

2026 REFERENDUM

FOCUSED ON STUDENTS. GUIDED BY YOU.

» April 7, 2026, Operational Referendum Question:

Exceed its state-imposed revenue limit by \$2.5 million per year for four years (non-recurring), beginning in 2026-2027 and ending in 2029-2030 for operational and maintenance purposes.

» Why is a referendum necessary?

Like many Wisconsin school districts, the School District of Reedsburg is struggling to balance its budget due to three main factors:

- » An outdated and inequitable school funding system at the state level
- » Inadequate funding increases from the state in recent years
- » Rising expenses and inflation

The system is broken, and the District will continue to face deficits every year. An operational referendum is the only way for the District to add the funding needed to maintain programs and services, and avoid additional staffing cuts.

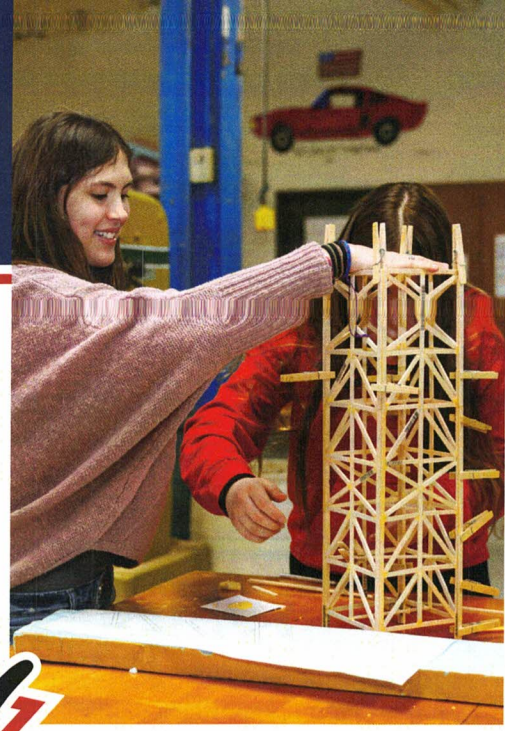
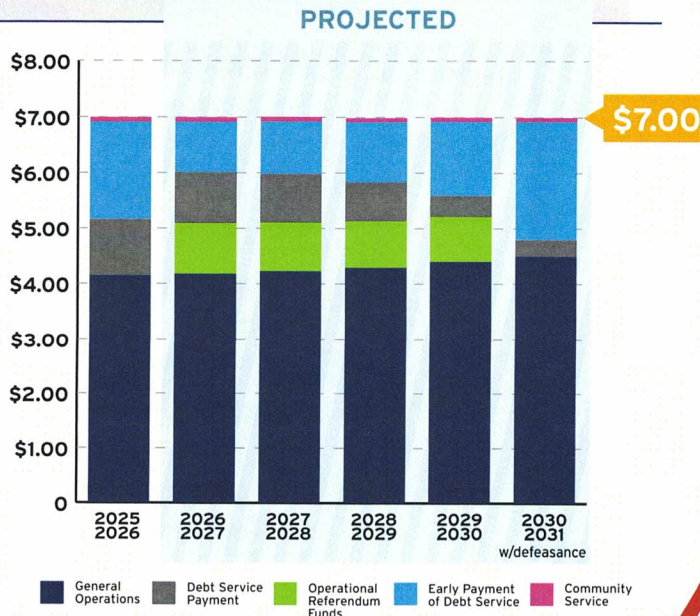
» What has changed with this referendum?

- ★ Based on the Fall 2025 survey feedback, the \$2.5 million is what the community would support.
- ★ The amount was reduced by \$1.5 million in each of the four years, for a total reduction of \$6 million.

\$0

Tax Rate Impact:

If the referendum is approved, the estimated impact on the **property tax rate is \$0**. This is accomplished by reducing early debt payments and reallocating the funds for operational purposes.



How will the Operational Referendum be spent?

These initiatives demonstrate our commitment to the future of our schools, ensuring we provide high-quality education and a safe, supportive environment for all students.



FINANCIAL STABILITY & STAFF RETENTION

Fix budget deficit to maintain fiscal health, retain staff, manage class sizes, and enhance support staff compensation.



FACILITY MAINTENANCE

Address delayed maintenance projects.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Continue offering strong academic programs and student support services.



SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Upgrade security camera systems and aging buses.

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR MORE INFO



LEARN MORE: Scan QR code or visit,
www.rsd.k12.wi.us/district/referendum-2026.cfm



VOTE APRIL 7
2026
OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM

» 2025 Tax Rate Comparison

This chart shows the comparison of the School District of Reedsburg's tax rate to the average tax rates for the Badger Conference schools, Sauk County schools, and the State. The estimated Tax Rate for Reedsburg for 2026 is \$7.00.



School Finance 101

In Wisconsin, school districts operate under strict revenue limits established in 1993. As costs continue to rise each year without corresponding increases in allowable revenue, districts are left with only two options: cut staff, programs, and services, or ask voters to approve an operational referendum to maintain current operations.

To Raise Revenue Limit: [Local Referendum Vote]

The Revenue Limit

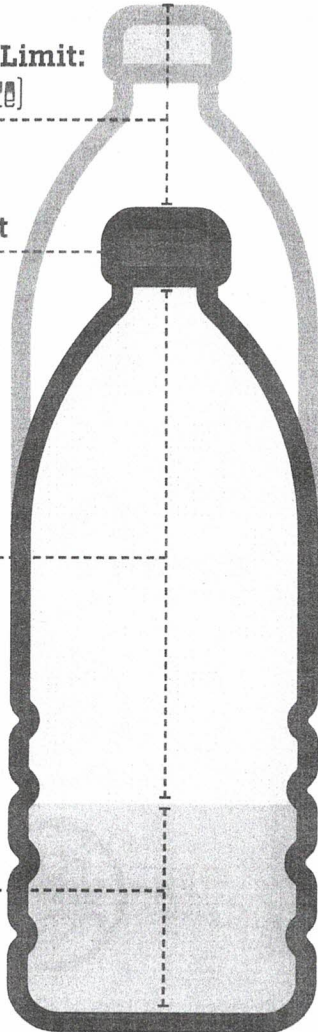
Imposed in 1993. Inflationary increases stopped in 2010.

Local Property Taxes

Make up the difference after the State's budget contribution.

State Aid: [Equalization Aid]

At the discretion of the State's biennial budget process.



» What has been cut from the budget?

The District has implemented cost-saving measures over the years to respect the needs of our property taxpayers and balance them with those of our students and staff. In fact, the District made \$1.05 million in reductions for the 2025-2026 school year alone.

» If the proposed April 2026 referendum question is not supported?

Potential budget reductions:

- » Staffing cuts and larger class sizes.
- » Downsize educational programs and services.
- » The District may seek voter input again due to ongoing facility and operational needs.

Facility maintenance delays continue:

- » Leads to increased project costs over time.
- » Increased risk of system failures.

» HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

» Attend a Community Information Session:

- » Thursday, February 26, 2026:
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Location: Webb Middle School Library
- » Wednesday, March 4, 2026:
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Location: Fusch Community Center

Visit our website:

www.rsd.k12.wi.us/district/referendum-2026.cfm

Ask us questions: referendum@rsd.k12.wi.us

MyVote Wisconsin: myvote.wi.gov

