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PALMYRA-EAGLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Standing Together For Our Future


BALLOT QUESTION

Shall the School Board of the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District be authorized to exceed the revenue limit under Section 121.91 of the Wisconsin Statutes in the amounts set forth below on a non-recurring basis over a period of four years commencing with the 2019-20 school year as follows: \$1,750,000 in the 2019-20 school year, \$2,500,000 in the 2020-21 school year, \$3,250,000 in the 2021-22 school year and \$4,000,000 in the 2022-23 school year for the purpose of paying District operation and maintenance expenses as provided in the foregoing resolution?


FUN FACTS




K-12 TECHNOLOGY



ON-SITE 4K




OVERALL SCORE 73.2



EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

DISTRICT REPORT CARD

4912



HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS FOR 2017-2018

10 HONORS + 8AP LEVEL ADVANCED COURSES LEVEL COURSES

COLLEGE CREDIT

- ◆ ECCP - Early College Credit Program
- ◆ Start College Now
- ◆ Dual Enrollment
- ◆ Youth Apprenticeship Work-Based Learning

\$2 MIL SCHOLARSHIPS awarded to PEHS Students in the last 5 years

100% OF STUDENTS FROM CLASS OF 2018 who applied, received a local SCHOLARSHIP

CLASS OF 2018 GRADUATES WERE ACCEPTED TO OVER 30 DIFFERENT 2 & 4 YEAR COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

CO-CURRICULARS

SPORTS

- BASEBALL
- BASKETBALL
- CHEERLEADING
- CROSS COUNTRY
- DANCE TEAM
- EQUESTRIAN
- FOOTBALL
- GOLF
- SOCCER
- SOFTBALL
- TRACK
- VOLLEYBALL
- WRESTLING



CLUBS

- CHESS CLUB
- FANTASY FOOTBALL
- FOREIGN LANGUAGE CLUB
- GEOGRAPHY BEE
- LEGO ROBOTICS
- MAKERSPACE
- MATH 24
- NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
- SKI/SNOWBOARD CLUB
- SPELLING BEE
- S.T.A.R.S.
- STRATEGY GAMES
- STUDENT COUNCIL
- YEARBOOK

ENRICHMENT

- BADGER BOYS/GIRLS
- BATTLE OF THE BOOKS
- INTERPRETIVE READING
- FOREIGN/DOMESTIC TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES
- MATH MEETS
- SCIENCE FAIR
- SOUTHERN LAKES
- ANTHOLOGY
- STEAM NIGHT



PERFORMANCE

- BAND - MARCHING, JAZZ, PEP STATE SOLO & ENSEMBLE
- CHOIR - CONCERT, ACAPELLA, HONORS CHOIR STATE SOLO & ENSEMBLE
- DRAMA CLUB - MUSICAL
- FORENSICS

COMMUNITY

- BOOSTER CLUB
- FFA - STATE & NATIONAL COMPETITIONS
- 4-H
- HOME & SCHOOL PTO
- YOUTH SPORTS

Dear PEASD Community,

Since the initial presentation of our operational referendum question in November, a great deal of conversation has taken place. At the base of many of these conversations have been the many facts and figures that make up our upcoming April 2, 2019 referendum question. We have given community members all the information and supporting facts that we have.

Operational referendums are becoming the norm in public school finance. Revenue limits have been frozen and therefore have not kept up with general increases in costs and expenses. Keeping up with expenses beyond the revenue limit



calculation has become the responsibility of local taxpayers and is done through operational referendums. Your PEASD Board of Education has thought long and hard about dollar amounts, timelines, and the structure of the upcoming referendum. As Board Members, it

is our job to provide the community information regarding what the district needs in order to operate. With this in mind, we have had open and honest discussions with the community and with each other. Recently, in response to concerns of PEASD constituents, the referendum question structure was changed from a recurring referendum with no end date, to a four year non-recurring referendum. The Board heard the concerns of the community and acted on them, just as we have in the past, and will continue to in the future.

Few elections give voters the power that the upcoming election does. Instead of elected officials making a decision on behalf of the taxpayers, the taxpayers, by voting for or against the operational referendum, will help determine the future of the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District. Please educate yourself about the upcoming referendum question and all of the factors that are a part of it. Information is available within this bulletin, along with our district website PEASD.org. Please vote on April 2.

Sincerely,
Scott Hoff, President - PEASD Board of Education

WOTE

April 2, 2019

Why is there a need for additional support?

PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING CHALLENGES

- State-imposed revenue limits (the amount a school district receives per resident student) have not kept pace with inflation
- The Wisconsin Revenue Caps have capped spending per student in PEASD \$689 below the state average. This represents an \$800,000 annual revenue shortfall for the district
- While the district has been diligent in trying to keep costs down by making budget reductions, the district's expenses are growing at a faster rate than revenues
- Shift of funding from the State to local taxpayers - local community investment through operational levy referenda

STATE AID DECREASE

- Since 2008-09, the amount received has been reduced by \$2,130,970 which totals a 34% reduction in state aid to the district
- The percentage of state reimbursement for special education has significantly decreased over the last 20 years, as costs have increased

RISING FIXED COSTS

- Health Insurance Costs are rising dramatically although district employees pay more than the government standard for premiums
- Building maintenance, utilities, transportation and other fixed costs rise with inflation

DECLINING ENROLLMENT

- Enrollment is the defining factor for state aid
- Resident enrollment (students who reside within PEASD boundaries and may or may not be educated within the district) has decreased by 119 pupils since 2015-16 alone
- Housing development within district boundaries is limited
- Large amounts of unbuildable land within district boundaries consisting of state forest and farmland
- Wisconsin families are having fewer children
- Over 60% of school districts in the state are experiencing declining enrollment

What will happen if the referendum passes?

- Educating students in the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District continues
- The district remains open
- Appropriate staffing levels and programs are maintained
- Complete needed repairs and general maintenance to our district buildings
- Board and administration continue to work in a cost mindful manner

What will happen if the referendum does not pass?

- Based on projected revenues & expenses, district fund balance will be used during the 2019-20 school year
- Fund balance will not be enough to fund the 2020-21 school year
- The district will work to dissolve during the 2019-20 school year
- There is not another opportunity to go to referendum due to the legal time frame for dissolution
- The Palmyra-Eagle Area School District community will be divided between other districts through a dissolution process
 - Unknown where children may be educated
 - Over 750 students will be displaced
 - One of largest employers in the area goes out of business
 - Over 100 employees left without jobs
 - Communities may have building(s) that are vacant and unused

What will the referendum cost?

CHANGE IN SCHOOL TAX AMOUNT WITH AN APPROVED REFERENDUM

(as compared to a 2018-2019 school tax bill)

School Year:	2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23	
ASSESSED HOME VALUE	TOTAL MONTHLY IMPACT	TOTAL ANNUAL IMPACT	TOTAL MONTHLY IMPACT	TOTAL ANNUAL IMPACT	TOTAL MONTHLY IMPACT	TOTAL ANNUAL IMPACT	TOTAL MONTHLY IMPACT	TOTAL ANNUAL IMPACT
per \$100,000	\$10.42	\$125.00	\$17.42	\$209.00	\$21.25	\$255.00	\$25.42	\$305.00

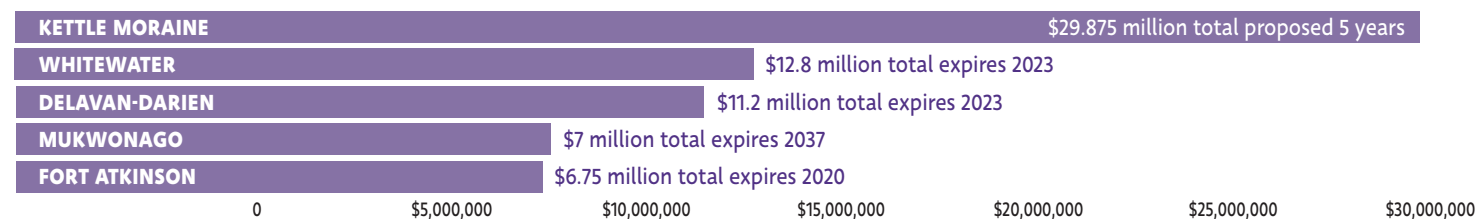
RATES OF INCREASE DO NOT GET COMPOUNDED (ADDED TOGETHER) YEAR AFTER YEAR.

The referendum ends after the 2022-23 school year. To calculate the tax impact on a property, please refer to our online referendum calculator at <https://www.peasd.org/district/referendum-2019.cfm>

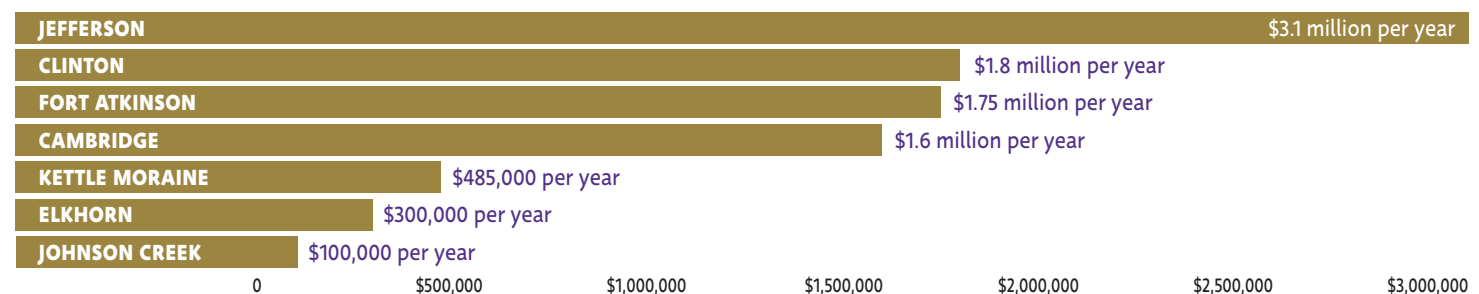
MILL RATES OF AREA DISTRICTS - 2018-2019 EQUALIZED LEVY RATES



NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS WITH APPROVED OR PROPOSED OPERATING REFERENDA NON RECURRING



RECURRING



Is Palmyra-Eagle a failing school district?

The Palmyra-Eagle Area School District (PEASD) is not a failing district. According to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), PEASD "Exceeds DPI Expectations". On the most recent District Report Card, PEASD earned 4 out of 5 possible stars which is an equal or better rating than most of our neighboring districts: Kettle Moraine-4 stars, East Troy-4 stars, Fort Atkinson-3 stars, Jefferson-3 stars, Johnson Creek-3 stars and Whitewater-3 stars.

Why not just make more cuts?

- PEASD has made cuts and reductions for several years.
- No single or combination of cuts remain that are large enough to fill the financial gap needed to operate the district
- Substantial cuts and reductions will have an impact on our student population & negatively impact our expenses through open enrollment
- The Board will continue, as in past, to look for appropriate cost savings when balancing the budget

What will happen to my taxes if the referendum doesn't pass?

The total impact for taxpayers is unknown due to the uncertainty to which district each residence will be reassigned. Current Palmyra-Eagle Area School District taxpayers will be responsible for:

- Taxes of their new (assigned) district
 - Any passed referenda in new (assigned) district
 - Potential unknown costs of the dissolution process
- *Current long term debt of PEASD would be part of an asset/debt calculation done by the School District Boundary Appeal Board and would be distributed amongst the other school districts involved in the dissolution process.

Can I pick my new resident district if dissolution occurs?

If dissolution occurs, no assumptions should be made by any taxpayer or homeowner about what district they will be assigned to. The resident district of each property will be determined by the School District Boundary Appeals Board (SDBAB) through the dissolution process. Per written confirmation from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), "It is not possible to predict how the district would be divided. The options include attaching all the territory to one neighboring district, or dividing it up between or among the neighboring districts. Before issuing an order, the SDBAB would hear from officials and citizens in all the districts. It is possible that one or more of the neighboring districts would indicate it did not wish to have any of the Palmyra-Eagle territory and students." Open enrollment rules would still apply for all residents regardless of the district they are assigned to.

Why did the Board of Education change from a recurring referendum to a non-recurring referendum?

From the passage of the original question in November until now, Board Members have received feedback from school district voters. Much of the feedback revolved around the "recurring" function of the original question, which allowed the referendum dollars to be collected until the referendum would be retired by the Board. Because a new question could be developed in time for the April election, the Board took action to create and approve a "non-recurring" operational referendum question. The new non-recurring question will be for 4 years, and will expire at the end of Year 4.

What improvements has the district made under current Administration and Board?

- Decreased the net open enrollment (open enroll out minus open enroll in) expenditures over the past 3 years
- Increased school district report card score over 6 points since the 2012-2013 school year resulting in an improved rating of 4-stars or "Exceeds Expectations"
- Increased student technology to 1:1 while cutting department costs through upgrades and efficiency measures
- Advancements in K-12 curriculum in all areas to promote rigor, relevance, and college and career readiness through the integration of technology, literacy and social-emotional skills.
- Ongoing teacher training and support in high-impact, research-based instructional practices
- Adoption of equitable grading and assessment practices to promote meaningful learning for all

GET INFORMED!

Would you like to gather more information regarding the upcoming Operational Referendum? Please join district officials for a Question and Answer session on one or more of the following:

February 1st & 22nd 9:30 - 11:00 am
ALICE BAKER LIBRARY
 820 E Main St. • Eagle, WI 53119

February 8th & 15th 9:30 - 11:00 am
POWERS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
 115 W Main St. • Palmyra, WI 53156

Additional evening sessions will be scheduled and posted on the district website at www.peasd.org

Email questions to Scott Hoff at shoff@peasd.org
 Contact Dr. Steven Bloom, District Administrator
sbloom@peasd.org • 262-495-7101 ext. 2601

