

AGENDA

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW GLARUS

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025

**HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER, ROOM 183 JOIN ZOOM MEETING USING
LINK**

HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/87870835545?PWD=VL5IFWIJH71KYDG9JYBKCP

BHYU5CFK.1 BY PHONE USING 1-646-568-7788 MEETING ID 878 7083 5545 &

PASSWORD 719099

1701 2ND STREET

NEW GLARUS, WISCONSIN 53574

6:45 PM

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Resolution Authorizing the School District Budget to Exceed Revenue
Limit by \$2,500,000 for Recurring Purposes** **2**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SCHOOL
DISTRICT BUDGET TO EXCEED REVENUE LIMIT
BY \$2,500,000 FOR RECURRING PURPOSES

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the School District of New Glarus, Green and Dane Counties, Wisconsin that the revenues included in the School District budget be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$2,500,000 beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, for recurring purposes consisting of expenses related to staffing, operating and maintaining current school facilities, and maintaining current educational programming, extra-curriculars, and services.

Adopted and recorded January 13, 2025.

William Oemichen
District President

ATTEST:

Cari Ann Muggenburg
District Clerk

(SEAL)

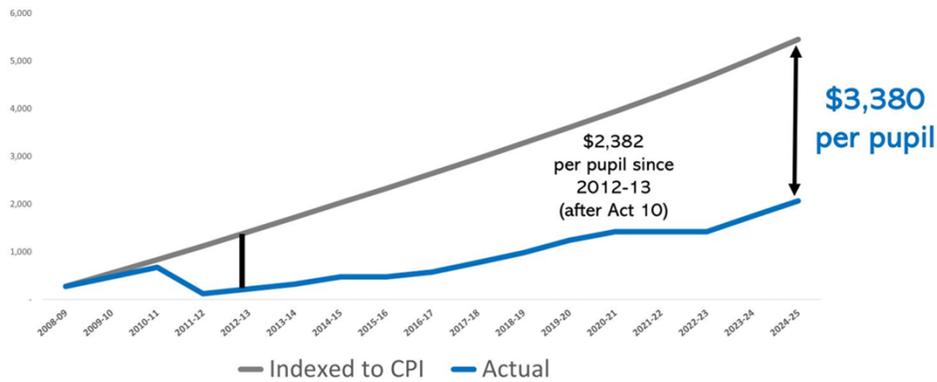
For Board Consideration Operational Referendum April 2025

Why is a referendum needed?

This referendum would **replace the current non-recurring** operating referendum that was approved in 2023. It would provide stability for the district and eliminate an upcoming funding cliff. The reason operating referendums are needed in school districts across the whole state are due to the following factors:

1. **Lack of state funding** – the state has lagged inflation by \$3,380 per pupil over the past 15 years, which is causing school districts in the state to go to referendum for operational expenses.

General school district revenues per pupil lag inflation by more than \$3,300 since 2009



Source: Kava, Russ (January 9, 2023) Legislative Fiscal Bureau Memo re: Revenue Limit Per Pupil Adjustment Indexed to Inflation; WASBO Calculations

2. **An increasingly competitive market** - to maintain the ability to retain and attract the best educators and staff in an increasingly competitive job market, school districts must offer competitive salaries.

Is this operating referendum needed because of the recent facility projects, including the new Primary School?

No, the recent facilities projects came in under budget so the money is not needed for those projects. This recurring operating referendum is replacing the non-recurring operating referendum from 2023.

Why is NGSD considering a **recurring** operational referendum?

The district decided to do a non-recurring referendum in 2023 to buy time to see how the state decided to fund schools once the one-time Covid-relief funding ended. The state has not filled the hole created from two years of no additional per pupil funding during the worst inflation in recent history, and continues to not keep up with inflation. Therefore, the district is seeking a recurring referendum to provide stability for the district moving forward and eliminate a funding cliff.

What would be the tax impact?

The referendum is expected to keep the mill (tax) rate the same and keep taxes as neutral as possible.

Historical and Estimated District Mill Rate

Year	Mill (Tax) Rate
2019	\$11.63
2020	\$11.63
2021	\$11.63
2022	\$11.38
2023	\$10.48
2024	\$9.98
2025	\$9.98 (Projected)
2026	\$9.98 (Projected)

Why did taxes increase for some taxpayers this year even though the tax rate went down?

The specific details of individual tax bills are quite complicated, but the simple version is that home values impact individual tax bill. This includes both the fair market value of homes determined by the Department of Revenue, as well as reassessments completed by the municipalities. Therefore, although the New Glarus School District tax rate decreased, the tax rate is multiplied by home values, and therefore, the change in tax bills for individual taxpayers varied significantly based on property values, with some tax bills decreasing and others increasing.

What would this operational referendum do for our students?

A successful operational referendum will do the following:

1. Recruit and retain high quality staff by offering competitive salaries and benefits that keep up with nearby districts.
2. Provide the necessary ongoing operational funds to keep up with inflation for goods and services that are needed to run our schools.
3. Maintain the high-quality education that our community has supported for many years
4. Maintain class sizes similar to what they are today.

What is the proposed wording for the referendum question that would be on the ballot?

The proposed ballot question is:

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the School District of New Glarus, Green and Dane Counties, Wisconsin that the revenues included in the School District budget be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$2,500,000 beginning with the 2026-27 school year, for recurring purposes consisting of expenses related to staffing, operating and maintaining current school facilities, and maintaining current educational programming, extra-curriculars, and services.

What would a “yes” vote mean, and what would a “no” vote mean?

A “yes” vote would allow the district to **continue** using referendum funds for operational expenses. A “no” vote would mean the district will have a funding cliff when the current non-recurring referendum ends.

How has state funding for schools changed in the past 20 years?

In 2002 Wisconsin was ranked 11th in the nation for school funding. By 2022, our state had fallen to 25th. This is the largest drop in the national ranking of any state over this time period. In fact, Wisconsin public school funding in 2022 was 7.2% below the national average. Wisconsin also provides disproportionately less funding to rural districts, and is 11th lowest in the nation on state revenue to rural schools per local dollar.

Are other districts needing to put referendums on the ballot too?

Yes. Over the years, more of the responsibility for funding schools has moved from the state to local property taxpayers, via referendums. In 2024 there were 146 operating referendums in the state, which is the highest number of operating referendums in state history.

Did federal Covid funding help New Glarus?

All public schools benefited from some federal funds directed to pandemic relief, but unfortunately, due to New Glarus having a low free- and reduced-lunch population, we received much less per pupil than most districts. Additionally, these dollars were one-time-use funds and could not be applied to ongoing expenses, such as hiring permanent staff.

What will happen if the referendum fails?

The district will need to start preparing for the looming funding cliff by making extremely difficult decisions about how to cut the budget and staffing, or whether to use Fund Balance, or a combination of both. Using Fund Balance would require the district to short-term borrow because of the timing of when revenue comes into the district. At the current interest rates, short-term borrowing is not advisable, and using Fund Balance is also only a one-time solution. It doesn't help with recurring expenses, such as salaries and benefits. Due to state law, the District won't be able to go to referendum again until a year from now, April 2026

WELCOME

GREATER DANE COUNTY



SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE
CONSORTIUM

OCTOBER 8, 2024



MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Greater Dane County School District Consortium (GDCSDGC) is to ensure all of our students receive the highest quality education possible. While we acknowledge the uniqueness of each of our districts, we share many of the same challenges and aspirations. We will leverage our collective knowledge and expertise to focus on three priorities:

- Eliminate academic, social, and emotional gaps for our students;
- Advance best governance practices; and
- Advocate for our public schools at the local, state, and federal levels.

AGENDA



- 5:30 PM Dinner – AzTec Taqueria
- 6:00 PM Welcome and Inclusion Activity
- Today's Focus
 - ❖ Political Advocacy and Strategies for Public School Funding
 - ❖ Discussion on Referendums
- 7:15 PM Questions/Other Business
- Future Meeting Dates
 - ❖ January 15, 2025 – Mount Horeb School District
 - ❖ May 7, 2025 – New Glarus School District
- Adjourn

WELCOME



Verona Area School District Leadership Team

Dr. Tremayne Clardy, Superintendent

Chad Wiese, Deputy Superintendent of Business and Operations

Dr. Angela Hawkins, Executive Director of Student Services

Amy Engelkins, Executive Director of Academic Services

Marcie Pfeifer-Soderbloom, Public Information Officer

Board of Education (in attendance)

Jen Murphy, President

John Porco, Vice President

Joe Hanes, Treasurer

Korbey White, Clerk

Juan Carlos Medina



INCLUSION ACTIVITY



POLITICAL ADVOCACY AND STRATEGIES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING



Mike Barry

Executive Director

Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials

mike.barry@wasbo.com

608 712 4953

April 2024

PIERCING THE FOG

SHEDDING LIGHT ON SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDA IN WISCONSIN

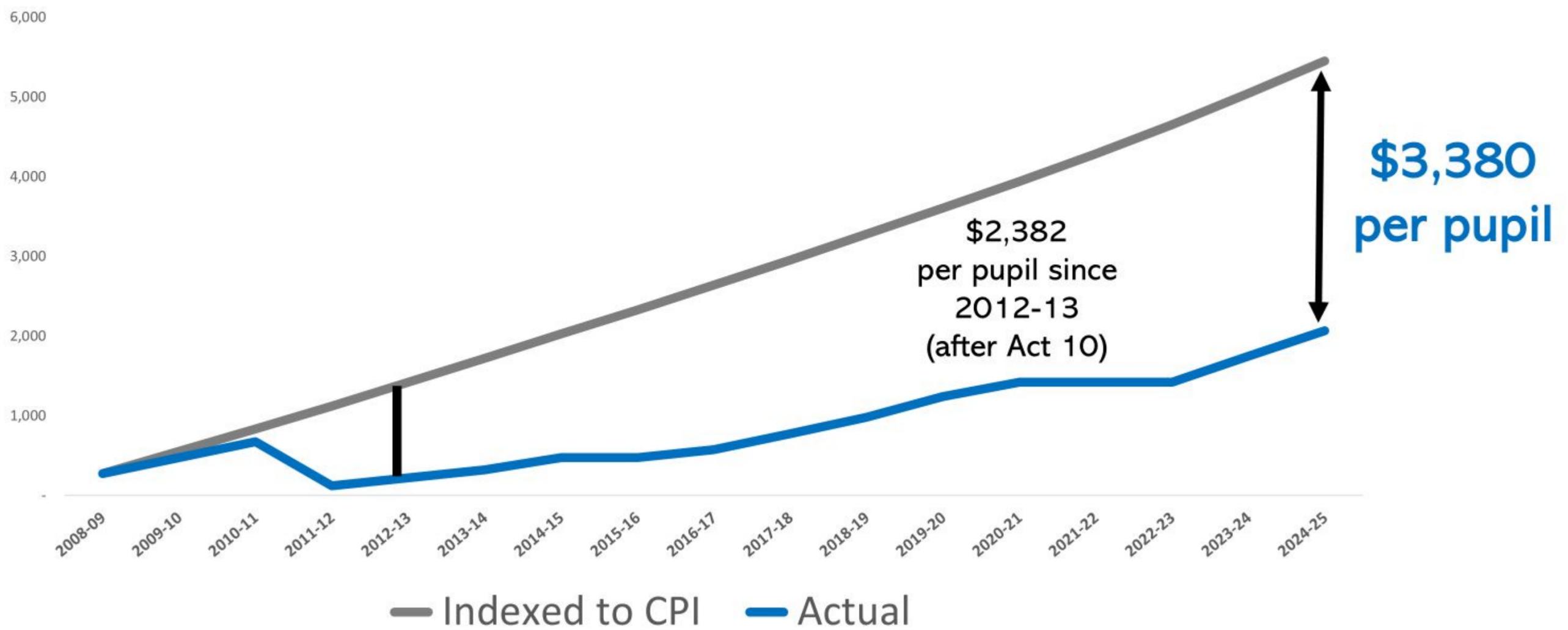
Will Flanders, PHD.
Kitalya Spencer



These limits were initially set in the fall of 1993. Since then, the legislature has raised the base revenue limits 24 times. Though districts have received these increases over time...

- Of the 24 increases, **17 happened consecutively**, from 1994-95 through 2010-11 when the revenue limit was **indexed to inflation**. Indexing stopped in 2009-11 during the Great Recession.
- In the past 14 years, from 2011-12 onward, the legislature increased the revenue limits **just half the time**, in 7 of the 14 years. 3 of those increases were \$75 per pupil or less.
- In the past 14 years, from 2011-12 onward, there was **no increase** in the revenue limits **6 times** and **one cut of (\$528) per pupil**.

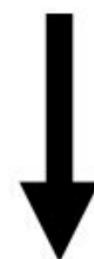
General school district revenues per pupil lag inflation by more than \$3,300 since 2009





Wisconsin's ranking has fallen relative to the nation on per pupil spending on K-12 education

11th in 2002
11% above national average



25th in 2022 **7.2% below**
national average

Wisconsin provides **disproportionately less funding to rural districts: 11th lowest** in the nation on state revenue to schools per local dollar (\$.82 versus \$1.18 nationally)

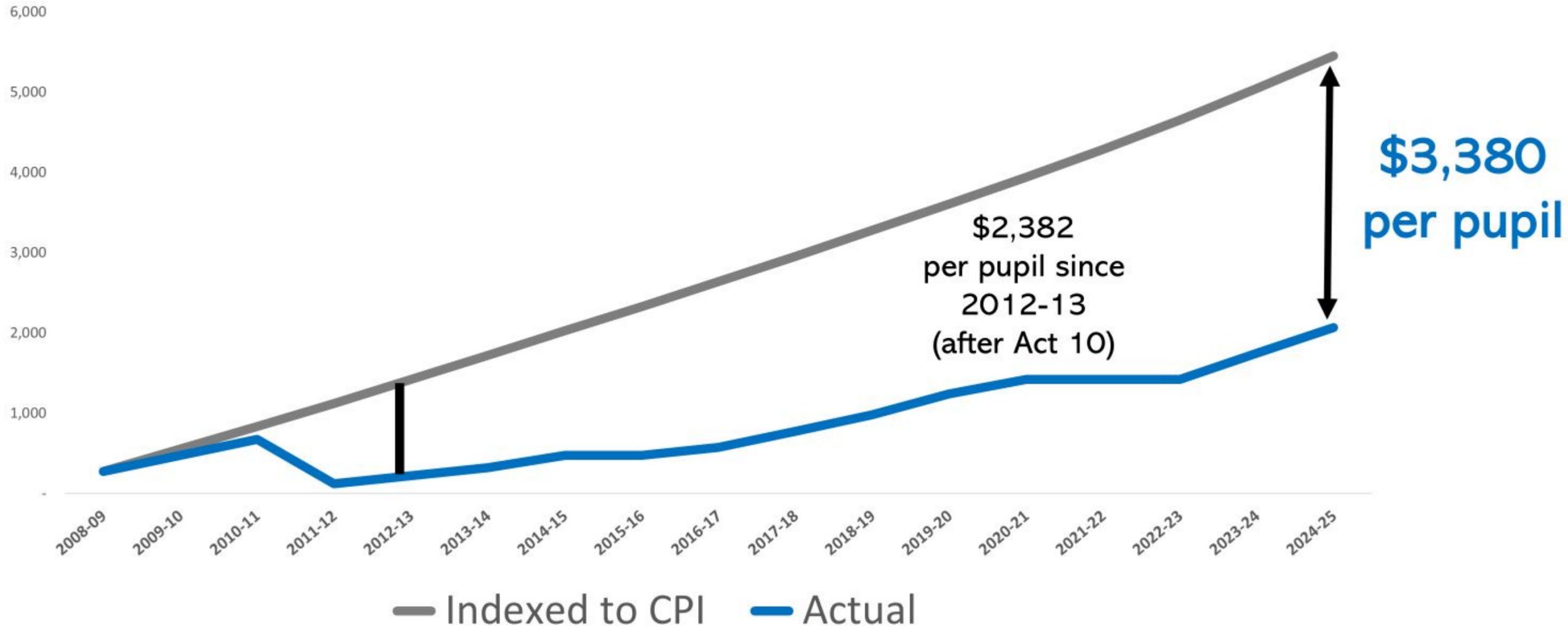


K-12 ON THE BALLOT

USING REFERENDA TO FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dale Knapp, Director

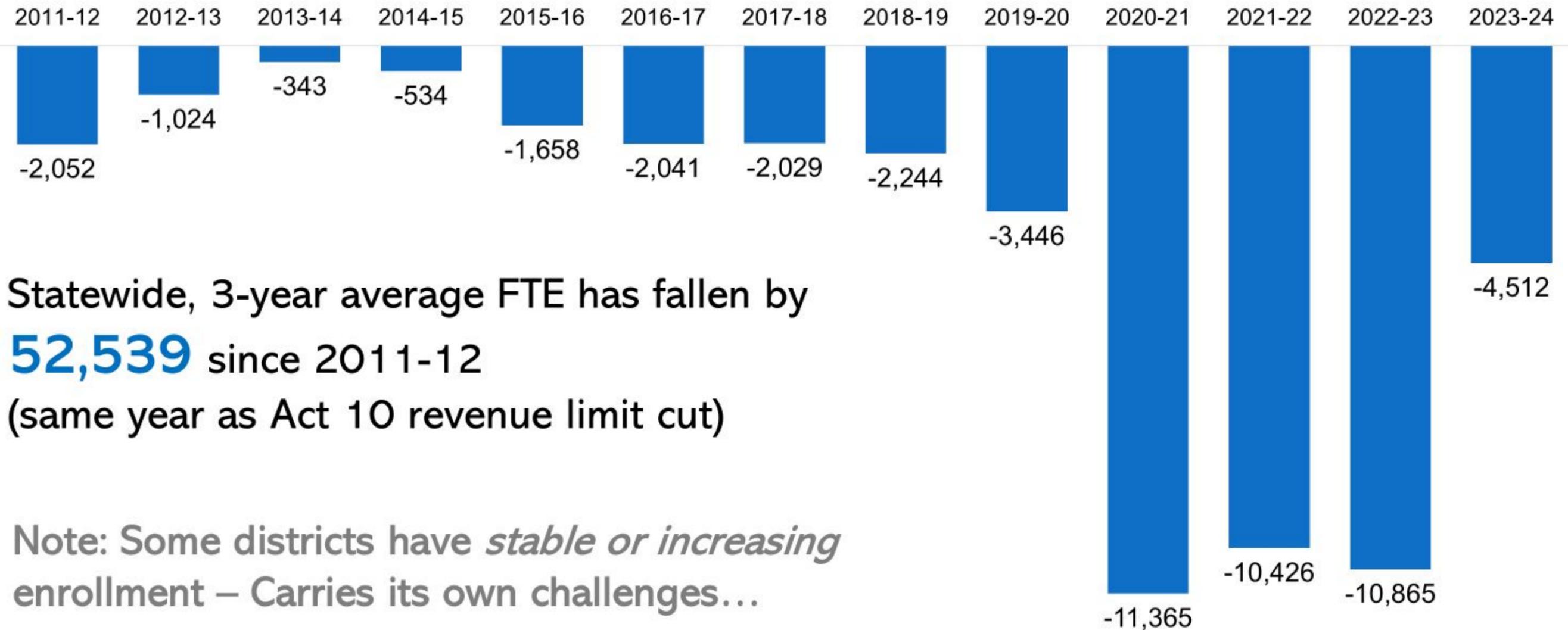
General school district revenues per pupil lag inflation by more than \$3,300 since 2009



Declining enrollment (2012-12 to 2023-24)



Statewide revenue limit 3-year average FTE decline



Statewide, 3-year average FTE has fallen by **52,539** since 2011-12 (same year as Act 10 revenue limit cut)

Note: Some districts have *stable or increasing* enrollment – Carries its own challenges...

Operating referendums in 2024...



Spring 2024 operating referendums: 68 school districts

Mixed results: About 60% passage rate across all types

Fall 2024 operating referendums: 81 school districts

Total questions for 2024: 149
far exceeds previous record of 92 in 2022



Trends to watch:

- Passage margins have been narrowing
- Growth of referendum dollars driving school district budgets

Why These Priorities?



- ❑ Provide the most resources, the most flexibly, for the most students, in every district
- ❑ Long-standing and data-driven (these ideas were integral to proposals in 2019 Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding)
- ❑ A focus on these priorities: Helps every district meet their particular needs

School Administrators Alliance (SAA)

Key draft state budget priorities

Special education

The Ask

- Increase reimbursement to AT LEAST 60% (from 32.4%)
- Convert the appropriation to be sum sufficient – this is the foundation!

Rationale

- Guarantees vital resources for mandated services will not be pro-rated to a lower amount
- Ensures we can provide more than the minimum for SwD while reducing needs to draw resources away from programs that serve all students, including SwDs

School Administrators Alliance (SAA)

Key draft state budget priorities

General spending authority

The Ask

- Increase the **revenue limit** beyond \$325 to align with an estimated 3% increase in CPI
 - 2025-26: \$416.36 (+\$90)
 - 2026-27: \$428.84 (+\$105)
- Increase equalization aid pool to offset tax levy increases
- Provide \$100 in each year in **per pupil aid** (for those who have fallen out of aid formula)

Rationale

- Flexible, spendable revenue is crucial for school districts to sustainably address diverse needs
- Inflationary spending authority would help mitigate the growing need of school districts going to operating referendum

**School
Administrators
Alliance (SAA)**

**Key draft state
budget priorities**

Low Revenue Ceiling

The Ask

- Raise LRC statewide to close the gap between highest and lowest revenue limits (e.g., get as many districts as possible within about 10% of each other)
- Provide equalization aid to offset tax levy impacts

Rationale

- Revenue limits per pupil vary widely: From \$10,347 to \$24,949
- Voucher high schools get \$12,731 per pupil – exceeds the revenue limit for many districts which are held to higher standards

DISCUSSION FOR REFERENDA



Verona Area School District
"Every Student MUST Be Successful!"

11-8-22 CHARTING OUR PATH FORWARD VASD OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM

In November 2022, the Verona Area School District (VASD) is asking residents to vote on a \$19 million recurring operational referendum question.

VASD MILL RATE TIMELINE
Source: Verona Area School District 2022-23 Preliminary Budget

Year	Mill Rate
2017	\$11.98
2018	\$12.86
2019	\$12.77
2020	\$12.77
2021	\$12.88
2022	\$12.64
2023	Proposed mill rate with preliminary budget: \$11.78

VASD has paid funds to keep Mill Rate steady

OUR WHY?
In the Verona Area School District (VASD), we believe the magic happens in our classrooms with our world-class educators. The Verona Area School District, along with all Wisconsin school districts, is faced with balancing a budget with cost-of-living increases at 4.7%. This must be accomplished with no new recurring funding authority from the State of Wisconsin.

VASD AND OUR COMMUNITY VALUES

- Rich programs and specialized services
- Robust curricular offerings
- Desirable staff-to-student ratio
- Retain and recruit highly qualified educators

700 N Main Street | Verona, WI 53593 | verona.k12.wi.us/referendum2022

CHARTING OUR PATH FORWARD

DID YOU KNOW?

Over the past decade, more than **130** OPERATIONAL REFERENDUMS have been brought forward in Wisconsin school districts, with an approval rate of about **72%**

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Custom Referenda Reports

MILL RATE NEUTRAL PROPOSAL
- YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKING FOR YOU

The VASD Board of Education is asking for different permission to spend the same amount of tax dollars, in turn, spending more on students, services, and programs and less on pre-payment of capital debt.

The operational referendum would give the VASD Board of Education permission to shift funds from capital (facilities and pre-payment of debt on those facilities) to operational. The same before utilities where your tax dollars would be allocated both with and without a voter-approved operating referendum, based on a home value of \$100,000:

Spending Category	WITHOUT Operating Referendum	WITH Operating Referendum
Operations, staff compensation, etc.	\$726	\$777
Paying off previous referendum debt and capital maintenance projects	\$445	\$384
Community Use	\$17	\$17
TOTALS	\$1,178	\$1,178

Source: Verona Area School District 2022-23 Preliminary Budget

WE ARE PARTNERS

The Verona Area School District is proud to partner with the greater Verona community. As partners, it is our goal to be good stewards of our taxpayers' dollars while ensuring the best educational experience for our students.

- We are operating a world-class organization together
- The district is working to take care of taxpayers by not increasing taxes
- The district needs approval from taxpayers in building a long-range operational and facilities plan that sustains quality and does not cost residents more

To learn more about the operational referendum visit us online at verona.k12.wi.us/referendum2022 or scan the QR code below!

700 N Main Street | Verona, WI 53593 | verona.k12.wi.us/referendum2022

Referendum Community Information Session

11-8-22

CHARTING OUR PATH FORWARD

VASD OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM

Community Engagement and Feedback

- 10 school sessions, 550 participants
- 7 community sessions, 170 participants
 - Facebook Live - over 200 viewers
 - Spanish language session - over 30 attendees
- Staff and community members who attended information sessions largely support the idea of going to referendum

Our Students Look Toward the Future

Foundation of...
Financial Literacy
Physical Health
Mental Wellness

Exposure and Preparation in...
Dual Credit Courses with Madison College
Computer Science (via Forge, HTML)
Robotics and Engineering
Trades (youth apprenticeships & internships)
Multilingual Skills

En VASD, sabemos que la magia se da en nuestros salones con nuestros educadores de clase mundial.

VASD y nuestros valores comunitarios:

- Educadores altamente calificados
- Una sólida oferta curricular
- Índice deseable de maestros por estudiante
- Programas variados y servicios especializados

QUESTIONS?



FUTURE MEETING DATES



Future Meetings:

January 15, 2025 - Mount Horeb School District

May 7, 2025 - New Glarus School District

III. Resolution Providing for a Referendum Election on the Question of the Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the School District Budget to Exceed Revenue Limit by \$2,500,000 for Recurring Purposes

30

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A REFERENDUM
ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF THE APPROVAL OF A
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUDGET TO EXCEED REVENUE LIMIT BY
\$2,500,000 FOR RECURRING PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the School Board of the School District of New Glarus, Green and Dane Counties, Wisconsin (the "District"), has heretofore duly adopted a resolution entitled: "Resolution Authorizing the School District Budget to Exceed Revenue Limit by \$2,500,000 for Recurring Purposes" (the "Revenue Limit Resolution"); and

WHEREAS, the School Board deems it to be desirable and in the best interest of the District to direct the District Clerk to submit the Revenue Limit Resolution to the electors for approval or rejection at the regularly scheduled election to be held on April 1, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the District as follows:

Section 1. Referendum Election Date. The District Clerk is hereby directed to call a referendum election to be held in the District at the regularly scheduled election to be held on April 1, 2025 for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the District the proposition of whether the Revenue Limit Resolution shall be approved.

Section 2. Notice to Electors. The District Clerk is directed to give notice by:

- (a) causing a Notice of Election in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A to be published in the Post Messenger Recorder in the issue published immediately prior to the fourth Tuesday before the referendum election.
- (b) causing a Notice of Referendum (which includes the facsimile of the sample ballot) in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit B to be published in the Post Messenger Recorder in the issue published immediately preceding the referendum election. This Notice shall also be posted in each polling place on election day.

If any of the municipalities within the District use an electronic voting system employing a ballot label and ballot card, the Notice of Referendum set forth in Exhibit B shall also include a true, actual-size copy of the ballot label and ballot card in the form in which they will appear on election day.

Section 3. Polling Places and Hours. The District electors must vote at the referendum election at the times and polling places at which they cast their ballots in regularly scheduled elections.

Section 4. Referendum Election Officials. The election officials appointed in each of the municipalities within the District shall conduct the election.

Section 5. Official Referendum Ballot Form. The ballot to be used at the referendum election shall be prepared in accordance with the provisions of Sections 5.64(2) and 7.08(1)(a), Wisconsin Statutes. The ballot shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit C.

The District Clerk shall cause to be printed sufficient ballots for use at said referendum election, both as actual ballots in those polling places which do not use voting machines and as absentee ballots where voting machines are used and as specimen ballots (the latter to be of a different and easily identifiable color from the actual ballot). The form of the ballot shall be filed with the official responsible for providing the ballots for the election, and the District Clerk shall file a copy of the ballot with the clerk of each county having territory within the District, as soon as possible after the date hereof but in no event later than 70 days prior to the election, as provided in Section 8.37, Wisconsin Statutes. If the District prepares the ballots, they should be delivered to the municipal clerks running the election at least 25 days prior to the election, to allow the municipal clerks to comply with their obligation to provide absentee ballots under Section 7.15, Wisconsin Statutes.

The municipal clerks of the municipalities within the District shall receive applications for absentee ballots and initial the same when issued to qualified absentee voters.

Section 6. Canvass. The returns of the referendum election shall be canvassed by the Board of Canvassers of each municipality within the District. Each Board of Canvassers shall certify the returns of the referendum election to the District Clerk. The District Clerk and two other reputable citizens appointed by the District Clerk prior to the date of the referendum election shall act as the District's Board of Canvassers for this referendum election. This Board of Canvassers shall meet in open session no later than 9:00 a.m. on the Tuesday after the election to determine the result of the referendum election. The canvass shall be open to the public and the District Clerk is directed to give due notice of said meeting.

Section 7. DPI Notice. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 121.91(3), Wisconsin Statutes, the District Clerk shall notify the Department of Public Instruction of the date of the referendum election and shall provide the Department with copies of the Revenue Limit Resolution within 10 days after the adoption of the Revenue Limit Resolution and shall further notify the Department of the results of the referendum within 10 days following the election using the method prescribed by the Department.

Adopted and recorded January 13, 2025.

William Oemichen
District President

ATTEST:

Cari Ann Muggenburg
District Clerk

(SEAL)

IV. Adjourn

PURSUANT TO APPLICABLE LAW, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A QUORUM OR A MAJORITY OF THE NEW GLARUS SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS MAY ATTEND THIS MEETING. INFORMATION PRESENTED AT THIS MEETING MAY HELP FORM THE RATIONALE BEHIND FUTURE ACTIONS THAT MAY BE TAKEN BY THE NEW GLARUS SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD.

UPON REQUEST TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE, SUBMITTED TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS IN ADVANCE, THE DISTRICT SHALL MAKE REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL IN AN ALTERNATIVE FORMAT FOR A DISABLED PERSON TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.