

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A STRONG FUTURE

WAUNAKEE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
2026 REFERENDUM

A Phased Approach: Built on Community Input

For more than a decade, the Waunakee Community School District has taken a strategic, long-range approach to facilities and financial planning. Guided by ongoing community input, this work has focused on offering robust academic programs and services, retaining high quality staff, and providing modern learning environments to students and staff across our district.

The proposed 2026 referendum questions represent the next phase of our comprehensive long-range planning. They address both the district's ongoing operational funding needs and facility improvements at Waunakee Community High School.



WHAT IS ON THE BALLOT TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3?

Question #1: Investing in People *(Operational Referendum)*

This operational referendum would provide recurring funding for the district's annual operating budget. These funds are used to provide competitive salaries and benefits to attract and retain high quality staff.

If approved, the district would maintain its current annual operational funding of \$2.1 million (approved in 2024) and increase this amount by up to \$2.1 million per year. The additional amount would be phased in over four years, beginning in the 2027-2028 school year. After the four-year phase-in, our new revenue limit would remain at this level.

Question #2: Investing in Places *(Capital Referendum)*

The capital referendum would provide funding for the next phase of the district's long-range facilities plan, focused primarily on Waunakee Community High School. The proposed improvements would modernize learning spaces, enhance safety and security, and update aging infrastructure.

If approved, the project cost would not exceed \$97.5 million, including approximately:

- **WCHS renovation and new construction** — \$88.7 million
- **South Campus (former Middle School) renovations** — \$4.4 million
- **Outdoor athletic fields and facilities** — \$4.4 million

Why Now? Maximizing the 4K-12 Student Experience

Students learn differently today than when many areas of Waunakee Community High School were originally built. The proposed plan addresses several identified needs:

- **Modern Learning Spaces:** Update classrooms, science labs, career and technical education spaces, and flexible learning areas to support current and future programming.
- **Safety and Security:** Improve secure access, campus traffic flow, and emergency response capabilities.
- **Aging Infrastructure:** Address portions of the high school that are more than 55 years old.
- **Expanded Learning Spaces:** Expand space and student access to high-demand programs, including Health Sciences, Agriculture, Culinary Arts, and more.

**LEARN
MORE:**

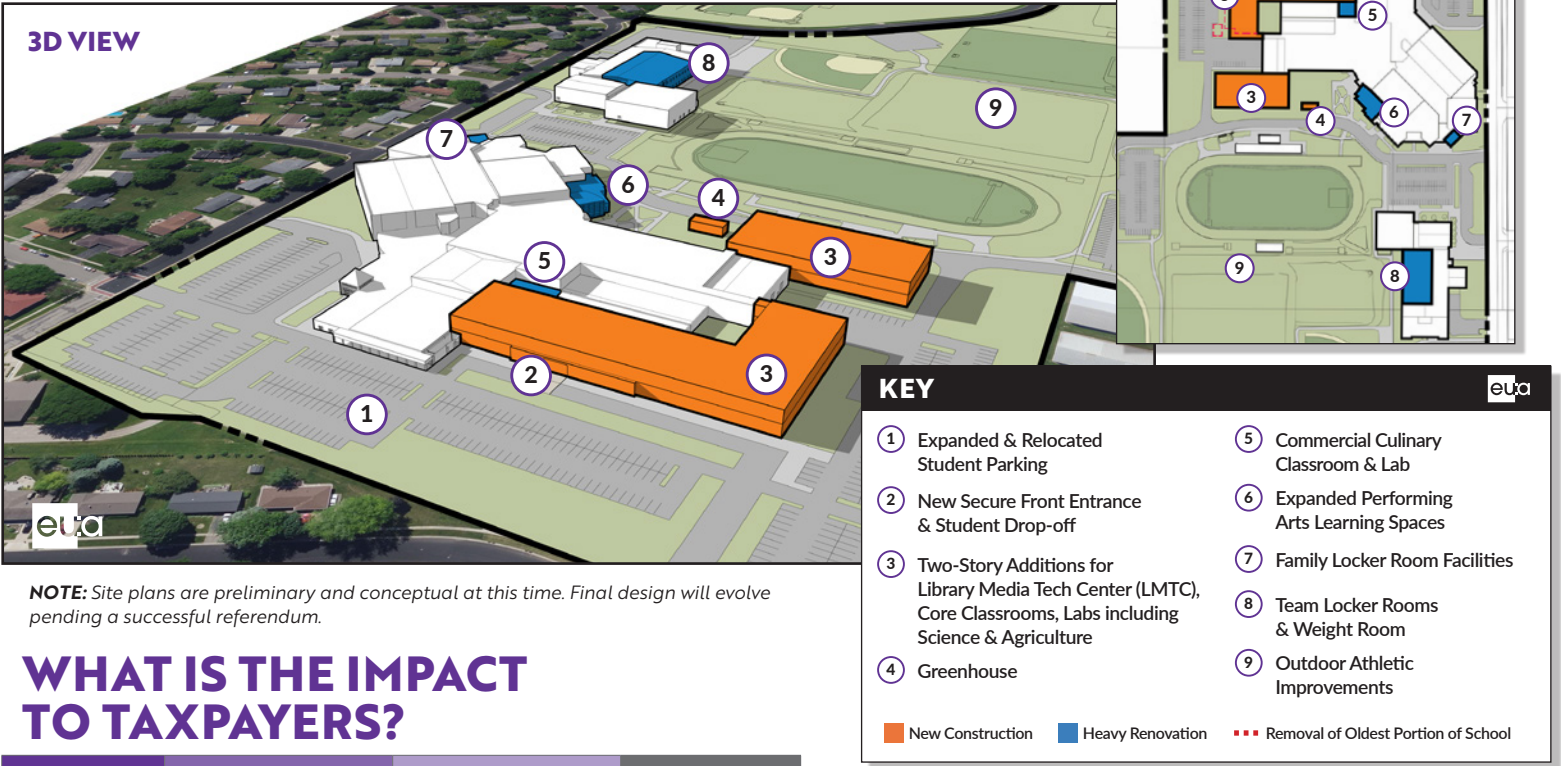
www.waunakee.k12.wi.us/community/2026referendum
or **SCAN QR CODE** to access our website.



**2026 REFERENDUM
VOTE NOV 3**

WHAT IS IN THE PROPOSED PLAN for Waunakee Community High School?

■ Modern Learning Spaces ■ Enhanced Safety & Security ■ Expanded Program Opportunities



NOTE: Site plans are preliminary and conceptual at this time. Final design will evolve pending a successful referendum.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT TO TAXPAYERS?

Property Value	Q1: Operational (Increase of \$0.17 per \$1,000)	Q2: Capital (Increase of \$0.25 per \$1,000)	Annual Combined Tax Impact
Per \$100,000	\$17.00	\$25.00	\$42.00
\$300,000	\$51.00	\$75.00	\$126.00
\$500,000	\$85.00	\$125.00	\$210.00
\$750,000	\$127.50	\$187.50	\$315.00

Tax impacts shown are estimates based on interest rates, borrowing terms and timing, and may change.

Did You Know?

Among peer districts in Dane County, WCSD has the second-lowest spending amount per student for the most recently audited fiscal year. The district works to maximize available resources through cost-saving measures, including energy-efficiency projects, annual review of health benefits, regular review of operational expenses, and district-owned individualized transportation services.

SOURCE: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Comparative Cost Per Member data.

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Si tiene alguna pregunta o necesita este material en español, envíe un correo electrónico a wcsd_communications@waunakee.k12.wi.us

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Community Information Sessions & High School Tours

Waunakee Community High School, 301 Community Drive, Waunakee

Tuesday, September 29 Information Session & Tour
AM: 9:00–10:30 a.m. | PM: 5:30–7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 13 Information Session & Tour
AM: 9:00–10:30 a.m. | PM: 5:30–7:00 p.m.

Community Drop-In Sessions

September 23 | 6:00–7:00 p.m. | District Office - Bethel Circle

September 29 | 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | M-N-M Coffeehouse

October 1 | 4:00–5:00 p.m. | Waunakee Public Library

October 5 | 10:00–11:00 a.m. | Starbucks Waunakee

October 15 | 9:00–10:00 a.m. | Grace Coffee Co

October 21 | 4:00–5:00 p.m. | Waunakee Village Center

October 22 | 10:00–11:00 a.m. | District Office - Bethel Circle

Virtual Sessions

October 6 | 1:00 & 6:00 p.m.

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