



How much is the referendum?

The April 3, 2018 referendum is seeking voter approval to exceed the state revenue limits by \$3.5 million for the next three years. With public approval, the School Board would be allowed to levy up to \$3.5 million if necessary. If state funds increase or additional economies can be identified, the actual cost to the taxpayer could be decreased. The School Board did not use the maximum taxing authority in 2015-2016 school year, consequently saving the taxpayers \$358,152.

What is the tax impact on local taxpayers?

If the referendum is successful, the impact of the referendum on a \$100,000 home would be reduced by \$9.00 over the three years. The first year of the referendum we anticipate a \$21.00 increase, followed by \$16.00 and \$14.00 reductions in the second and third year of the referendum.

School Year	Tax Rate*	Tax Rate Change	\$100,000 home**	\$150,000 home	\$200,000 home
2017-18	\$8.04				
2018-19	\$8.25	+ 21 cents	+ \$21	+ \$31.50	+ \$42
2019-20	\$8.09	- 16 cents	- \$16	- \$24	- \$32
2020-21	\$7.95	- 14 cents	- \$14	- \$21	- \$28

* School Property Tax Levy Rate is per \$1,000 of equalized value

** City of Manitowoc average home value is \$108,000 p

What is the purpose of the referendum?

This operational referendum is necessary to continue current educational programs, maintain and update district facilities and technology, and to continue to attract and retain highly qualified staff. The current levy override authority of \$2 million per year for three years granted by the local residents in April, 2015 expires at the end of the 2017-2018 school year.

Why does the district have financial challenges?

In Wisconsin, public school districts are subject to a revenue limit that restricts the amount of money that districts can receive from state aid and local property taxes. Revenue limits are determined by the state budget. The current revenue limit for the MPSD is \$9,198 per student, which ranks the lowest of 417 out of 422 school district in Wisconsin. If the revenue limit was at the state average, MPSD would not need to go to the taxpayers for the \$3.5 million referendum and the districts revenue limit would increase by \$5 million. Wisconsin’s formula for funding public schools is outdated and actually penalizes low spending districts like Manitowoc.

What is a revenue limit?

Revenue limits are state-imposed controls on the amount of money a Wisconsin district can receive in state aid and local property taxes. Revenue limits were established in 1993 by state policymakers as a means of controlling property taxes.



What has the district done to reduce costs over time?

The MPSD has made millions of dollars in reductions reaching back over a decade. The district has reduced curricular programs and reduced administrative, teaching and support staff. The district made changes to our health insurance plan this year to avoid \$900,000 of cost increases. The district has limited employee salary raises, and the proposed 2% increase would be the largest increase MPSD employees have had in 5 years.

Is the Ron Rubick Municipal Field part of the referendum?

No, the upgrades to Ron Rubick Municipal Field are part of a joint MPSD and local fundraising effort. The MPSD is utilizing capital improvement dollars to replace aging and outdated lights, visitor bleachers and sound system. The fundraising committee has raised funds to upgrade the playing surface into a multi use synthetic turf field. Ron Rubick Municipal Field will continue to be shared by Lincoln and Roncalli football teams, Lincoln boys and girls soccer teams, Lincoln High Band, Manitowoc Lutheran track team, Lincoln, Wilson, Washington and Lutheran track and other MPSD co-curricular programs including dance and cheer.

What happens if the referendum fails?

If the community does not support this referendum, the district will be forced to make significant budget reductions. The District is currently estimating a budget shortfall of \$4.7 million. The district will recommend utilizing \$900,000 from the district's fund balance to offset an increased debt payment; therefore, significant budget reductions will be necessary. This may result in:

- **Reduction** of 30 staff, resulting in increased class sizes
- **Reduction** and elimination of programs and services
- **Reduction** in our ability to attract and retain the best employees to the MPSD
- **Reduction** of curriculum offerings, course materials, supplies, and other essential activities necessary to meet higher standards and goals
- **Reduction** in expenditures for technology and equipment upgrades
- **Reduction** in expenditures for priority building maintenance
- **Reduction** of wage increase for all employees
 - Previous wage increases were 1.26% in 2017, 0.12% in 2016, and 1.0% in 2015
- **Reduction** in health and dental insurance coverage for employees

Will there be public meetings to ask questions and learn more information?

Yes, MPSD has scheduled three public presentations:

February 22	Washington Jr. High School, Library	5:00 p.m.
February 28	Lincoln High School, Auditorium	6:00 p.m.
March 12	Wilson Jr. High School, Library	6:00 p.m.

If you are unable to make one of the above presentations and would like more information on the referendum, please feel free to contact Superintendent Mark Holzman to set up a time that works for you (920-686-4783). If your organization would like an individual presentation, please feel free to contact us.