



# School District of New Berlin OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM



**VOTE  
APRIL 2**

## WHAT IS ON THE APRIL 2 BALLOT?

The School District of New Berlin's Board of Education has proposed a non-recurring operating referendum of \$5.0 million for each of the next 5 years.

## WHY PROPOSE AN OPERATING REFERENDUM NOW?

The District's revenues, which are controlled by state revenue limits, are not keeping pace with expenditures. The District, committed to balancing the budget, has erased deficits up to \$1.9 million each of the last 7 years. The deficits are largely the result of declining student enrollment and debt payments within the operating budget to pay for the construction of Ronald Reagan Elementary and renovations at New Berlin West, both done without a referendum.

Unlike past years, the District believes projected deficits for 2019-20 and beyond are at levels that cannot be absorbed within current revenue limits. Because of the deficits, the District cannot set aside all the necessary funds for deferred maintenance and other long-range plans. The District believes that if left unaddressed, the deficits could adversely affect the community's high expectations for our schools.

## WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

In the last seven years, to erase deficits ranging from \$850,000 to \$1.9 million, the District has made cuts and adjustments, including, but not limited to:

- ▶ Requiring employees to pay more toward their retirement plans
- ▶ Freezing long-range plans
- ▶ Changing health insurance plans
- ▶ Refinancing debt
- ▶ Selling properties, including Glen Park Elementary
- ▶ Providing wage increases lower than cost-of-living increases

## WHAT WILL THE REFERENDUM PAY FOR?

The additional taxpayer funds would allow the SDNB to:

- ▶ Erase structural deficits by paying down debt within the operating budget.
- ▶ Be proactive in terms of funding long-range plans, which include facilities and equipment replacement, safety, technology infrastructure and support, and curriculum and instructional resources.
- ▶ Pay employees fair and competitive wages in order to attract and retain high-quality staff.



### WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED IMPACT TO TAXPAYERS?

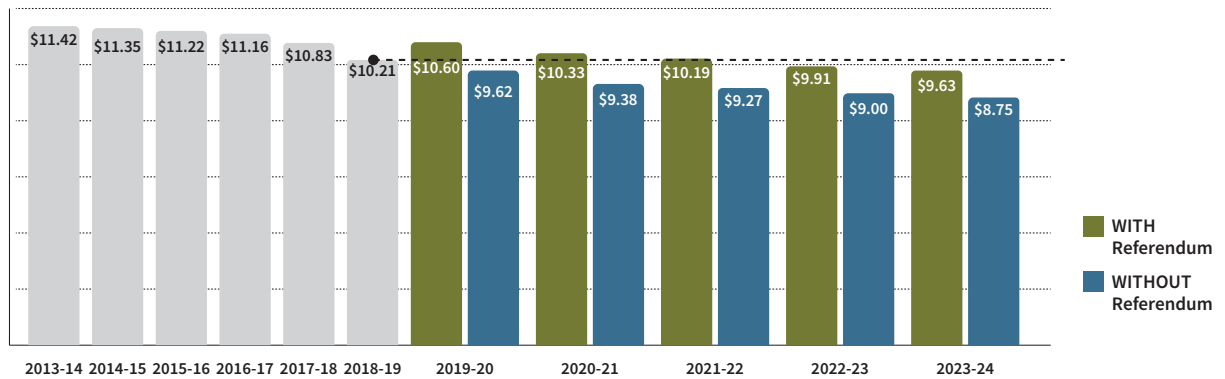
If approved by voters, the estimated tax impact for the \$5 million revenue cap increase on a \$250,000 home over the next five years is as follows:

YEAR	ANNUAL INCREASE	MONTHLY INCREASE
2019-20	\$97.50	\$8.13
2020-21	\$30.00	\$2.50
2021-22	(-\$5.00, or no impact)	No impact
2022-23	(-\$75.00, or no impact)	No impact
2023-24	(-\$145.00, or no impact)	No impact

*Note: The estimated tax impact assumes an increase in property values of 2-3% per year, additional state funding, increased labor costs of 2.5-3%, transportation cost increases and a modest increase in other costs. The impact assumes that, after the first two years, the increase in property value will outpace the increase in property taxes and that new property values will be sufficient to absorb tax increases. This is consistent with what happened during the last 10 years.*

### HISTORICAL & PROJECTED TAX RATE

Illustrating a decline in the levy rate (due in part to increasing property values) and the impact of a referendum:



### WHAT IF THE REFERENDUM DOES NOT PASS?

The following will likely occur if the operational referendum does not pass:

- ▶ Maintenance and long-range planning will continue to be deferred.
- ▶ Retaining and attracting high-quality staff by paying competitive wages will become even more difficult.
- ▶ Funding of planned technology, equipment and safety upgrades, as well as curriculum and instruction resources, will be put on, or remain on, hold.
- ▶ Reductions through consolidation of schools will continue to be considered.
- ▶ Additional staff reductions, causing increased class sizes and elimination of programs and services, will be considered.



### HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

#### INFORMATION SESSIONS

We invite the community to learn more about the operational referendum at any of the following Referendum Information Sessions:

**SAT., FEB. 23**  
**10-11:30 A.M.**

Poplar Creek Elementary  
17401 W. Cleveland Ave.

**TUE., MARCH 5**  
**5:30-7 P.M.**

New Berlin Eisenhower  
4333 S. Sunnyslope Rd.

**TUE., MARCH 19**  
**6-7:30 P.M.**

New Berlin Public Library  
Community Room  
15105 W. Library Ln.

#### COFFEE WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

Have coffee with Superintendent Joe Garza and ask him about the referendum from 8:30-9:30 a.m. on the first and third Saturdays of February and March at District Office, 4333 S. Sunnyslope Rd.

**EMAIL:** referendum2019@nbexcellence.org

**CALL:** Superintendent Garza | (262) 789-6221