OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM

NOVEMBER 3, 2026

The School District of Wisconsin Dells is a regional leader in education and a source of immense local pride. However, maintaining the quality of education our community expects has become increasingly difficult due to **financial challenges** largely beyond our control.

These issues include an inequitable school funding formula, state aid that has not kept pace with inflation for decades, rising expenses, unfunded mandates, and declining enrollment.

If school funding had kept pace with inflation since 2009, districts like ours would receive about **$3,500 more per student each year.** This would amount to approximately **$6.3 million in additional spending authority** for our schools.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

On **Tuesday, April 7, 2026**, residents of SDWD will vote on a non-recurring operational referendum. If it's approved, our district will be able to exceed its state-imposed revenue limit by $2.4 million through the conclusion of the 2028-29 school year.

An approved operational referendum would allow us to:

- Avoid further significant teacher and staff reductions
- Maintain class sizes and provide more attention for students
- Continue offering robust academic programming and extracurricular activities
- Address maintenance needs in our schools
- Update computers and technology
- Maintain an adequate general fund balance



Without an operational referendum, long-term financial instability could lead to spending down the district's fund balance or future short-term borrowing.

LEARN MORE

Find answers to FAQs and more:
wisconsindellsreferendum.org