



Lake Mills Area

SCHOOL DISTRICT



PROUD PAST. STRONGER FUTURE.

On Tuesday, November 3, 2026, residents in the Lake Mills Area School District will vote on an operational referendum request to exceed state-imposed revenue limits by \$2.9 million per year for four years. The funds would help sustain the people, programs and services that support student success.

A successful referendum would allow the District to:



Reduce the growing budget gap between expenses & revenues
\$1,250,000



Attract & retain teachers & support staff (NOT for administrators)
\$1,030,000



Replace our aging bus and van fleet for safe transportation
\$120,000



Support ongoing, routine building maintenance
\$200,000



Fund technology-based safety & infrastructure replacement
\$300,000

>> WHY NOW?

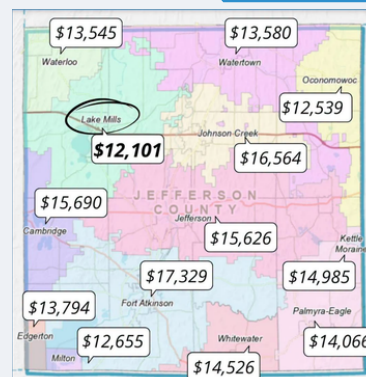
- Lake Mills is **one of the few Wisconsin public school districts** that has managed its budget for **more than a decade without an operational referendum**.
- We have avoided operational referendums by stretching taxpayer dollars through **conservative budgeting, below-average teacher salaries, and debt refinancing**.

- However, essential costs such as health insurance, transportation, utilities and mandated curriculum changes continue to increase.
- At the end of the 2025–2026 school year, the District had a \$705,000 deficit (gap between revenues and expenses).
- Budget projections for the 2026–2027 school year show a **\$1.2 million deficit to maintain existing operations**.

>> HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- In 1993, the state imposed revenue limits capping the total funding school districts can receive from state general aid and local property taxes combined.
- In 2009, the state stopped adjusting revenue limits for inflation, causing a **growing gap between district operating costs and funds to pay them**.

LOWEST REVENUE LIMIT <<



For 2025-26, Lake Mills' revenue limit is \$12,101 per pupil — **the lowest among all 12 neighboring area districts and \$2,002 below the state average of \$14,103 per pupil.**





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SCHOOL DISTRICT

**120 East Lake Park Place
Lake Mills, WI 53551**



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>> PROPERTY TAX IMPACT



Watch a six-minute video overview of the referendum, why additional operating revenue is needed, and how the funds would be used.

Available at <https://bit.ly/lmasd-operating>



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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

If approved by voters, the estimated property tax impact is \$0.40 per \$1,000 of your 2026 fair market property value, or approximately \$40 per year for every \$100,000 of property value.

The Board of Education is committed to maintaining financial responsibility while meeting core educational requirements.

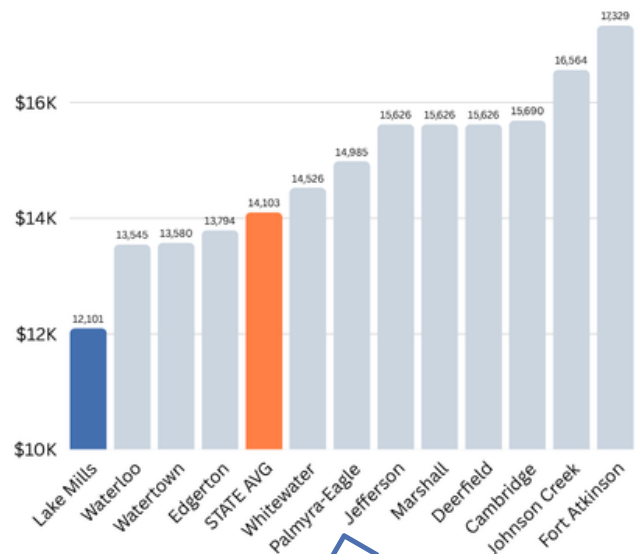
>> WHAT COSTS HAS LMASD CUT?

- **DEBT MANAGEMENT:** Saved over \$1.3 million through multiple strategic debt refinancings.
- **ENERGY & FACILITIES:** Implemented energy-efficiency measures across school buildings to cut utility expenses.
- **HEALTH INSURANCE:** Increased health plan deductibles to \$4,000 (individual) / \$8,000 (family) and reduced payments for staff who decline insurance.
- **STAFF MANAGEMENT:** Combined and eliminated positions; did not fill positions when staff retired or turned over.

>> STATE & LOCAL REFERENDUMS

- **STATEWIDE TRENDS:** More than 85% of school districts in the state have called for a referendum since revenue limits were established in 1994.
- **LOCAL DISTRICTS:** 100% of neighboring school districts have passed between 1 and 5 operational referendums in the past 10 years.
- **CAPITAL VS. OPERATING:** Funds approved in Lake Mills' 2024 facilities referendum are legally restricted to capital building projects. They cannot be used for operating costs such as salaries, utilities, curriculum, buses or vans.

2025-26 Maximum Revenue Limit Per Member



Preparing all of today's students for tomorrow's opportunities



Nov. 3, 2026