



TOMAH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Operational REFERENDUM

VOTE ON 4/4/2023

AN INVESTMENT IN OUR *Children's* FUTURE

Why does Tomah Area School District need an Operational Referendum?

Costs and services provided to students continue to rise yet the state of Wisconsin has not provided an increase to the allowable per student spending in six of the last eight years. The District estimates a fiscal shortfall of approximately \$2,500,000 for the next school year and is asking the community to approve a \$2,500,000 Operational Referendum.

A successful Operational Referendum will allow Tomah Area School District to continue current educational programming to meet the needs of our students. **This referendum is not to build a new facility.**

How does a passing Operational Referendum impact our students?

Passing the Operational Referendum will help offset budget deficits. This allows Tomah Area School District to continue providing quality class offerings, extra-curricular activity opportunities, and added programs for student success. This referendum will also help continue initiatives to maintain the security of District facilities and provide safe learning environments for our students and staff.

How does a failed Operational Referendum impact our students?

Without a successful Operational Referendum, there will be a \$2,500,000 deficit next year. Without increases to the allowable per student spending from the state of Wisconsin, the District's deficits will continue to grow. Tomah Area School District will need to make reductions to personnel and programs to balance the budget. Tomah Area School District maintains a Fund Balance to secure a solid financial position. These funds are typically used for emergencies and temporary budget shortfalls. These limited funds cannot support all current educational opportunities.



QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

March 2, 2023

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Robert Kupper Learning Center
1310 Townline Road, Tomah

referendum@tomah.education

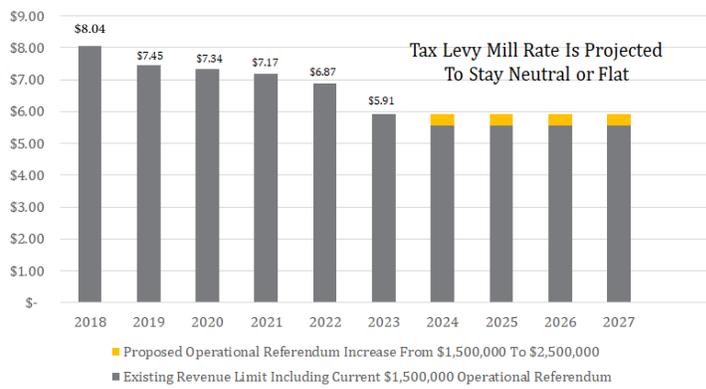
www.tomah.education/referendum

How will the Operational Referendum impact taxpayers?

For the past seven years, the Tomah Area School District community has approved and supported a \$1,500,000 referendum. On **April 4**, residents will have the opportunity to **cast their ballots** for an Operational Referendum question to exceed the revenue limit by \$2,500,000.

This is an increase of \$1,000,000 over the past \$1,500,000 Operational Referendum. The additional funds will alleviate the fiscal shortfall that has been created by the lack of increases to the allowable per student spending from the state of Wisconsin. Based on current projections, Tomah Area School District's tax levy rate would stay neutral or flat.

Please see the chart below.



The tax levy mill rate equates to the amount of money a taxpayer pays per \$1,000 of property value.



**VOTE ON
04/04/23**

[Link to Question and Answer Sheet](#)

Comparing Neighboring Community Tax Levy Rates

Bangor.....	\$9.50
Onalaska.....	\$8.55
Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton.....	\$8.01
Mauston.....	\$8.00
Holmen.....	\$7.93
Royall.....	\$7.86
West Salem.....	\$7.73
LaCrosse.....	\$7.69
WI State Average.....	\$7.68
Sparta Area.....	\$7.34
Black River Falls.....	\$7.01
New Lisbon.....	\$6.69
Necedah Area.....	\$6.68
Tomah Area.....	\$5.91

Example: If a taxpayer had \$100,000 worth of property and lived in the Bangor School District, their school portion of property taxes would be approximately \$950. If that same person owned \$100,000 worth of property in the Tomah Area School District, their school portion of property taxes would be approximately \$591.

THE BALLOT WILL READ:

"Shall the Tomah Area School District, Monroe, Juneau and Jackson Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$2,500,000 for each of the 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026, and the 2026-2027 school years for non-recurring purposes to maintain and enhance educational and technology programs, school safety and security and school facilities and to maintain current levels of operational expenses?"

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

EMAIL: referendum@tomah.education

VISIT: www.tomah.education/referendum

JOIN US: Question & Answer Session
March 2, 2023, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at RKLC,
1310 Townline Road, Tomah