027-28
- $36 million for 2028-29
- $44 million for 2029-30
- $49 million for 2030-31



*Estimated mill rate, which may change based on State Legislature decisions or shifts in property values.

REFERENDUM FACT SHEET

Why is an Operational Referendum Needed?

2017 Operational Referendum Expires: In 2017, voters approved a $16.5 million referendum for 10 years to keep class sizes reasonable, maintain programs, and avoid major cuts. That voter-approved funding ends after the 2026-27 school year.

State Funding Gap: For 17 years, the state has not provided a cost-of-living increase for schools. During that same period, costs for staffing, utilities, transportation, and basic supplies have steadily risen. If state funding had kept pace with inflation, the District would have roughly $60 million more in annual revenue today.

Inflationary Pressures: Schools face the same pressures as families/community members when it comes to rising costs for electricity, heating, fuel, technology, food, and consumables, which all cost more than they did even a few years ago. These increases are not tied to new programs or expanded services, rather they are simply the cost of keeping schools open and functioning safely.

Declining Enrollment: Fewer students means less state revenue. But fixed costs do not decline at the same rate. As enrollment drops, the District must stretch fewer dollars across the same essential responsibilities, creating additional pressure on its operating budget.

What has the District done to Address Rising Costs?

School Consolidation
Closure of 7 schools (6 buildings)

Staffing Reductions
Reduced 100+ staff across multiple employment categories through attrition and revised methodologies

Strategic Delays & Canceling Vendor Contracts
Postponed non-essential purchases, including instructional materials, ended software contracts

Operational Savings
Implemented district-wide 10% department budget reductions for three years in a row

Benefits Restructuring
Made changes to employee benefits plan to control costs

Long-Term Investment
Passed a 2024 capital referendum focused on consolidation and energy efficiency that provides operational savings

Ballot Question

Shall the Green Bay Area Public School District, Brown County, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by $29,000,000 for the 2027-2028 school year, by $36,000,000 for the 2028-2029 school year, by $44,000,000 for the 2029-2030 school year, and by $49,000,000 for the 2030-2031 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of operational and maintenance expenses?

◯ Yes ◯ No

Learn More:

- Visit our 2026 Operational Referendum website by scanning the QR code or visiting **gbaps.org/2026Referendum.**
- Email: **communications@gbaps.org**
- Contact **communications@gbaps.org** or call **920.448.2025** to schedule a group presentation
- **Watch your mailbox** and **social media** for more information
- Visit **MyVote.wi.gov** for voter information and absentee ballots

Green Bay Area Public School District
Engagement. Equity. Excellence.

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