



# OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM APRIL 7, 2026

Our district is facing critical financial challenges that need to be addressed with additional revenue. Our communities will consider a \$800,000 recurring referendum.

## FAQ #10 WHY ARE WE DOING A RECURRING VS. A NON-RECURRING OPERATING REFERENDUM?

### Operating vs. Capital Referendums-

- Operating money is for paying bills, salaries, electric, supplies, etc
- Capital is for buildings, large repairs like roofs, longer term investments

These funds cannot be combined in the state of WI. They are separate funds, budgets and sources of revenue.

### Recurring Referendum

**Definition:** The approved tax increase is added to the school district's budget base permanently.

**Duration:** There is no end date ("sunset").

**Tax Impact:** The additional tax authority continues indefinitely, allowing the district to collect those funds every year until a future vote changes it.

### Non-Recurring Referendum

**Definition:** The approved tax increase is a temporary boost to the budget for a specific, limited number of years.

**Duration:** The funding has a "sunset" clause—it ends after a set period (typically 3-10 years)

**Tax Impact:** Once the designated time expires, the extra tax is removed, and the district cannot levy it again without passing another referendum.

Passing referendums is difficult. Statistically, passing a recurring one is more difficult than non-recurring. Ultimately, a non-recurring referendum only “kicks the can down the road” and pushes the problem three years later. Non-recurring referendums only last for three years and have to be re-ran after the three years are up. Many times people do not understand why the school is asking for “more” money after three years, when in fact, they are not looking for more money, just looking to extend the referendum that was passed previously. Monroe and many other schools are in this situation currently. There are also costs involved with holding an election and every time you hold a referendum vote, it costs the district money.

To simplify this and try to put a longer-term fix on the issue, the board has chosen to pursue a recurring referendum, which will increase the tax levy by \$800,000 per year.

**What if the state pulls through and increases funding to schools? Does the district have to levy the full \$800,000? NO, the district does not have to do that, and has the right to reduce the levy, which is entirely possible.**

**Is this a solution that will solve the problem forever? Will we ever have to go back to referendum? It really depends on state funding and how the state decides to fund schools in the future. If the state decides to fund schools how they promised to in 1993 when school funding was changed, then we won't have to go down this road again. Hopefully the recurring referendum will help us continue to offer a quality education to our students.**

If you have questions please contact District Administrator,  
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