

Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Chippewa Falls Board President Asks for Voter Consideration for Operational Referendum

CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI - With the April 2nd operational referendum vote only six weeks away, Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District Board President Dave Czech emphasized the vital need for community support.

“We have an incredibly important choice to make about the future of our schools in just over a month,” said Czech. “I invite taxpayers to learn the facts and join me in considering a ‘yes vote’ to sustain the excellence our students, staff, and wider community expect and deserve.”

The non-recurring referendum would authorize Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District to exceed state-imposed revenue limits by \$2.5 million annually for three years to cover rising costs at an estimated additional annual taxpayer cost of five cents per one thousand dollars of assessed property value. Doing so prevents imminent reductions to staffing, programs, services and facilities.

The Board has cited over 20 years of cost control measures and \$20 million in budget reductions prolonging referendum dependence. However, state funding still lags behind inflation and other factors annually. Most Wisconsin districts now rely on temporary referendum support; according to the most recent Baird report, since 1990, 86% of Wisconsin school districts have held operational referendums.

“While asking more locally is difficult, the alternative of reducing opportunities for Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District’s children carries far greater costs down the road,” President Czech concluded. “This referendum supports our tradition of community education pride and investing in future leaders and the workforce.”

Residents can learn more at <https://cfsd.chipfalls.k12.wi.us/district/referendum-2024.cfm> or attend upcoming public community information sessions at Parkview Elementary School on February 29, 2024 (6:30 - 7:30 PM) or at Chippewa Falls High School (Chi-Hi) Auditorium on March 27, 2024 (6:30 - 7:30 PM).

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