



# Badger Community School 2024 Referendum

On Tuesday, November 5, Badger Community School residents will consider a three-question referendum that seeks to fill a large funding gap in the district's operational budget and improve the learning spaces at Badger Community School.

Visit [BetterForBadger.org](https://BetterForBadger.org) for more information or use the QR code.



## Why is Badger Community School holding a referendum?

**Badger Community School is facing a budget deficit of approximately \$500,000 going into the 2024/2025 school year.** For nearly two decades, the state's contribution to school funding has lagged behind the rate of inflation. As a result, our school receives less per-pupil funding each year than is necessary to maintain current levels of services and student support. Without additional funding, the only way to balance the budget will be with significant cuts to personnel and some student services.

**In addition, our school building requires maintenance and additional space to meet the needs of today's students.** Our school ranks among the lowest in the state for educational square footage per student. An independent assessment of our building confirmed that many of our spaces do not meet the Minnesota Department of Education's guidelines for learning spaces.



## What are residents voting on?

The proposed plan provides residents with a choice between a short-term solution and long-term solution to our district's funding gap, as well as an opportunity to address maintenance and learning space needs at Badger Community School.

### QUESTION ONE

**An operating levy increase of \$967.93 per pupil.**

This would provide our district with funding to reduce our budget deficit and protect many existing student services and staffing levels over the short term.

### QUESTION TWO

**An additional operating levy increase of \$967.93 per pupil.**

This would provide our district with long-term budget stability (assuming Question One is also approved), mitigate budget cuts, and further protect existing student services for the next several years.

### QUESTION THREE

**A \$15.23 million building bond referendum** that would complete renovations and improvements throughout our school building. If approved, Question Three would:

- Build additional space for small engine, metalwork, welding classes that prepare students for future careers.
- Build a new gymnasium with one full-sized court and two junior high-sized cross courts, with new locker rooms, storage, and a weight room.
- Repurpose the existing gymnasium and media center spaces into rooms for music, technology, a new media center, and special education.
- Make parking lot improvements.
- Add space near the gymnasium for concessions, restrooms, and a new flex classroom.
- Renovate restrooms to meet handicap and ADA accessibility.
- Install a new cooler/freezer for increased food storage capacity in the kitchen/cafeteria.
- Upgrade HVAC and boiler systems to improve air quality and energy efficiency.

# What happens if one or multiple questions don't pass?

## IF ONLY QUESTION ONE PASSES

Our district will maintain many services in the short term. Some budget cuts will likely be made, and our district will need to request another operating levy in the near future.

## IF ONLY QUESTIONS ONE AND TWO PASS

Our district's budget problems will be addressed, for as long as can be predicted based on current levels of state funding and projected student enrollment.

## IF ONLY QUESTION THREE PASSES

Our district will make critically needed updates to our buildings that will benefit students, but will need to cut other student services and personnel to address the budget deficit.

## IF ALL THREE QUESTIONS FAIL

Our district will need to make cuts to personnel and services to reduce costs and avoid deficit spending. Our district will also be unable to complete improvements to our learning spaces, and our school building's needs will only grow.

## How would this plan impact taxpayers?

Approved questions will be supported by a property tax increase in our district, starting with taxes payable in 2025. The tax impact on a \$150,000 home (approximately the average in our district) would be:

**\$35.65 per month**

for Question One (10-year term)

**\$35.65 per month**

for Question Two (10-year term)

**\$37.31 per month**

for Question Three (20-year term)



**Use our tax calculator to determine your tax impact!**

**If Question Three passes, the state will pay for a combined 66% of the question's total cost through Debt Service Aid and the Ag2School Tax Credit.**

## How do I vote?

Residents can vote in the referendum during the general election on Tuesday, November 5. The questions will appear on the same ballot as races for elected office.

**The referendum questions will be found near the end of your ballot - don't forget to turn over and complete your entire ballot!**

For registered voters in mail-only precincts, the referendum questions will be found on the same ballot you receive in the mail.

**Vote on or before Tuesday, November 5!**



Visit **BetterForBadger.org** to learn more about the proposed referendum!



**SCAN ME!**

