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WHY IS AN OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM NEEDED?

Since 2009, voters in the Ripon Area School District have supported two consecutive 6-year nonrecurring operational referendums to exceed the revenue limit by \$500,000 annually. The current 2014 referendum will expire in 2021. The Board has placed a replacement question on the November 2020 ballot.

The State of Wisconsin has set unequal revenue limits that restrict the amount of local taxes that can be raised per pupil. Because RASD was a low-spending district in 1993 when the revenue limits were determined, the district is currently locked into a revenue limit per pupil that is below the state average and among the lowest 40% of districts in the state in 2019-20.

With the passing of the current referendum, voters made a commitment to increase their taxes for 6 years to ensure the district remains financially sound. The funds from the operational referendum are split among three departments. The current allocations are \$225,000 for curriculum; \$160,000 for technology; and \$115,000 for facilities.

HOW WILL THE REFERENDUM AFFECT LOCAL TAX RATES?

The 2020 operational referendum is levy neutral, meaning it would not further increase or decrease taxes because since 2009 local taxpayers have paid \$68 annually for \$100,000 in property value.

WHAT HAS THE DISTRICT DONE LATELY TO MANAGE ITS SPENDING EFFECTIVELY?

The Ripon Area School District actively seeks to lower operational expenditures. In the past two years, the district has lowered the cost of its insurance for health, liability, property, and worker's compensation.

2020 REFERENDUM: BY THE NUMBERS

0%

Net property tax increase to RASD residents if the November 2020 referendum is approved.

\$68

District residents indicated in a recent survey that they would support a referendum with no change to taxes. In 2019-20, local taxpayers paid \$68 per \$100,000 of property value for the referendum, which began in 2009.

\$1,776

Decrease in the inflation-adjusted amount of per-student revenue RASD receives in 2020-21 compared to 2010-11.

WHAT IF THE REFERENDUM IS NOT APPROVED?

If the referendum were not approved in 2020, RASD would reduce spending on technology, curriculum, and facilities maintenance. However, reductions would likely extend beyond those three departments.



Learn more at www.ripon.k12.wi.us/community/2020-referendum.cfm