



WE SUCCEED TOGETHER



Hello Gillett Community Members

The Gillett School Board unanimously voted to place an Operational Referendum on the **April 7, 2026** ballot.

This measure asks our community to authorize an increase in the District's revenue limit to maintain quality staffing and educational opportunities for our students.

Like many districts across Wisconsin, Gillett faces significant financial pressure as state funding has not kept pace with inflation.

Despite maintaining the lowest tax levy among neighboring districts, the District has reached a point where additional local support is essential to preserve its programs and staffing.

The board took this action after careful review of polling results from a random sampling of 400 citizens representing all municipalities and demographic groups in our community.

Planning for the Future

Why a referendum?

- State funding has not kept pace with inflation and additional funding is needed.
- Our District has been operating at a deficit and our fund balance will be depleted at the end of the 2026-27 school year.
- Gillett is the lowest compensated district in the region (salary and benefits), making it difficult to attract and retain quality staff.
- Further cuts in staffing would significantly impact student opportunities – to the point of considering closure of our schools.

Phased Approach

What's on the ballot?

Instead of a single large increase, this referendum proposes a five year, phased plan that would increase funding by \$2 million dollars in the first year, with a projected year one increase of \$19.75 per month, per \$100,000 of property value – with additional increases spread out over the following four years.

VOTING OPTIONS

MAR 24 | Early In-Person Voting Begins
Office Hours Vary by Location

APR 7 | Election Day Voting
Polls are Open 7 am - 8 pm

JANUARY 2026 COMMUNITY FEEDBACK INDICATED STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE GILLETT SCHOOL DISTRICT

61%
would support an operational referendum larger than what is being proposed

86%
would support a tax increase for maintaining educational programs

82%
would support a tax increase for salary and benefit increases

78%
would support a tax increase to maintain student services

84%
said the District does a good job involving the community

HOW WILL THE MONEY BE SPENT?

STAFF



To Retain and Attract Quality Teachers and Support Staff

- Bring salaries and benefits up to area AVERAGES over the first two years.

LOWEST compensation in our area - 8th lowest in the state

STUDENTS



To Maintain Programming and Student to Staff Ratios

- Sustain existing programming while maintaining average student-to-teacher ratios.

Current student-to-teacher ratios are 11:1

SCHOOLS



To Sustain Operations and District Enrollment

- Replenish core operational and maintenance funds while maintaining enrollment.

Ensure quality schools and keep students in our district

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

JOIN US for an upcoming referendum information session to get your questions answered in person.



5:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 26, 2026
Secondary School Commons



4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4, 2026
Elementary School Science Room



5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 24, 2026
Secondary School Commons

VISIT our referendum website for details.



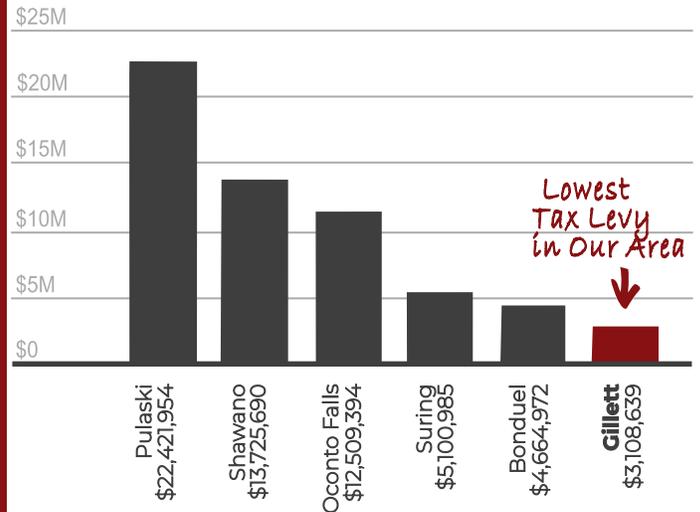
Scan the QR Code to learn more, then make your plan to vote!

DID YOU KNOW?

Data shows Gillett School District has a lower tax levy and has utilized less referendum funding than any of its surrounding districts.

Neighboring Districts 2025 Tax Levy Comparison

provided by Baird Financial Services



85% of Wisconsin School Districts Have Used Operating Referendums to Address their Funding Shortages

Below is a snapshot of capital and operational referendum funding our neighboring districts have approved since 2001 to support their schools.

Shawano	\$85M
Pulaski	\$83M
Oconto Falls	\$57M
Bonduel	\$26M
Suring	\$24M
Gillett	\$3.6M

GILLETT.REFERENDUMFACTS.ORG