Lake Mills Area
SCHOOL DISTRICT

OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM
VOTE
NOVEMBER 3
PROUD PAST.
STRONGER FUTURE.
LAKE MILLS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

On Tuesday, November 3, 2026, Lake Mills Area School District residents will vote on an operational referendum request to exceed the state-imposed revenue limits by $2.9 million a year for the next four years. **The funds would be used for these operational needs:**



Maintain Student Educational Programs & Class Sizes



Retain High-Quality Teachers & Staff



Support Essential Needs (Buses, Technology & Maintenance)

STEWARDSHIP

Lake Mills is one of the few Wisconsin public school disticts that has operated for more than a decade without an operational referendum, even as state funding has not kept pace with inflation. **Our conservative budgeting, below-average teacher salaries and debt refinancing have helped stretch taxpayer dollars.** Still, rising costs for insurance, utilities, transportation and mandated curriculum changes contributed to a $705,000 budget deficit in 2025-26.

WHY NOW?

Current budget projections show a $1.2 million shortfall in 2026-27 just to maintain current operations. **Without additional funding, it will become increasingly difficult to maintain our buses and buildings, replace outdated technology, and provide competitive salaries.** Our salaries remain below our neighboring districts, making it challenging to retain and attract teachers. **This could lead to larger class sizes and fewer programs and opportunities for students.**

Fair Market Property Value	Per Year	Per Month
$100,000	$40	$3.33
$200,000	$80	$6.67
$300,000	$120	$10
$400,000	$160	$13.33
$500,000	$200	$16.67

The estimated tax impact is **40 cents per $1,000** of your property's 2026 fair market value, **or $40 for every $100,000 of value**.

Learn more: lakemills.k12.wi.us/district/operational-referendum

Info Sessions