



Community Information Meeting

*November 3rd OASD Operational
Referendum*

November 3rd Referendum



Question:

Shall the Oconomowoc Area School District, Waukesha, Jefferson and Dodge Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$3,000,000 for the 2027-2028 school year; by an additional \$2,000,000 (for a total of \$5,000,000) for the 2028-2029 school year; by an additional \$2,000,000 (for a total of \$7,000,000) for the 2029-2030 school year; by an additional \$2,500,000 (for a total of \$9,500,000) for the 2030-2031 school year; and by an additional \$2,700,000 for the 2031-2032 school year (for a total of \$12,200,000 and to remain at that amount thereafter), for recurring purposes consisting of operational and maintenance expenses?

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Finding Common Ground



We care about the children and youth in our community



We want an education system that prepares our Next Generation of Workforce and Future Community Leaders



A strong **school** system enhances our community



We want a **high-value** school system with a strong ROI

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School Funding in Wisconsin

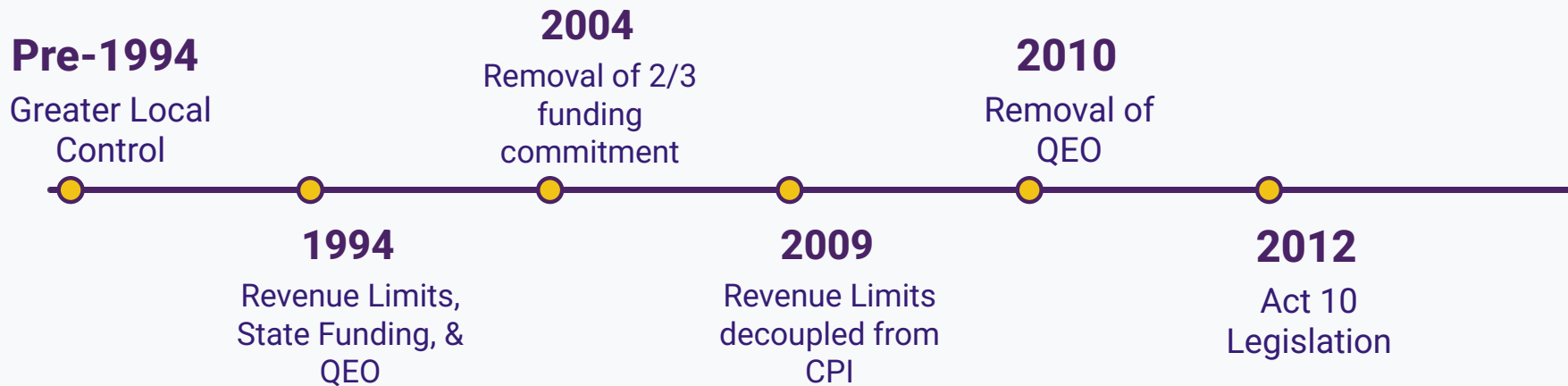


- Education funding is shared between the state and the local property tax base, *and the state's contribution varies.*
- Public school per-pupil funding has lagged inflation for over a decade.
- Funding levels for public schools vary widely among school districts and among other publicly funded options.

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School Funding in Wisconsin

A Brief History



Source: Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance. (2015, July/August). Increasing complexity, unplanned change: The story of school finance in Wisconsin. *The Wisconsin Taxpayer*, 83(7/8). https://wispolicyforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/1507_8_School-Finance.pdf

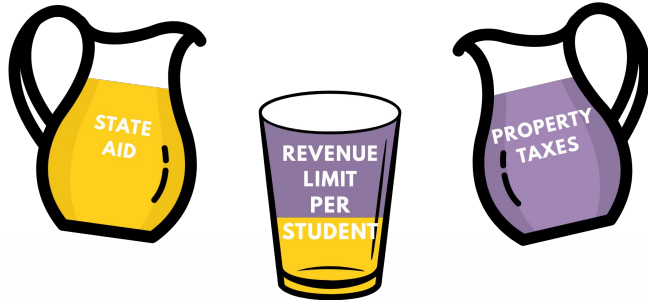
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School Funding in Wisconsin



Primary Factors Impacting Revenue

- Student Enrollment
- Per-Pupil Revenue
(Property Taxes & State Aid)



Primary Factors Impacting Expenses



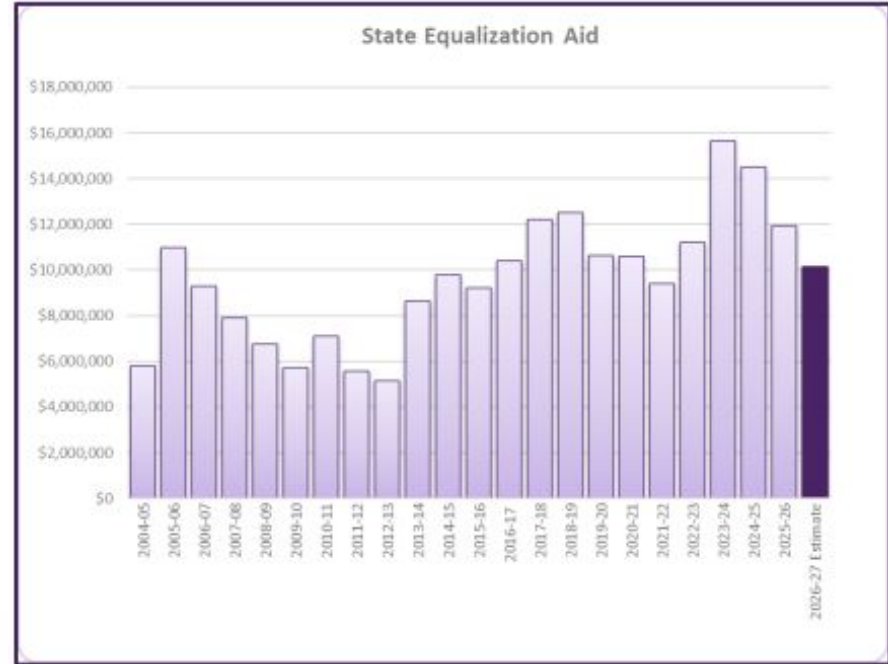
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School Funding in Wisconsin



Primary Factors Impacting Revenue

- Student Enrollment
- Per-Pupil Revenue (Property Taxes & State Aid)

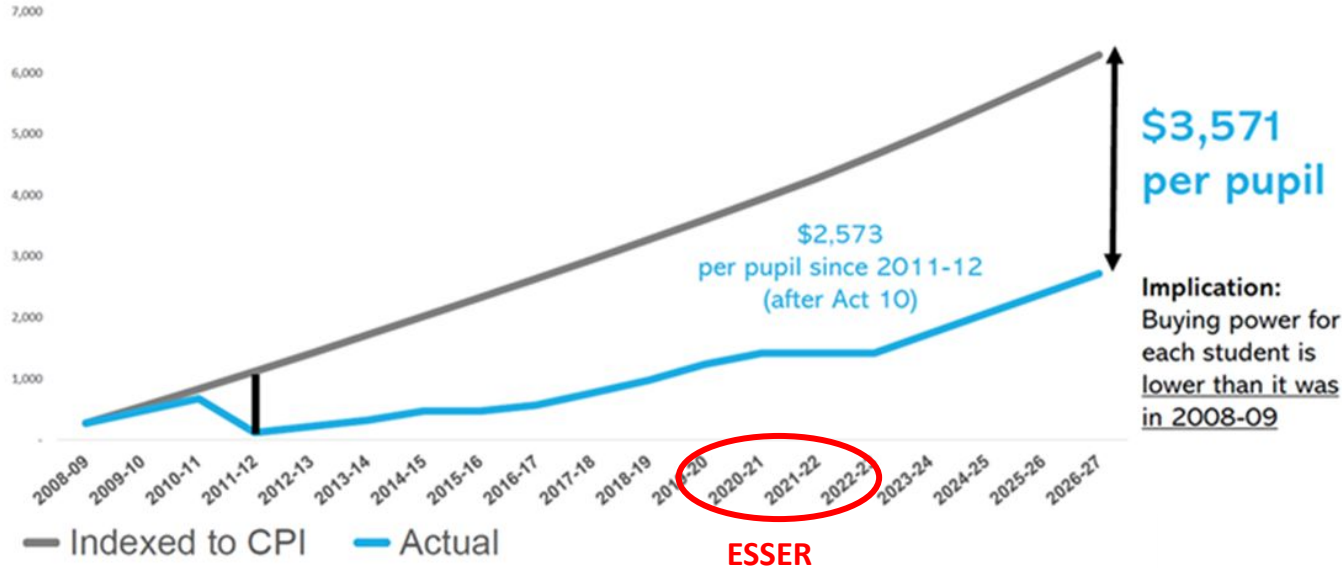


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School Funding in Wisconsin



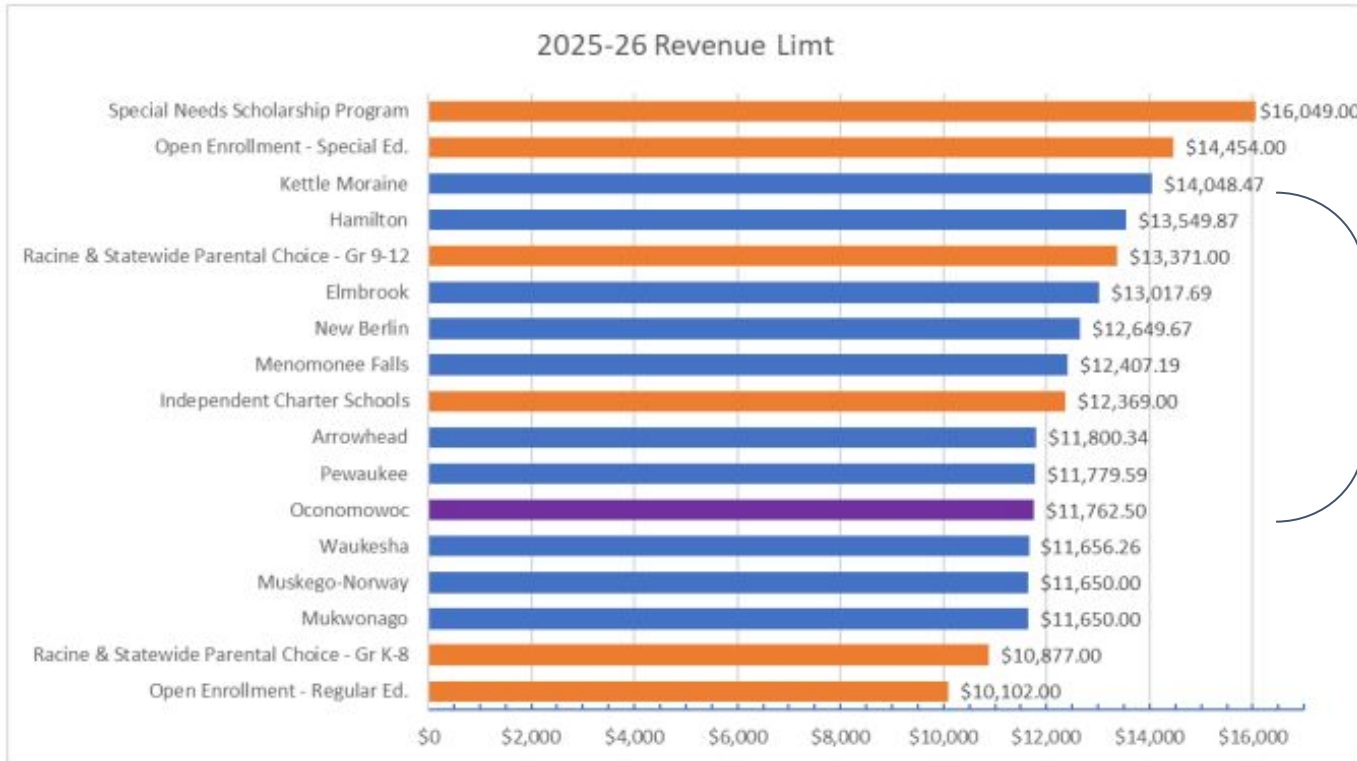
Cumulative annual adjustments in general school district revenues per pupil lag inflation by nearly \$3,600 since 2009



Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials (2025); Kava, Russ (May 22, 2024) Legislative Fiscal Bureau Memo re: Revenue Limit Per Pupil Adjustment Indexed to Inflation

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School Funding in Wisconsin



Per-Pupil Funding Disparities

Assuming 4,800 students, Kettle Moraine has **\$11 million** annually to operate.

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School Funding in Wisconsin



Year	Public School Revenue Limit Increase	Independent charter Increase	Private Voucher Increase (K-8 / 9-12)
2020-21	+\$179	+\$254	+\$254 / +\$254
2021-22	+\$0	+36	+\$36 / +\$36
2022-23	+\$0	+\$63	+\$63 / +\$63
2023-24	+\$325	+\$2121	+\$1492 / +\$3342
2024-25	+\$325	+\$344	+\$344 / +\$344
2025-26	+\$325	+\$640	+\$640 / +\$640
2026-27	+\$325	+\$428	+\$428 / +\$428

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. (n.d.). *Independent charter schools-membership information & historical data.*

<https://dpi.wi.gov/parental-education-options/charter-schools/current/ICS-membership>; Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. (n.d.).

Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) historical data. <https://dpi.wi.gov/parental-education-options/choice-programs/data/wpcp-historical>

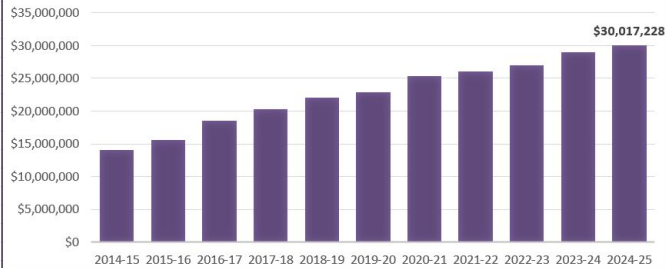
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Current Fiscal State

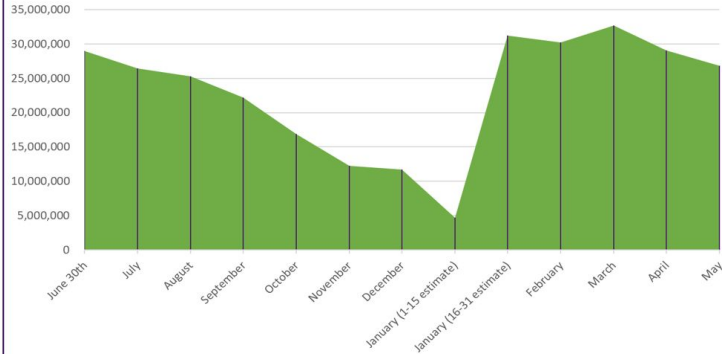
Long-Term Strength, Short-Term Challenges



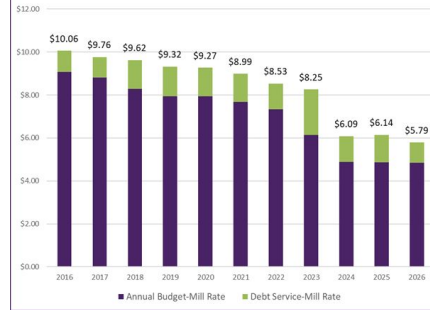
UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE



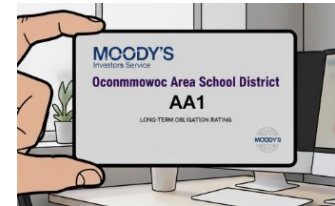
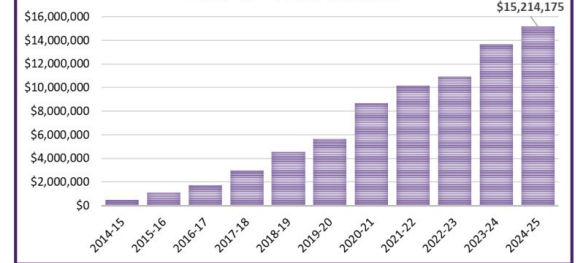
Estimated Monthly Fund Balance for 2024-25



Property Tax Mill Rate History



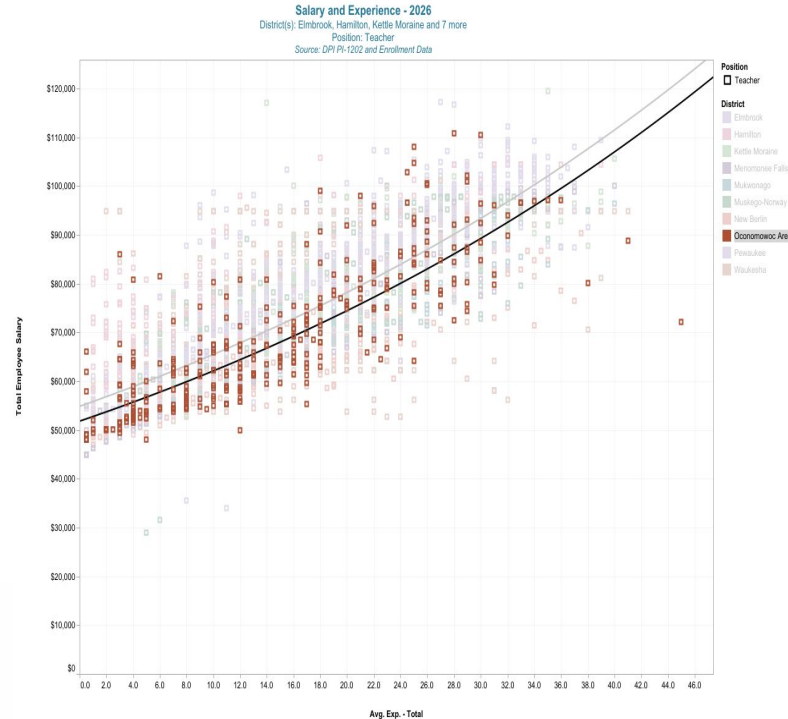
FUND 46 - FUND BALANCE



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Current Fiscal State

Salary Benchmarking

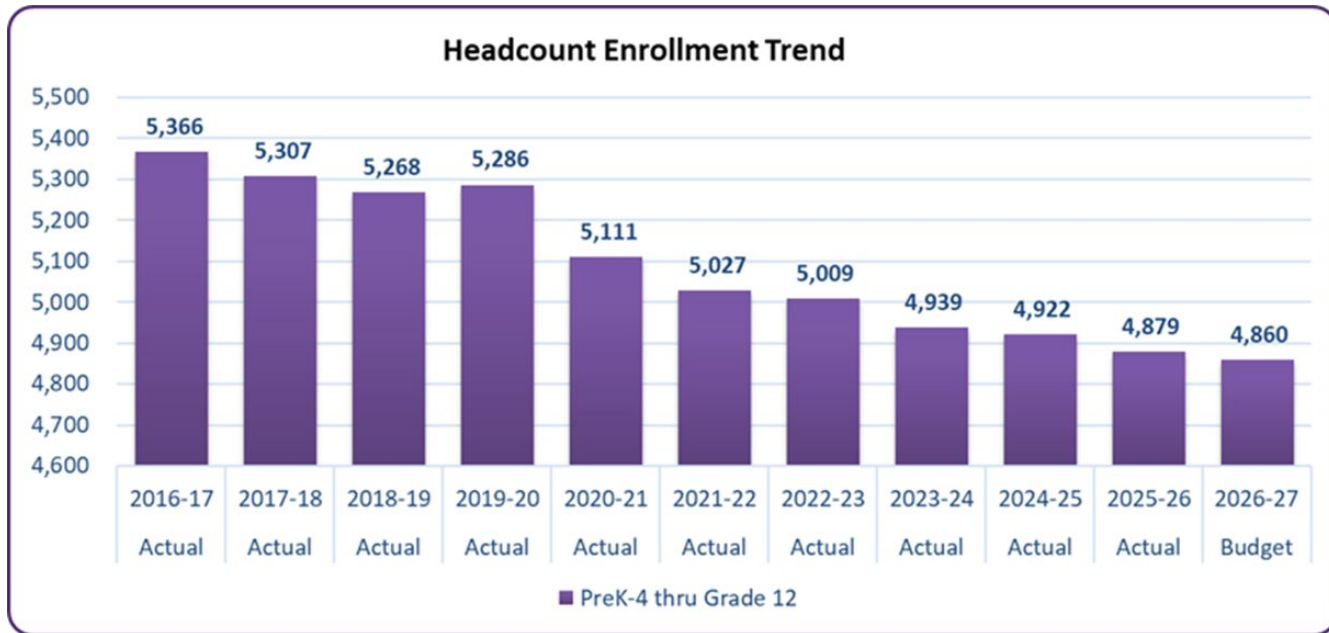


OASD teacher salaries lag behind the median despite efforts to close the gap.

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Current Fiscal State

Historical Enrollment Trend



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Current Fiscal State

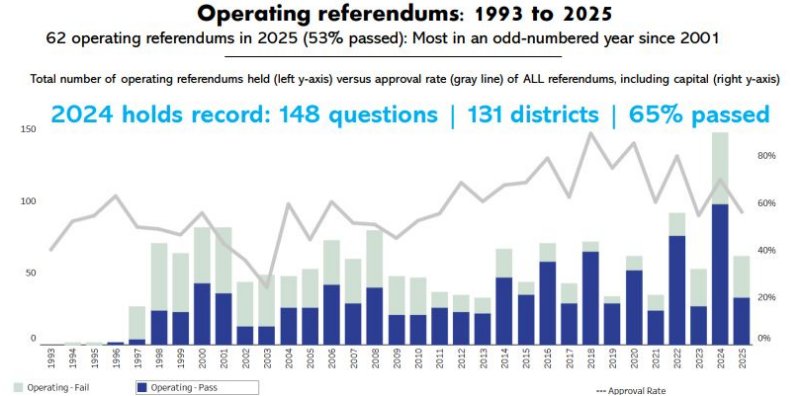
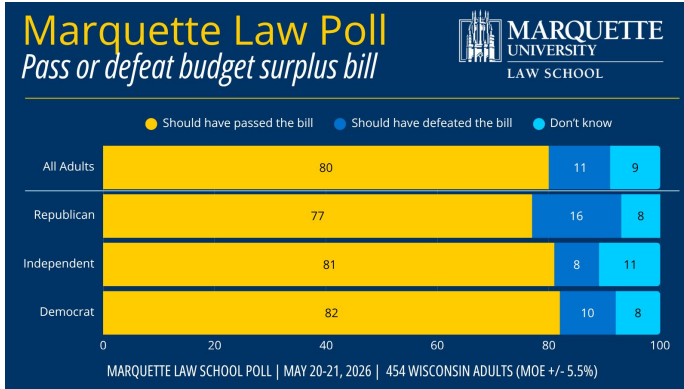
A Broken Funding Formula



Year	Structural Deficit	Headcount Enrollment	Total Staff Reductions
2023-24	\$1.5 Million	-70	-6.45
2024-25	\$2.3 Million	-17	-6.48
2025-26	\$2.3 Million	-41	-17.22
2026-27	\$3.2 Million	-20 (Estimate)	-19.24

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November 3rd Referendum



80%

82%

Knapp, D. (2023, November). *K-12 on the ballot: Using referenda to fund public schools*. Forward Analytics.

<https://www.forward-analytics.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/school-referenda-final-report.pdf>

Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials. (n.d.). *Present state of school finance*. https://wasbo.com/WASBO/Advocacy/Resources/Present_StateofFinance.aspx

Franklin, C. (2026, May 26). *Marquette Law School Poll finds 4 out of 5 say Wisconsin legislature should have passed Evers/GOP property tax, rebates, and special education bill*.

Marquette Law School Poll.

<https://law.marquette.edu/poll/2026/05/26/marquette-law-school-poll-finds-4-out-of-5-say-wisconsin-legislature-should-have-passed-evers-gop-property-tax-rebates-and-special-education-bill/>

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Recurring vs. Non-recurring Referendums



Distinction
between
referendum types
is the duration of
revenue authority
- not a guarantee
that the District
will spend the
same amount
every year.

Major Differences

Feature	Non-Recurring	Recurring
Duration	Temporary	Permanent
Maximum Length	5 years	Ongoing
Expires?	Yes	No
Added to Base Revenue Limit?	No	Yes
Creates Referendum Cliff?	Yes	No
Often Used For	Short-term stabilization	Long-term structural funding

Recurring referendum funds support **ongoing operating costs**, such as competitive employee compensation, staffing, student programs and services, and other recurring expenses. The referendum authority is permanent, although the district's actual annual spending and budget decisions are still determined each year through the normal budgeting process.

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Community Impact



TAX IMPACT

OASD Mill Rate Below Area Average



Operational Referendum Estimated Tax Impact for \$400,000* Home					
Year	Estimated Home Value*	Projected Mill Rate	Estimated School Property Tax Bill	Projected Annual Total Change in Tax Bill	Portion of Change Due to Referendum
Preliminary 2026-27	\$400,000	\$5.65	\$2,261	no referendum	no referendum
Projected 2027-28	\$416,000	\$5.67	\$2,358	\$98	\$23
Projected 2028-29	\$432,640	\$5.67	\$2,454	\$96	\$22
Projected 2029-30	\$449,946	\$5.67	\$2,552	\$98	\$37
Projected 2030-31	\$467,943	\$5.67	\$2,651	\$99	\$41
Projected 2031-32	\$486,661	\$5.65	\$2,749	\$98	\$50

*Based on assessed value, which may differ from fair market value.
Assumes 4% property value increase each year.

Estimates Based Upon Assumptions:

- \$325/student in new Revenue Limit Authority
- 15% loss of Equalization Aid
- \$325 increase in voucher and independent charter school program rates
- 6% growth in equalized property values (4% appreciation and 2% net new construction)

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OCONOMOWOC AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT Operational Referendum



NOVEMBER 3 REFERENDUM

Why An Operational Referendum?

- ✓ **Closing the Budget Deficit:** The proposed referendum would close the anticipated budget deficit in each of the next 5 years to maintain the exceptional educational experiences that differentiates the OASD and the Oconomowoc community.
- ✓ **Responsible Approach:** The operational referendum is structured to fill the anticipated budget deficit each year, not exceed it. After 5-years, the operational referendum (ranging between \$2 M and \$3 M annually) totals \$12.2 M.
- ✓ **Ensuring Our Exceptional Programs Continue:** The operational referendum will close the budget deficit and allow the OASD to maintain current class sizes, support our unique career pathway opportunities, maintain robust academic and career course offerings, sustain partnerships across the community, and compete for talented staff.



**GET THE
FACTS**

SCAN OR VISIT

www.oasd.org/Referendum



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***Vote November
3rd!***



OCONOMOWOC

AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

EMPOWERING A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS AND LEADERS