

School District of Wabeno Area Referendum Information



Referendum Frequently Asked Questions

Why is a referendum needed?

The school district has lost a significant amount of general aide over the past years. The referendum will help maintain current programs for our students. This is the last year of our current three year referendum of \$750,000 per year.

How has the fund balance been used and how much money is needed for operation?

The fund balance is used to maintain educational programs and services for the students and faculty members of our school district as well as to maintain our school buildings. The school district receives money from the state two times a year. It is necessary to maintain a healthy fund balance to avoid short term borrowing and for one-time expenses. This money is also needed in case of emergency expenses to building and grounds. Without a referendum, projections show the fund balance being depleted by the 2019-2020 school year.

What cuts or reductions has the School District of Wabeno Area already made?

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.

How much will the referendum cost property owners?

The mill rate will increase from \$5.88 to \$6.85.

By doing a five year referendum for \$1,600,000 a year, the tax increase will occur the first year and stay around the same the remaining four years. If question two regarding the Fab Lab also passes the mill rate will be \$7.22 the first year of the referendum (2017-2018) and drop down to \$6.83 the following year (2018-2019). Please visit the school website for a tax impact calculator.

Property Value	Current (2016-2017) Total School Tax Base	Proposed tax increase from (2016-2017)	Proposed (2017-2018) Total School Tax	Monthly proposed increase	Daily proposed increase (using 30 days per month)
\$100,000	\$588	\$97	\$685	\$8.08	27 cents
\$150,000	\$882	\$146	\$1,028	\$12.17	41 cents
\$200,000	\$1,176	\$194	\$1,370	\$16.17	54 cents

Quick Facts:

- The district is seeking a referendum to exceed the revenue limit to maintain current programs
- The district has already made cuts in the past years
- Question Number One:

The referendum will last for 5 years asking for \$1, 600,000 per year.

- Question Number Two:

The referendum will last for one year asking for \$300,000 to build a Fabrication Lab. Total referendum amount for year one of the referendum would be \$1, 900,000.

- Continuation of the same level of support is critical to maintain current programs for our students

Call the district office
715-473-2592 or
Email Jennifer Vogler
District Administrator
jvogler@wabeno.k12.wi.us
with your questions.

What will happen if the referendum does not pass?

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 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 the referendum. The following chart provides mill rate information for Wabeno as well as 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

What is a Fabrication Lab?

Fab labs incorporate technologies like 3D printing and computer-assisted design to give students in kindergarten through twelfth grade hands-on experience, allowing them to put into practice concepts they have learned in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) courses (Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2017). It is a small scale workshop offering our students a digital fabrication experience. Students will be able to imagine a project, plan a design for it, create it with the Fab Lab equipment and learn how to implement best designs for high quality projects.

A fabrication lab will assist in providing our kindergarten through twelfth grade students skills to compete in our technology driven economy for future jobs in manufacturing and engineering areas. Fabrication labs are not just for our students. This lab will be open for community members to use and develop knowledge of 3D printers, laser engravers, robotics systems, plasma cutters, and computer numerical control routers (CNC machines) with the assistance of the instructor.

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.