

Dear Community Members,

The Board of Education has passed resolutions putting a referendum on the April 4, 2017 ballot. We have discussed this information at our monthly board meetings and plan to hold public informational meetings in February and March. The dates and times will be announced on the school district website.

This referendum is needed because our current referendum is expiring, a decline in state aid and increases in operating expenses. Without this referendum, projections show the fund balance running out in 2 years. Many schools in the surrounding area have passed a referendum in recent years in order to maintain educational programs and their local school districts.

This referendum will be for \$1,600,000 each year for five years. The district is seeking this amount of revenue for operational expenses, which are critical in order to maintain current programs for our students.

General spending, staff reductions, salary freezes, and changes of insurance are examples of reductions, which have been made in the school district. Further reductions to program offerings will be detrimental to the educational success of our students.

If the referendum does not pass, the district will have options: another referendum this fall, dissolution, staff reductions, cuts in extra-curricular activities, and fees for the food service program. Remember, if the district dissolves your taxes do not disappear. You will pay taxes at the mill rate of the new district where your property is located. Currently, the mill rates of our neighboring school districts are higher than the mill rate would be in our district with this referendum. The following chart provides mill rate information for Wabeno as well as the surrounding school districts.

School District	2016-2017 Mill Rate
Wabeno Area	\$5.88 (\$6.85 with a passed referendum)
Laona	\$14.82
Crandon	\$9.30
Suring	\$7.37
White Lake	\$13.52
Goodman-Armstrong Creek	\$14.71
Crivitz	\$7.92
Gillett	\$8.31
Antigo	\$8.09

We appreciate the tax payers continued support of the school district. If you would like more information, please contact the district administrator, school board members or review the referendum informational link on our school district website @ www.wabeno.k12.wi.us.

Wabeno Area School Board Members,

Janet Opiela, Board President
Mike Rocolle, Vice President
Patricia Manthey, Clerk
Dawn Jakubiec, Treasurer
Ann Barfknecht, Member
Joan Sackett, Member
Jim Smith, Member