



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF CAMBRIDGE
403 BLUE JAY WAY
CAMBRIDGE WI 53523
WWW.CAMBRIDGE.K12.WI.US

REFERENDUM COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

- Monday, February 20, 2023 @ 5 pm, Cambridge High School Library
- Monday, March 20, 2023 @ 5 pm, Cambridge High School Library
- Additional presentations will occur during regularly scheduled community meetings INCLUDING Village of Cambridge, Town of Oakland, Town of Christiana, Lions CLUB, FFA Alumni, PTO, Senior Luncheon, CAP Board, Cambridge Foundation, Cambridge Community Library, Cambridge Historic School Foundation. A schedule of presentations is posted at the district website.
- For more information visit cambridge.k12.wi.us or contact District Superintendent, Dr. Marggie Banker, phone: 608-423-4345 or email: mbanker@cambridge.k12.wi.us

School District of Cambridge Operational Referendum



The Board of Education for the School District of Cambridge unanimously adopted resolutions to hold an operational referendum on April 4, 2023. The District is asking voter permission to exceed the District's revenue limit beginning with the 2023-2024 school year by up to \$2.4 million on a recurring basis.

How will the referendum funds be used?

- Curriculum updates – math, reading, science and social studies
- Technology updates – 1-to-1 personalized learning
- School based budgets – learning materials for students
- Maintaining class sizes
- Maintaining school programming
- Maintaining school safety measures
- Employee recruitment and retention of high-quality staff
- Professional staff development
- Sustaining programs and staff when COVID relief funding ends
- Offsetting rising Consumer Price Index costs (utilities, water, insurance, etc.)
- Transportation contract increases
- Rising energy costs
- Facilities projects – roof and parking lot repairs
- Nikolay Middle School heating and cooling system repairs

SAMPLE BALLOT LANGUAGE

Below is the referendum question that will appear on the April 4, 2023 ballot to vote "Yes" or "No":

Shall the School District of Cambridge, Jefferson and Dane Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$2,400,000 beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, for recurring purposes consisting of sustaining operating expenses, including for school safety and security, maintaining class sizes, curriculum and technology updates?



Community Information Meetings

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WHAT HAPPENS IF THE REFERENDUM DOES NOT PASS?

The School Board would prioritize operating budget reductions for the 2023-24 school year which include all of the following:

- Eliminate 10+ staff positions
- Increase class sizes
- Decrease course offerings
- Decrease academic, co-curricular and athletic programs
- Delay technology/equipment purchases
- Delay facility maintenance – roof project, parking lot repairs, Nikolay Middle School heating & cooling system repairs
- Reduce ability to retain and attract high quality staff
- Reduce/deplete fund balance

WHAT COST SAVING MEASURES HAS THE DISTRICT ALREADY TAKEN?

- Eliminated administrator position
- Eliminated classroom teacher and support staff positions
- Paused on filling vacant staff positions
- Pursued grant applications and opportunities
- Completed energy savings infrastructure project to mitigate rising energy costs
- Prepaid existing referendum approved debt eliminating five years of interest costs

MILL RATE HISTORY

The chart below represents the steady decrease of the mill rate during the last 7 years as the District worked to control costs and limit tax increases. The potential 2024 mill rate with a successful referendum is still lower than the 2020 tax rate.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Potential 2024 Rate
Mill Rate	\$12.82	\$11.87	\$10.56	\$10.23	\$9.38	\$9.12	\$8.88	\$9.65

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF CAMBRIDGE POINTS OF PRIDE:

- Cambridge Schools repeatedly Exceed Expectations on State Report Cards.
- U.S. Department of Education named Cambridge Elementary 1 of 36 National Green Ribbon Schools in 2022.
- The U.S. News & World Reports ranks Cambridge High School as one of the best in the Country.
- The Cambridge Activities Program (CAP) offers affordable and enriching programming for all ages.
- Severson Learning Center offers exceptional outdoor and agricultural learning spaces including the grant-funded Koshkonong Trails Charter School.

WHY IS A RECURRING REFERENDUM NEEDED?

- During the last decade State revenue has not kept up with rising operating costs.
- A recurring referendum provides stable funding for ongoing operating budget needs. This supports continued excellence in all Cambridge schools.
- In addition, certain programs and staffing supported by COVID relief grants expire this year, resulting in a budget shortfall.
- The 2.4 million "recurring" dollars provide the District with statutory authority to levy up to the \$2.4 million dollars when needed to sustain district operations. Depending on financial conditions the District may not need to levy that full amount.
- The term " recurring " means on-going and does not expire. Revenue approved by referendum is added to the School District's revenue limit beginning with the 2023-2024 school year and remains as part of the revenue limit per year.

WHAT IS THE TAX IMPACT OF A SUCCESSFUL 2023 REFERENDUM?

The mill rate is expected to go up by 77 cents per \$1,000 of fair market property value. Below are examples of estimated (Est.) property tax impacts:

Property Value	Est. Annual Tax Increase	Est. Monthly Tax Increase
\$100,000	\$77	\$6.42
\$200,000	\$154	\$12.83
\$300,000	\$231	\$19.25

2022 TAX CHANGES

- The December 2022 tax bills included \$1,780,000 of School District taxes levied to pay off the remaining debt associated with a facilities improvement referendum approved by voters in 2012. In 2023, all of the District's referendum approved debt will be paid off, saving taxpayers \$114,510 of interest.
- Due to the fact that Fair Market Values increased as a result of the Department of Revenue's imposed property value increase, all taxing jurisdictions (your municipality, the school district, MATC) experienced tax increases. Because the State of Wisconsin and most of the Country experienced dramatic changes in the housing market in 2021-22, Fair Market Values reflect these large increases.
- Despite increases in your property tax bill, the district did not receive more revenue due to the State revenue limit law.
- A full explanation describing the 2022 tax bill can be found on the district website: cambridge.k12.wi.us.