Vote on April 4th

Operating Referendum 2017 Fact Sheet

School District of Menomonee Falls
Ref2017.sdmfschools.org

Why is this being proposed?

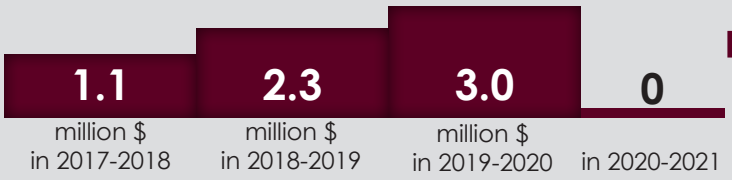
The Board of Education is proposing a temporary lift in the District's revenue limit for the next 3 years.

Revenue Limit = Local Taxes + State Aid

The revenue limit is set by the State. This limit was lowered by the State to reflect changes under Act 10 and hasn't increased with inflation.

Before making significant changes to the structure of education in the District, the Board of Education would like community input with a vote on April 4th.

If approved, the referendum would raise the revenue limit by:



What is on the ballot April 4th?

The question covers operational funding for the next three years to:

- Maintain class sizes at all levels.
- Sustain neighborhood elementary schools.
- Safeguard course offerings at all levels.
- Protect elective learning opportunities.

This question raises the revenue limit for the school District for **3 years.** The revenue limit would then return to 2016-17 levels in 2020-2021.

Why 3 years?

This would give the District time to see how enrollment changes in our community, and see what decisions our state legislature will make in relation to educational funding. After Year 3, budget decisions would be made at that time.

Without the referendum, in the next three years, the district will:

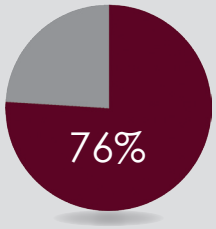
Restructure Elementary Schools to partner schools.
(Shady Lane 4k-2 + Valley View 3-5)
(Ben Franklin 4k-2 + Riverside 3-5)

Increase class size at elementary, middle & high school levels.

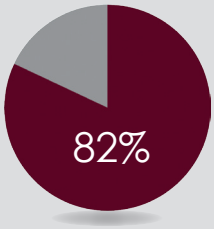
Reduce courses, elective offerings & extra-curricular opportunities.

Eliminate 40 staffing positions district-wide.
(This does not include reductions based on enrollment.)

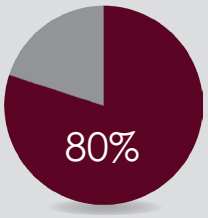
Our community values:



Residents surveyed think our schools have a positive impact on home value.
Source: School Perception Survey, Oct. 2015



Residents surveyed place high priority on elementary art, PE, tech & health.
Source: Springstead Phone, Survey Oct. 2015



Residents surveyed place high priority on elective courses at middle & high school.
Source: Springstead Phone, Survey Oct. 2015

The Referendum Ballot Question:

"Shall the School District of Menomonee Falls, Waukesha County, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by $1,100,000 in the 2017-2018 school year, by $2,300,000 in the 2018-2019 school year, and by $3,000,000 in the 2019-2020 school year for nonrecurring purposes (ending in the 2019-2020 school year) to sustain current neighborhood elementary schools, safeguard course offerings and elective learning opportunities, and maintain class size?"

What is the impact to taxpayers?

Each year the district budget would increase approximately

2%

Referendum Question: 3-year Temporary Increase

	Year 1 2017-2018	Year 2 2018-2019	Year 3 2019-2020
Budget Increase	**$1,100,000**	$1,100,000 $1,200,000 **$2,300,000**	$1,100,000 $1,200,000 $700,000 **$3,000,000**
Annual net impact for a $250,000 Home	**$53** **Per Month: $4.41**	$53 $83 **$136** **Per Month: $11.33**	$53 $83 $45 **$181** **Per Month: $15.08**

Tax impact projected on overall levy which includes retirement of existing debt and property valuation increases of 1.75% annually.

Find out your projected school tax levy based on property value, visit: http://bit.ly/sdmftaxcalculator

How have we already cut costs?

- Reduced admin and staffing costs across the District by **$4.6 million.**
- Employee contribution to health care was increased from 7.5% to **13%** in the last year.
- Reduced school and division budgets across the District **by 7%** in 16-17.
- Over **$7 million** in energy cost avoidance since 2001.
- Refinanced existing debt saving **$2+ million** & reduced short term borrowing by 50% (**$5.25 million**).
- Retirement liability reduced by 59% (**$16.9 million**).

Where our success shows:

5 **PBIS Schools Of Distinction** — We sustain programming that teaches students to be exemplary citizens, kind & respectful to all.

82 **Clubs & Varsity Sports** — Students are state and nationally recognized for their work outside of the school day.

98 **Percent Graduation Rate** — We have the third highest grad rate in Milwaukee metro, a highly competitive area.

107 **Advanced Placement Scholars** — MFHS provides more AP courses than any neighboring district. Families save thousands in tuition.

1,737 **WCTC Credits Earned** — Our students saved $231,000 in tech college credits last year.

2,800 **College Acceptance Letters**— The class of 2016 was accepted to colleges across the country.

Find out more about our Operational Referendum: Ref2017.sdmfschools.org | VOTE ON APRIL 4TH!

Join us for a referendum info session:

Feb. 7, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. | MFHS Library

Feb. 15, 6 - 8 p.m. | Ben Franklin Elementary Cafeteria

Feb. 24, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. | CE & Rec Room 102 A

March 14, 6 - 8 p.m. | MFHS Library

Pursuing excellence one student at a time...

Meet us at a coffee chat:

March 11, Ally's Bistro 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

March 25, Nino's Bakery 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Do you have additional questions about the referendum? Schedule an informational presentation by calling 262-255-8352.