

Wausau School District
Board of Education Meeting Agenda
In Compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law

James Bouché, President
Public Notice s.19.84 (3)

Cory Sillars, Clerk
Exemptions s.19.85

A **Board Workshop** of the BOARD OF EDUCATION will be held in the **PDC Meeting Room in the Longfellow Administration Center, 415 Seymour Street, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403** at **5:05 PM** on **Monday, August 3, 2026.**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Board Workshop
 - School Perceptions Survey
 - Strategic Plan
 - Potential Referendum Discussion

- III. Adjourn

NOTICE POSTED: Thursday, July 30, 2026, 12:30 pm

By: Cassie Peck

NOTICE SENT TO:

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2026

Our Strategic Plan's Opening Day



Our mission...to advance student learning, achievement, and success.



Students

Cultivate engaging learning environments for lifelong student success.

Staff

Foster a premier workplace that attracts, develops, and retains high-quality staff.



Community

Build trust and maximize partnership impact through transparent, coordinated communication.

Operations

Promote fiscal transparency and operational efficiency to provide maximum community value.



2026

**Our Strategic Plan's
Opening Day**



Students

Strategic Goal #1: Cultivate engaging learning environments.

Strategic Goal #2: Prepare students for success now and in the future.



2026

**Our Strategic Plan's
Opening Day**



Staff

Strategic Goal #1: Attract, develop, and retain high-quality staff.

Strategic Goal #2: Create a workplace where people want to work and stay.



2026

**Our Strategic Plan's
Opening Day**



Community

Strategic Goal #1: Foster trust and confidence through clear, accessible information.

Strategic Goal #2: Enhance the visibility, coordination, and impact of partnerships.



2026

**Our Strategic Plan's
Opening Day**



Operations

Strategic Goal #1: Engage the community and staff in school district finance and budget responsibility.

Strategic Goal #2: Provide maximum value to our community through efficient and effective operations and resource management.



2026

**Our Strategic Plan's
Opening Day**





 2026
**Our Strategic Plan's
Opening Day**





2026

Our Strategic Plan's Opening Day



Our mission...to advance student learning, achievement, and success.



WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

Wisconsin School Finance & Referendum Overview
Erik Kass, Director, Public Finance

PTMA FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS | AUGUST 3, 2026

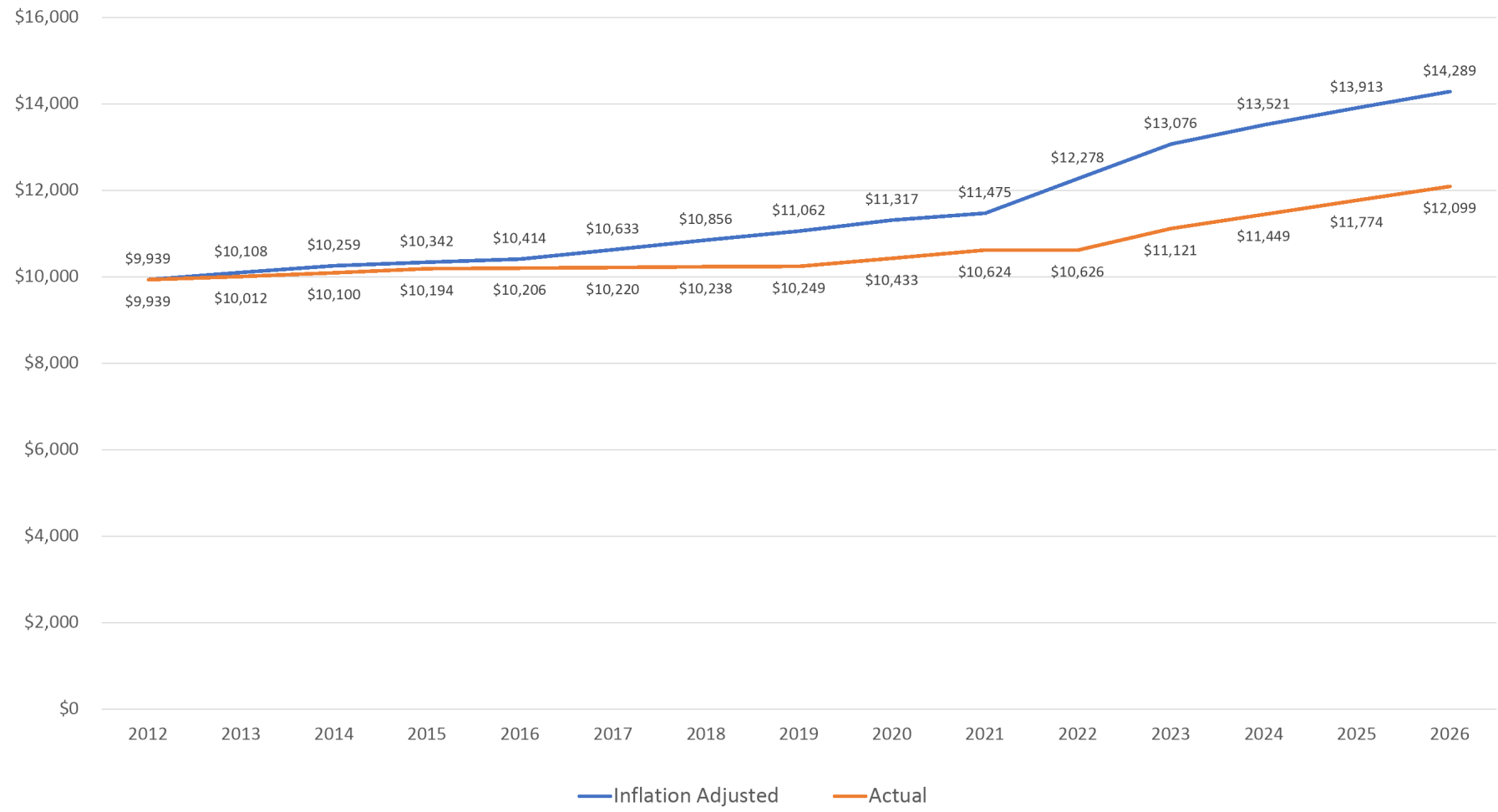


HISTORICAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR WAUSAU



MAXIMUM REVENUE PER PUPIL VS. INFLATION

Wausau School District
Maximum Revenue Per Pupil

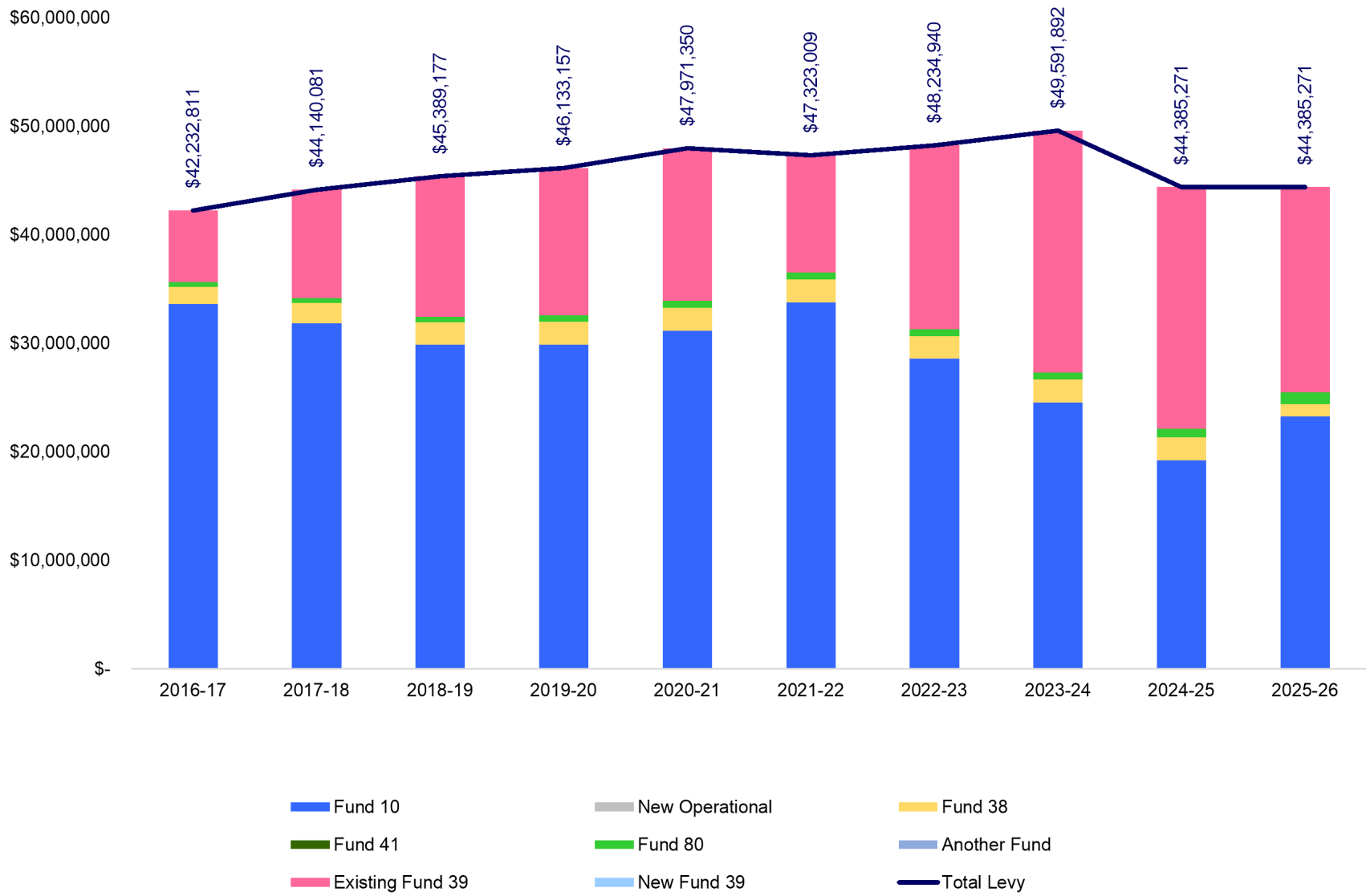


Inflation source: <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/current-inflation-rates/>



LEVY HISTORY

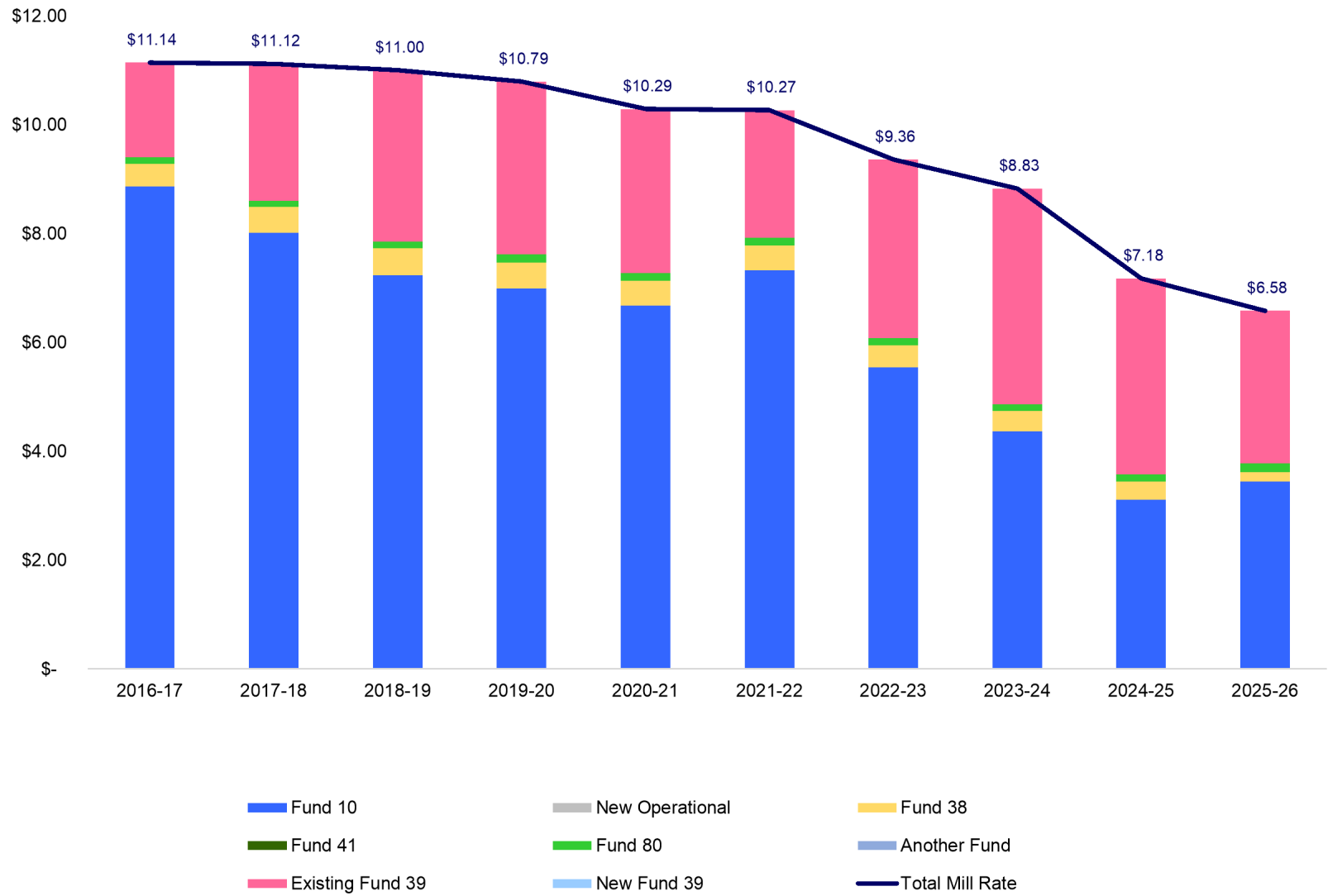
Wausau School District





MILL RATE HISTORY

Wausau School District





CALCULATING THE MILL RATE

- ▶ The Department of Revenue each fall certifies the TIF-Out Equalized Valuation for each School District
 - ▶ 2025 Wausau TIF-Out = \$6,743,950,003
- ▶ The total Property Tax Levy is Certified each Fall by the Board of Education
 - ▶ 2025 Certified Tax Levy = \$44,385,271

Total Property Tax Levy	/	TIF-Out	X	1,000	=	Mill Rate
\$44,385,271	/	\$6,743,950,003	X	1,000	=	\$6.58

School Portion: \$658 on \$100,000 Home

CURRENT FINANCIAL INFORMATION



BASICS OF WISCONSIN SCHOOL FINANCE

State law allows additional revenue authority above the allowable revenue maximum through exemptions. The two most popular approaches are through referendum.

Operational Referendum

- A school district may ask voters to exceed the allowable maximum revenue through a voter approved referendum to support operational expenses
 - Recurring Referendum – never stops
 - Non-Recurring Referendum – exists for a defined period of time

Capital Referendum

- A school district may ask voters to exceed the allowable maximum revenue through a voter approved referendum to support capital expenses
 - Allows the district to borrow funds immediately and pay back over time
 - Alleviates the tax burden of a long-term capital asset over a longer period of time



CAPITAL REFERENDUM HISTORY

Since January 1, 2016 there have been 563 Capital Referendum Questions:

- 416 questions passed for a 74% success rate

In April 2026, there were 12 Capital Referendum Questions:

- 9 questions passed for a 75% success rate

WHY DISCUSS REFERENDUM?



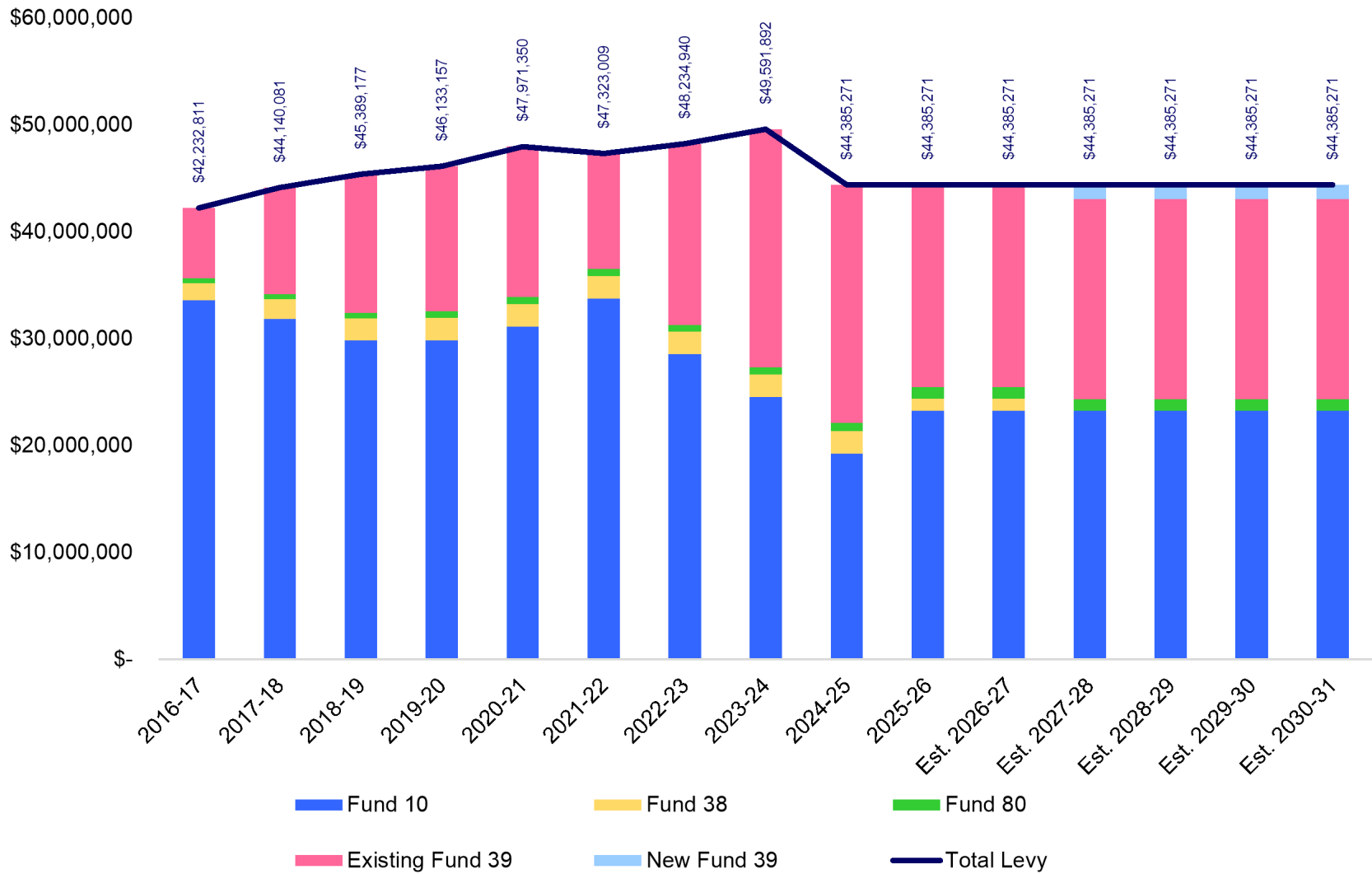
DEBT DEFEASANCE

- ▶ Annually the Board of Education approves a final tax levy and mill rate
 - ▶ Depending upon variables flexibility with Debt Levy
 - ▶ State Aid
 - ▶ School Levy Credit
 - ▶ Net New Construction
 - ▶ Additional levy ABOVE annual principal and interest payments provides flexibility
 - ▶ Continuation of additional levy vs. replacement with operational referendum



LEVY IMPACT – \$25M REFERENDUM

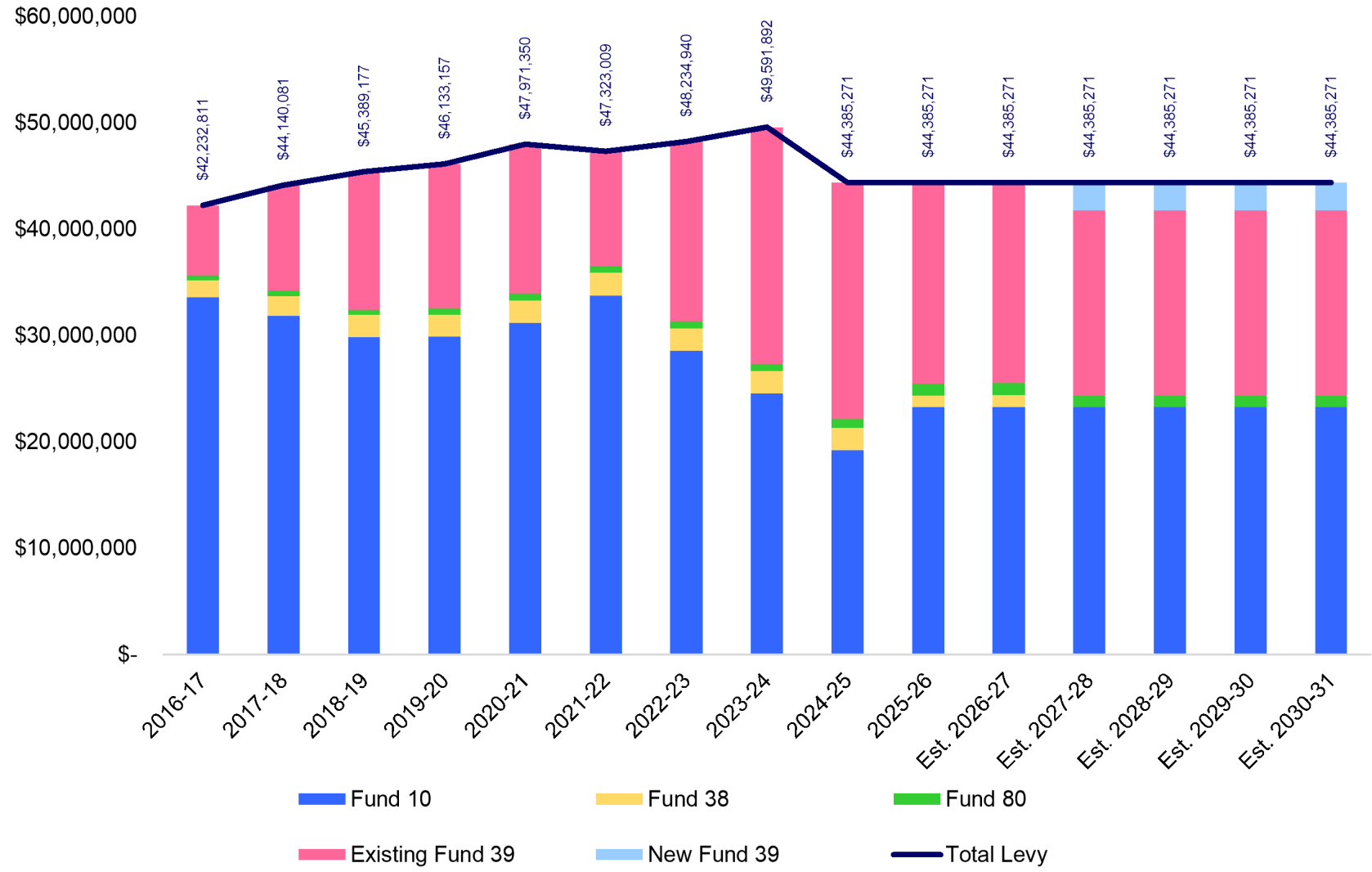
Wausau School District





LEVY IMPACT – \$50M REFERENDUM

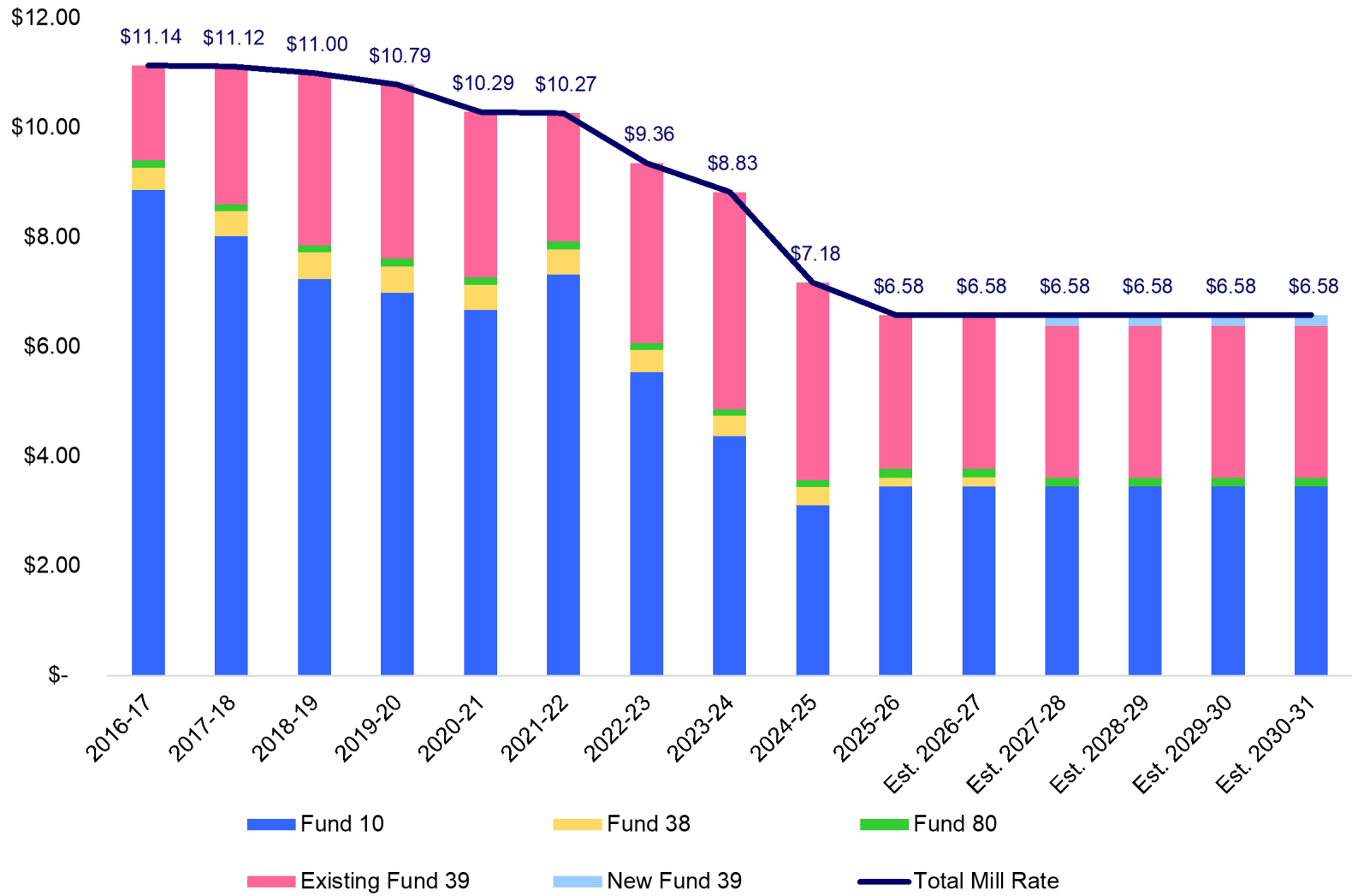
Wausau School District





MILL RATE IMPACT – \$25M REFERENDUM

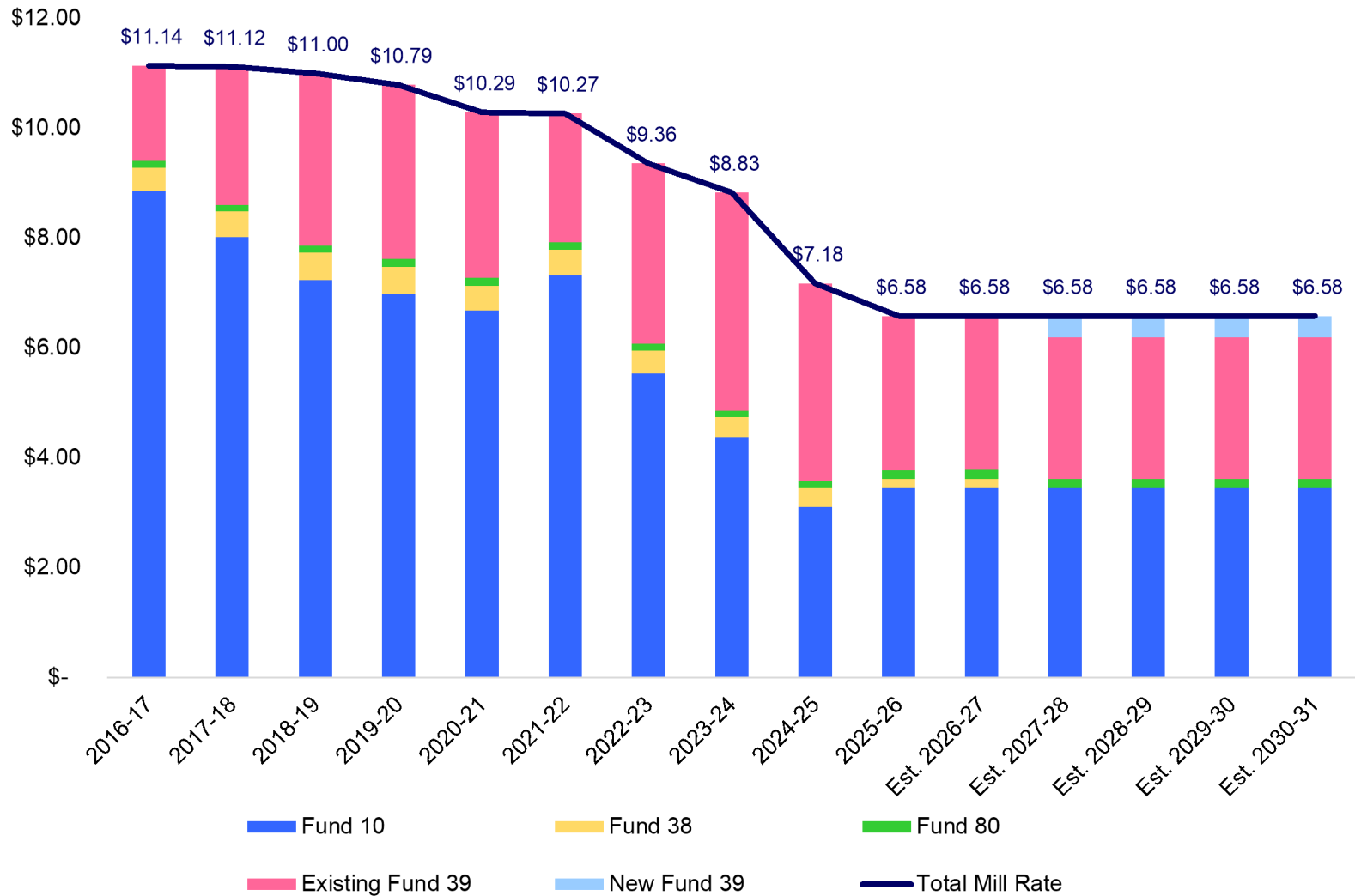
Wausau School District





MILL RATE IMPACT – \$50M REFERENDUM

Wausau School District



NOVEMBER VS. APRIL VARIABLES



IMPORTANT REFERENDUM CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ Since 2017 School Districts are limited to when a referendum question can be asked and the number in any calendar year
 - ▶ Referendum questions allowed during general elections and primaries
 - ▶ Popular approach is Spring General Election or Fall Gubernatorial/Presidential Elections
 - ▶ Even years allow for April and November (non-primary)
 - ▶ Odd years allow for only April (non-primary)
 - ▶ School Districts are capped at two referendum questions in any calendar year



NOVEMBER VS. APRIL

▶ November Election:

- ▶ Provides opportunity to exercise the additional authority for the school year of the election
 - ▶ Board of Education approves a pass/fail levy
 - ▶ E.g. November 2026 would be accessible for 2026-27 or future

▶ April Election:

- ▶ Provides opportunity to exercise the additional authority for the following school year
 - ▶ E.g. April 2027 would be accessible for 2027-28 school year



LEGAL TIMELINE

- ▶ By statute a formal resolution and ballot question must be adopted by the Board of Education at least 70 days prior to the Election (2027)
 - ▶ Recommend no later than January 26, 2027 for April election
 - ▶ Must be to the Clerk(s) 70 days prior



Questions?



DISCLOSURE

The information contained herein is solely intended to suggest/discuss potentially applicable financing applications and is not intended to be a specific buy/sell recommendation, nor is it an official confirmation of terms. Any terms discussed herein are preliminary until confirmed in a definitive written agreement.

The analysis or information presented herein is based upon hypothetical projections and/or past performance that have certain limitations. No representation is made that it is accurate or complete or that any results indicated will be achieved. In no way is past performance indicative of future results. Changes to any prices, levels, or assumptions contained herein may have a material impact on results. Any estimates or assumptions contained herein represent our best judgment as of the date indicated and are subject to change without notice. Examples are merely representative and are not meant to be all-inclusive.

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WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET UPDATE

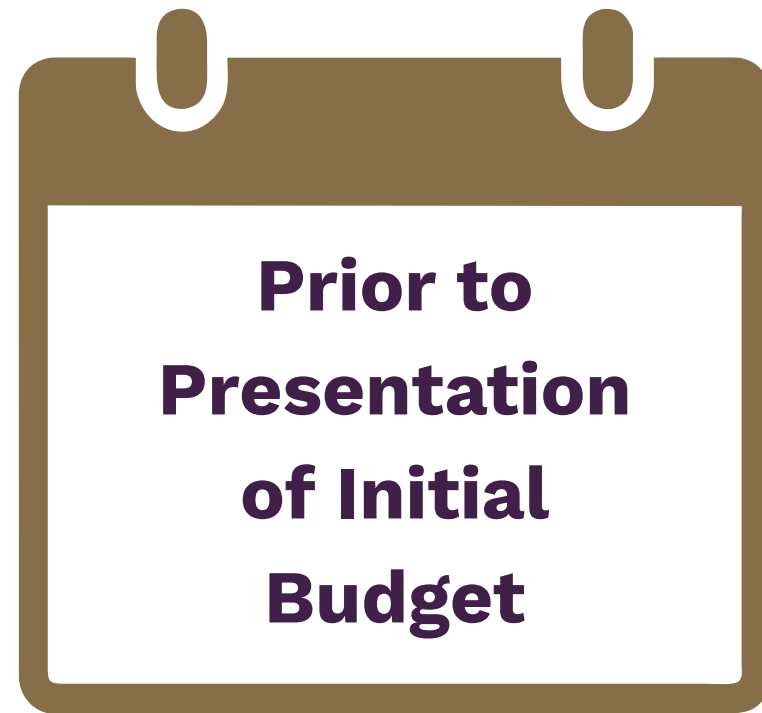
AUGUST 3, 2026

Topics

- Budget Calendar
- Budget Updates
- Five-Year Forecast
- Enrollment Trends
- Capital Improvements



2026-27 Budget Calendar



- Budget reconciliation plan to the Board



- Committee approval of the initial 2026-27 budget



- School Board approval of the initial 2026-27 budget



- Share equalized value
- Set Annual Meeting date
- Recommendation for 2026-27 budget and tax levy

2026-27 Budget Calendar

**September 14,
2026**

- Approve the 2026-27 budget and tax levy for publication and presentation at Annual Meeting

**September 28,
2026**

- Regularly scheduled Committee Meeting
- Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing

**October 13,
2026**

- School Board approvals from September committee meeting

**October 27,
2026**

- Adopt final budget
- Adopt district tax levy

Budget Updates

- Currently in second year of biennial budget
 - 2025-2026 and 2026-2027
- \$325 per pupil revenue remains intact
- No increase to state aid
- Special Education reimbursement is 38.39%



Five-Year Forecast

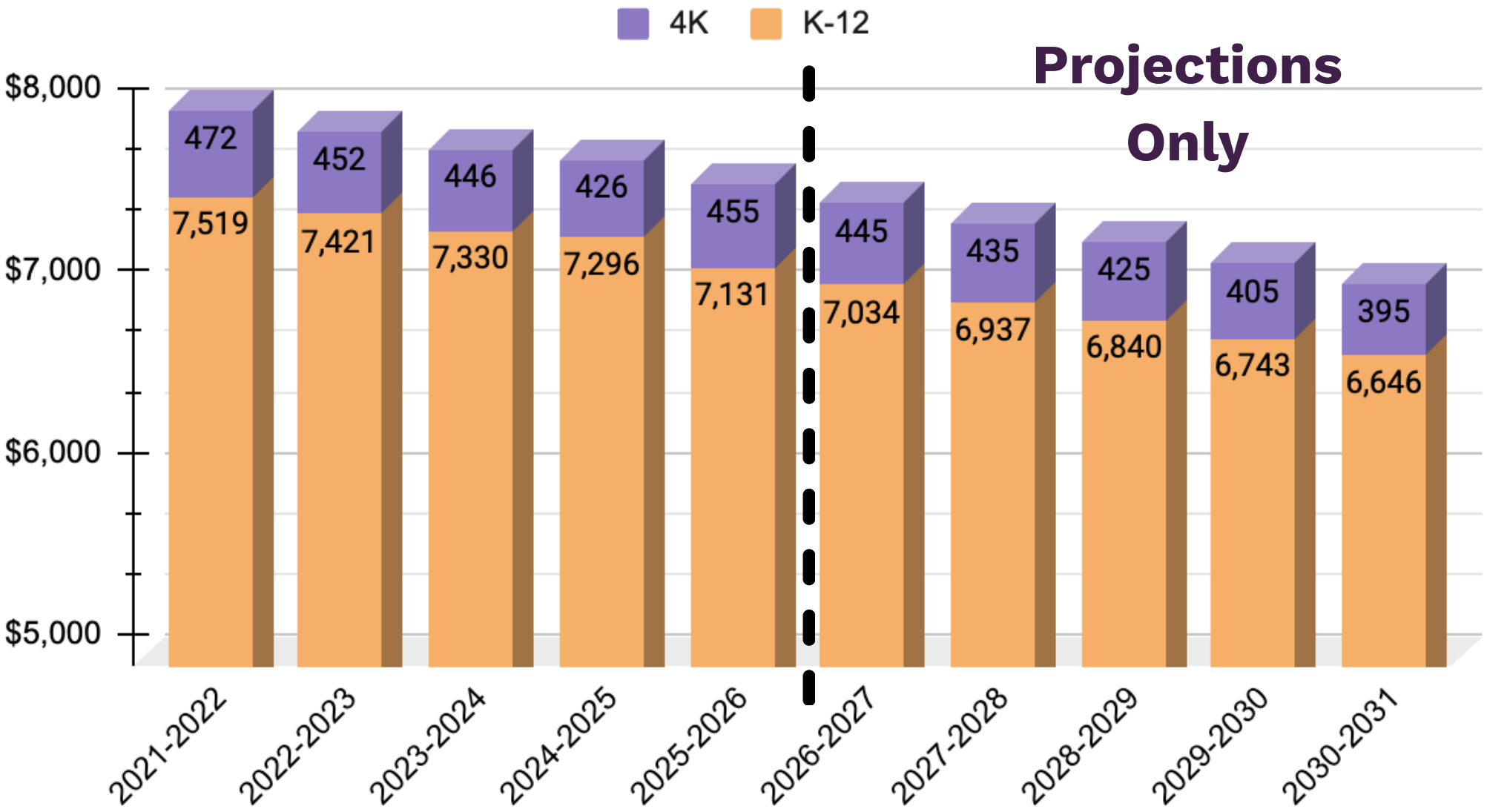
Fund 10 - General Fund - Projection Summary

School District | Base Budget with Assumptions NT 10% Ins.

	BUDGET FY - 2026	FY - 2027	% Δ	FY - 2028	% Δ	FY - 2029	% Δ	FY - 2030	% Δ	FY - 2031	% Δ
TOTAL REVENUE	\$117,577,935	\$119,624,306	1.74%	\$121,174,130	1.30%	\$122,692,292	1.25%	\$124,840,918	1.75%	\$127,420,887	2.07%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$117,577,936	\$121,317,408	3.18%	\$124,228,269	2.40%	\$127,232,931	2.42%	\$130,302,060	2.41%	\$133,650,873	2.57%
SURPLUS / DEFICIT	(\$1)	(\$1,693,102)		(\$3,054,139)		(\$4,540,639)		(\$5,461,142)		(\$6,229,986)	
Change over Previous Year		(\$1,693,101)		(\$1,361,037)		(\$1,486,500)		(\$920,503)		(\$768,844)	
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	\$27,990,877	\$27,990,876		\$26,297,774		\$23,243,635		\$18,702,996		\$13,241,854	
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$27,990,876	\$26,297,774		\$23,243,635		\$18,702,996		\$13,241,854		\$7,011,868	
FUND BALANCE AS % OF EXPENDITURES	23.81%	21.68%		18.71%		14.70%		10.16%		5.25%	

Enrollment Trends

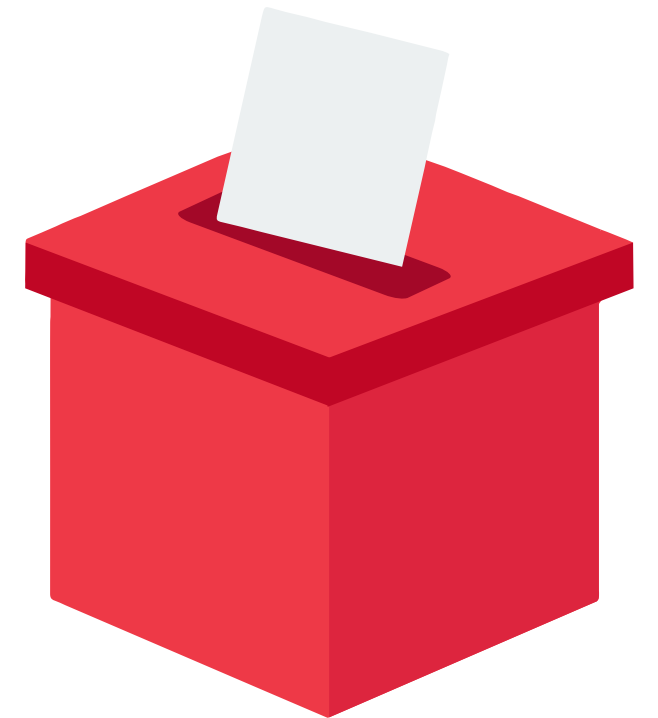
Enrollment Trends



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Referendum – Next Opportunity

- April 2027:
 - Capital Referendum of \$25M non-recurring
- District is limited to two questions annually





PTMA PRESENTATION

