October 2026

# The School District of Lodi
# COMMUNITY LINK

## Referendum

The Board of Education for the School District of Lodi has placed two referendum questions on the ballot for the election on November 3. Below is a breakdown of each question, how the Board of Education decided on these questions, and the communication efforts that have been taking place to inform the community about the choice they have the opportunity to make on November 3.

**Operational Referendum**
The Board has proposed a five-year, $5.98 million per year, non-recurring referendum to exceed the revenue limit which will replace the current $5.98 million per year operational referendum which expires at the end of this school year. This operational referendum will 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.

**Capital Referendum**
The Board has placed a $13.2 million capital referendum on the ballot for the November election. A capital referendum is similar to a mortgage or home equity loan in which you borrow money for projects and then pay it off over a 20-year period. The projects that this capital referendum would support are:

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

**Community Input Drove the Board**
The two referendums that were placed on the November 3 ballot were the result of several years of the Board engaging the community to determine the community's priorities for the school district. Over the past few years, the Board took the following steps:

- Engaged the community in a strategic plan refresh process in the summer of 2025.
- Assembled a 15-member Community Viability Team to review facilities and athletic spaces.
- Surveyed the entire community (survey was built using the information gathered from the strategic plan refresh and the Community Viability Team recommendations).

# Community Connection Business Partnerships

## A Spotlight on Youth Apprenticeship & Exploration

**Celebrating Youth Apprenticeship in Lodi!**

Our Youth Apprenticeship initiative bridges classroom learning and real-world employment by placing Lodi High School students directly into paid, hands-on positions across our region.

As demand for skilled talent expands, so does our momentum. This year, 30+ Lodi High School students will be actively building expertise, earning income, and working/learning alongside industry professionals.

A Huge Thank You to Our Business Partners! Our success depends on the leadership of regional employer partners who dedicate time and energy to mentor our youth. Together, we are building a resilient local workforce pipeline and making a lasting difference in our students' lives. This year, Lodi Youth Apprenticeship students are gaining experience in the following career areas:

- Food & Beverage
- Meetings and Events
- Early Childhood Education
- Heavy Equipment Operator
- Diesel Technician
- Nursing Assistant
- Administrative Professional
- Machining
- IT Essentials
- Insurance
- Animal Fundamentals
- Merchandising
- Electrical Fundamentals
- Accounting
- Industrial Equipment
- IT Network and Security
- Arborist
- Animal Herd
- Landscaping

## Referendum (cont.)

The results of the community survey determined the referendum questions that voters are being asked to consider on November 3:

- 66.5% of respondents indicated they supported a $5.98 million operating referendum.
- 64% of respondents supported additional funding for competitive staff compensation.
- 63% of the respondents supported a capital referendum of less than $15 million.

**Community Education**

The Board of Education also committed to providing the community as much information as possible prior to the referendum so voters could make an informed decision on November 3. The District held 19 community presentations in September and October, has a dedicated webpage with referendum information, https://www.lodi.k12.wi.us/about/referendum-26, and has shared information through our social media platforms. If you have been unable to attend a presentation, the District encourages you to review the available information so you can become informed about both referendum questions, and participate in the November 3 election by casting your vote. Your participation is an important part of the process and helps ensure our community's voice is represented.

# Celebrating our 2026 Lodi High School Career Fair

**A Day of Inspiration and Opportunity**

The sixth annual Lodi High School Career Fair brought together an incredible group of professionals from our community and beyond, giving students a firsthand look at nearly 40 different career fields. From healthcare and skilled trades to business, the arts, and public safety, students had the opportunity to ask questions, hear real-world experiences, and imagine exciting possibilities for their futures.

This event would not have been possible without the generous support of our community and business partners who shared their time and expertise with our students.

A heartfelt thank-you to every presenter who helped make this event a success. Your willingness to share your knowledge, experiences, and passion can spark new interests, build confidence, and help students envision their futures. We are fortunate to have so many professionals invested in helping our students discover their potential and explore the many paths to success!

**A big shout-out and thank you to the 2026 participants who represented the following businesses:**

UW Madison, Beck's Hybrids, Graphic Designer, FedEx, Air and Army National Guard, NAMI, ABS Global, Vintage Parts, Lodi City Clerk, Culver's, Century 21, Kelby Mack - Massage Therapist, Sauk Prairie Healthcare and Foundation, Stadium Turf, Christine Traeder - Dental Hygienist, Builders FirstSource, Prairie and Aurora Veterinary Assoc., LCAT, Shabvon Johnson & Terry Haag - Nurse, Bank of Prairie du Sac, Matt Brooks - Musician, Hair Haven Salon, PPD Clinical Research Services, Milestone Investments, American Family Insurance, Med Flight Nurse, Firefighter/EMT, Sketchworks Architecture, O'Reilly Auto Parts, EVCO, ETC, Milwaukee Valve, Findorff, Madigan Refrigeration, Lodi Police, Fire and EMS

## School District of Lodi - Community Connection Business Partnerships

**Helping To Grow Future Community and Business Leaders**

The School District of Lodi Community Connection Business Partnerships initiative aims to foster partnerships between schools and the local community, helping students explore potential career pathways and develop the skills needed for future employment.

Core Opportunities: Annual Jobs Fair, Annual Career Fair, Community Classroom Partnerships, Senior Reality Day, & Educator Appreciation Treat/Coffee Cart Sponsorship

***Looking to get involved:***

**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 districts in the state!

**For information on the referendum, visit our referendum page on the district webpage or scan the QR code**