



The School District of Lodi COMMUNITY LINK



Board Approves 2 Part Referendum For November 2026 Ballot

Operational Referendum Renewal

The School District of Lodi Board of Education has approved placing two referendum questions on the November 3, 2026, ballot. The first asks voters to renew the district's existing five-year, \$5.98 million per year non-recurring operational referendum, which expires at the end of the 2026-27 school year. The renewal would support instructional programming, student interventions and services, technology, class sizes, and competitive staff compensation through the 2031-32 school year. Because it replaces the current referendum authority, Robert W. Baird & Co. projects no increase to the tax mill rate above the 2025-26 base rate.

Proposed Facility Improvements

The second question seeks authorization to borrow \$13.2 million for targeted facility improvements. The proposed projects include updates to High School Career and Technical Education spaces, repairs to the indoor pool, renovations to athletic and pool locker rooms, two outdoor practice fields, and a new

varsity baseball field on district-owned land at the Primary School site. The maximum projected tax impact is \$0.44 per \$1,000 of equalized property value, or approximately \$110 annually for a home valued at \$250,000.

Planning and Community Input

These proposals are the result of extensive planning and community input. The district reviewed updated enrollment projections, facility needs, outdoor athletic layouts, and long-term financial modeling, while also gathering feedback through the strategic planning process, the Community Viability Team, and a community-wide survey.

Learn More Before You Vote

The District encourages you to attend one of the scheduled informational sessions, read the information on the website and in the Community Link, and reach out with any questions you may have. The goal is to ensure that community members have the information they need to make an informed decision when they go out and vote on November 3, 2026.



How Would Referendum Funds Be Used

What will the 2026 operational referendum pay for?

This referendum would replace the District's current \$5.98 million operational referendum and authorize the District to continue exceeding the revenue limit by \$5.98 million annually to support:

- Sustaining instructional & extracurricular programming.
- Ongoing technology updates.
- Providing targeted interventions and support to students who need them the most.
- Competitive staff compensation, enabling the district to attract, recruit, and retain high-quality staff.
 - » Progress toward bringing certified staff compensation to 90% of market.
 - » Compensation increases for support staff.

What will the \$13.2 million 2026 capital referendum pay for and what is the estimated cost of these items?

This referendum would be financed over a 20-year period to fund

- Remodel the career and technical education spaces at the high school
- Renovate the indoor pool
- Remodeling the athletic and pool locker rooms
- Creating athletic practice fields for soccer, football, & other activities at Primary School
- Constructing a varsity baseball field at Primary School

For additional information about the referendum visit the district website



Join Us for a Community Informational Session

Community sessions include presentation at:

- Lodi and Lake Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce on September 29 at 6 pm
- Lodi Elementary School/OSC on October 15 at 5 pm
- Lodi High School on October 15 at 6:30 pm
- Lodi Middle School on October 27 at 6 pm



Ballot Language

Question Number I:

Shall the School District of Lodi, Columbia and Dane Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$5,980,000 per year for five years, beginning with the 2027-2028 school year and ending with the 2031-2032 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of operational expenses for instructional and educational programming, technology updates and staff compensation?

Question Number II:

Shall the School District of Lodi, Columbia and Dane Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$13,200,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school facility improvement project consisting of: renovations at the High School, including to the career and technical educational spaces, indoor pool, and athletic and pool locker rooms; construction of athletic practice fields, a varsity baseball field and corresponding site improvements at the Primary School; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment?

What Process Did The Board Use To Determine The Items To Include In The Capital Referendum?

Strategic Planning and Facility Review

The Board of Education used a deliberate, multi-year process to determine which projects would be included in the capital referendum. Following the adoption of the District's 2021 Strategic Plan, the Board prioritized long-range facility planning as part of its Operational Excellence goal. The Facility and Finance Committee spent several years reviewing district facilities, while Plunkett Raysich Architects (PRA) and Point of Beginning (POB) worked with staff to assess Career and Technical Education (CTE), indoor athletic spaces, the Performing Arts Center, and outdoor athletic facilities. Staff visited comparable schools, provided feedback on conceptual designs, and helped identify priorities. During this same time, the Board developed guiding principles for facility and greenspace planning and refreshed the District's Strategic Plan in 2025 through an extensive community engagement process.



Community Input and Final Recommendation

To further ensure community involvement, the Board established a 15-member Community Viability Team representing a broad cross-section of stakeholders. The committee reviewed facility studies, staff input, conceptual plans, project costs, and tax impacts before recommending approximately \$33.3 million in potential projects. Those recommendations formed the basis of an independent School Perceptions community survey that was mailed to every household in the district and distributed electronically to families and staff. After reviewing the survey results, the Community Viability Team recommendations, the Board's guiding principles, the refreshed Strategic Plan, and financial information from Baird, the Board held multiple public meetings before ultimately selecting a \$13.2 million capital referendum. The final package reflects years of planning, professional analysis, staff expertise, and extensive community feedback to address the District's highest-priority facility needs while remaining mindful of taxpayer impact.

Find more information on our Facility Planning Webpage





School District of Lodi
115 School Street Lodi, WI 53555

LODI'S COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE



**RATED
SIGNIFICANTLY
EXCEEDS
EXPECTATIONS**
on State Report Card



**TOP
DISTRICT**
In Dane &
Columbia
Counties



**LODI BOASTS 10TH
HIGHEST SCORE**
among 4k-12 public
school district in the
state!

For a list of municipal clerks and polling locations, visit our elections page on the district webpage or scan the QR code

