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Dear L-C Parents & Guardians,

As we begin a new school year, we want to keep you informed about an important decision that will affect the future of the Luxemburg-Casco School District.

At its August meeting, the L-C School Board approved a resolution to seek a **three-year, non-recurring operational referendum** beginning with the 2027-28 school year. The District's current three-year referendum, approved by voters in April 2024, will expire at the end of this school year but the need has not changed.

We know that asking our community to support a referendum is a big request, and we do not take your trust lightly. We are incredibly grateful for the partnership and support our community has shown our schools. Together, we can continue to make Luxemburg-Casco a place where students are proud to learn, families are proud to belong, and our entire community can thrive.

What is being proposed?

The proposed referendum is **the same amount and duration as the referendum approved in 2024: \$1.8 million per year for three years.**

Because the proposed referendum amount is the same as the 2024 referendum, it is expected to have a **net-zero impact on the District's mill rate**. In other words, an approved referendum is not expected to increase the school district portion of your property tax rate. However, your individual property tax bill could still change as a result of changes in your property's estimated fair market value, which is determined by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue.

Why does L-C need an operational referendum?

The simple answer is that **state funding has not kept pace with the cost of educating students.**

Wisconsin established revenue limits for school districts in 1993. These limits were based largely on what districts were spending at that time. Districts that were spending less in 1993—including frugal, low-spending districts like L-C—were essentially locked into lower revenue limits.

For a period of time, revenue limits were adjusted to keep pace with inflation. However, during the 2009-10 recession, the automatic inflationary adjustments were removed. While there have been increases in state funding since then, funding has never fully caught up with the purchasing power lost to inflation. Today, that difference is significant.

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In 2025-26, Wisconsin's highest district revenue limit was **\$32,668 per student**, compared with a low of **\$11,685**. L-C's revenue limit was **\$13,090 per student with the 2024 referendum**. The state average was \$14,103. Without the 2024 referendum, L-C's revenue limit would have been just **\$12,060 per student**.

These funding differences matter because they directly affect the resources available to educate our students.

What has the district accomplished since the last referendum?

- Partnered with local fire departments to create a Firefighter Academy to help recruit and train students to become volunteer firefighters
- The lunch program expanded its use of "Fork Farm" systems to provide fresh produce to students
- L-C has expanded its hydroponic system within the greenhouse and the Casco Career Academy to grow lettuce, microgreens, peppers, and tomatoes for local restaurants. This enterprise is run by 2 youth apprentices.
- EmpoWear is a student-run clothing printing company at L-C High School. This program provides students with disabilities the opportunity to apply workplace behaviors, vocational skills, and problem-solving strategies in meaningful, real-time settings. This enterprise is run by L-C youth apprentices.
- Brought together business leaders and students in a reverse career fair
- Offer competitive wages and benefits to retain trained, quality staff
- Maintain the number of reading specialists and interventionists that assist students struggling in reading and math
- Increase the number of college classes taught on campus by L-C teachers
- Address deferred maintenance and safety needs

Where would the referendum money go?

The funds would be used for **ongoing operational expenses**, not new construction.

This includes things such as:

- Teacher and staff compensation and benefits
- Maintaining strong reading and math programming
- College and technical career programming
- Student learning and support services
- Other essential costs associated with operating our schools

Our goal is to continue providing L-C students with the high-quality educational opportunities and support they deserve.

What happens if the referendum does not pass?

If the proposed referendum is not approved, the District would need to make significant reductions to balance its budget. At a minimum, we anticipate eliminating **13 full-time positions and five part-time positions**.

Those reductions would likely result in:

- Larger class sizes
- Fewer course options
- Fewer student programs
- Reduced student support services
- Deferred facility maintenance and repairs
- Deferred technology upgrades

These would not be easy decisions. They would have a direct impact on our students, staff, and families and could affect the educational opportunities and services we are able to provide.

Keeping our community informed

We understand that a referendum is an important decision for our community, and we will continue to share information about the referendum through email and social media. Additionally, more information can be found on our website: <https://luxcascok12wius.finalsite.com/district/board-of-education/2027-29-operational-referendum>

If you would like to be more active in sharing information with other community members and be part of the YES Committee please contact: yesforlc@gmail.com and/or follow the Facebook page : Yes for LC

Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, and Luxemburg-Casco schools. We are proud of the education we provide and remain committed to being responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to us while making sure our students have the opportunities they need to succeed.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jo-Ellen Fairbanks, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Luxemburg-Casco School District