

# Operational Referendum

## A CRITICAL DECISION

Linn Joint 6 School District, also known as Reek Elementary School has an enrollment of 170 students in three-year-old kindergarten through grade 8 school. We are very “bare-bones” with one teacher per classroom.

Reek School’s School Board voted on June 1, 2020 to allow residents to determine additional revenue through a recurring operating referendum to be placed on the November 3, 2020 ballot.

If the referendum does not pass, we will need to make cuts in these areas: staff, programs and services, extracurricular activities, and athletics.

### **What is the question on the November 3, 2020 ballot?**

Shall the Linn Joint 6 School District be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by **\$200,000 for the 2020-2021 school year** and thereafter, for the recurring purposes of sustaining educational programming and operational expenses?

### **What is the tax impact?**

If voters approve the referendum, the current Linn Joint School district tax levy rate of \$1.85 will increase 3 cents to \$1.88 per \$1,000 of property value. Below are the projected ONE TIME increase which would be seen on the 2020 tax bills:

\$ 7.50 - **one-time** tax increase for a home valued at \$250,000

\$ 9.00 - **one-time** tax increase for a home valued at \$300,000

\$ 10.50 - **one-time** tax increase for a home valued at \$350,000

\$ 12.00 - **one-time** tax increase for a home valued at \$400,000

PROPERTY VALUE	PROPERTY TAX IMPACT A ONE-TIME INCREASE OF \$ 3.00 (Per \$100,000 of property value)	
	MONTHLY IMPACT OF A ONE-TIME INCREASE	ONE-TIME INCREASE
\$250,000	\$0.62	\$7.50
\$300,000	\$0.75	\$9.00
\$350,000	\$0.88	\$10.50
\$400,000	\$1.00	\$12.00

District 5-year financial forecast with Robert W. Baird forecast model

### What will the Operating Referendum fund?

The money from the referendum will be used for **operational costs** which include the following: staff, busing and van transportation, utilities, programs such as art, band, music, technology, extracurricular activities including robotics and other after school offerings, and athletics.

### More of the referendum dollars go to Reek School.

Unlike taxes paid to the State of Wisconsin, where Reek School receives just .19 cents back for every dollar, **ALL OPERATING REFERENDUM DOLLARS STAY IN REEK SCHOOL.** Referendum provides a local solution to a local challenge, and keeps our money in our schools.

### What if the operating referendum fails?

A failed referendum will force Reek School to make cuts to balance our 2021-2022 budget. Those cuts will come from several areas: staff, programs and services, extracurricular activities, and athletics.

**Many schools are facing this situation. Operating referenda allow the voters to assist with financial assistance.**

Revenue limits and the Wisconsin school funding formula do not provide adequate revenue for school districts. A local referendum provides districts and their school boards the means to ask local taxpayers for additional funding.

Taxpayers indicate an understanding of the financial dilemma facing schools. Over the past six years in Wisconsin, school referenda have passed at historically high rates. The April 2019 election showed that school referendum for operating expenses passed at an 85% approval rating. In the recent April 2020 election voters demonstrated their commitment to schools by approving 90% of the 57 referendum questions.

This article provides more information about the need for school operating referendums:

<https://wispolicyforum.org/research/amid-crisis-voters-again-support-more-money-for-schools/>

You can view more referendum data at the Department of Public Instruction website:

<https://dpi.wi.gov/news/dpi-connected/wisconsin-voters-approve-over-90-percent-referendums>