



**The Future of Athens Schools  
is in the Hands of the Voters.**

## Frequently Asked Questions

The District's operational referendum request in November 2022 was not successful. Therefore, significant reductions are being made to positions, programs and services. There remains a projected shortfall of \$1.67 million in 2023-24 and \$1.2 million per year thereafter.

On the April 4, 2023 general election ballot, the School District of Athens is asking voters to approve a non-recurring operational referendum question for four-year non-recurring operational referendum as follows: \$1.67 million in 2023-24 and \$1.2 million per year for the 2024-2025 through the 2026-2027 school years

**Below please find the answers to frequently asked questions:**

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### **Why is the district seeking an operational referendum in April 2023?**

There remains a projected budget shortfall of \$1.67 million in 2023-24 and \$1.2 million per year thereafter. The District is making significant reductions, has exhausted its fund balance, and is relying on short term borrowing to balance its operating budget and sustain operations. State law requires school districts gain permission from citizens to increase the revenue limit set by the State.

If approved, the District would be able to:

- Retain quality staff
- Sustain educational opportunities
- Provide essential technology
- Rebuild financial stability

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### **What is the actual ballot question?**

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the School District of Athens, Marathon and Taylor 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 \$1,670,000 for the 2023-2024 school year, and by \$1,200,000 per year for the 2024-2025 school year through the 2026-2027 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of operational and maintenance expenses.



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## Why is this a critical point for the School District of Athens?

- If the operational referendum question is approved, the District will be able to meet its ongoing costs and begin deferred facility and maintenance projects and provide the education program and services for students.
- If the operational referendum question is not approved, the Board of Education will need to consider consolidation or closing because the Board of Education remains responsible to manage the long-term financial viability of the District.

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## What is the tax impact:

# Estimated School Tax Impact of an Approved Referendum

	\$100,000 Property Value	\$200,000 Property Value
Approval of Operational Referendum	estimated increase of <b>\$601 per year</b> \$50.08 per month	estimated increase of <b>\$1,202 per year</b> \$100.17 per month

Information about the school tax impact is conveyed on this [web page](#).

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## Am I eligible to vote? If so, how do I vote?

If you are 18 years and older on election day, registered to vote, and a School District of Athens resident you are eligible to vote on this referendum question. The ballot question appears on the April 4 general election ballot. Learn more at [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov)

Remember: Bring your ID to the polls: Voters are required to provide photo identification at polling locations prior to voting. Absentee Voting: In Wisconsin, you don't have to wait until election day to cast your ballot — you can vote early for any reason as long as you meet the required dates.