



[www.ecasd.us/referendum2016](http://www.ecasd.us/referendum2016)

**WHAT WILL THE REFERENDUM PAY FOR?**

- ◇ Maintaining class size policy to contribute to optimal learning environments for students.
- ◇ Deferred building maintenance, capital improvement projects, and safety/accessibility upgrades in our existing schools.
- ◇ Upgraded technology infrastructure and equipment now essential to teaching and learning.
- ◇ Projected \$3,500,000 for transitioning to the new compensation plan to keep/attract high quality staff.
- ◇ Projected \$2,300,000 deficit for 2016-2017 school year.

**OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM ♦ FACT SHEET**

**WHAT IS ON THE BALLOT NOVEMBER 8th?**

The Eau Claire Area School District has proposed an operating/debt referendum asking District taxpayers for \$5,860,000 for the 2016-2017 school year and for each of the succeeding 14 school years thereafter. Funds would be used for staff, building maintenance, safety and security improvements, class size, technology, and debt service for capital improvement projects.

**What is an operational referendum?**

An operational referendum asks voters for permission to exceed the state imposed revenue limit for the purpose of funding annual school operations.

**What does debt service mean?**

The referendum ballot question includes the term “debt service,” which allows the District to issue debt to pay for capital improvement and maintenance projects. The District plans to issue \$25,000,000 in debt to complete these projects over the next 2 to 3 years and pay off the debt in 15 years.

**WHAT WILL THE REFERENDUM COST TAXPAYERS?**

| Estimated Tax Increase Per Year for 15 Years *<br><small>2016-2017 to 2030-2031</small> | Per Year | Per Month |
|---|----------|-----------|
| \$100,000 of property value   | \$ 95    | \$ 7.92   |
| \$200,000 of property value   | \$190    | \$15.83   |
| \$300,000 of property value   | \$285    | \$23.75   |

\* Tax impact estimates have been provided by financial advisors from Robert W. Baird.

**WHY IS THE DISTRICT PROPOSING THIS PLAN?**

- ◆ ECASD values quality public schools, keeping/attracting high quality educators to support student learning and achievement, and upholding the stewardship of our community’s schools.
- ◆ Not all school districts in Wisconsin are funded equally. School districts are limited in what they can spend by a REVENUE CAP that was set by the state based on what districts were spending in 1993; revenue caps were put in place to control increases in property taxes and state aid.
- ◆ In 2015-2016 the state average for per pupil spending was \$10,312; Eau Claire’s spending per pupil was \$9,894 for a difference of \$418. If we multiply \$418 by 11,300 estimated students enrolled in the District, that would provide an additional \$4,723,400 to the District.
- ◆ Eau Claire is the eighth largest school district in Wisconsin and ranks 272 out of 424 school districts in spending.
- ◆ A community-wide survey was used to test support for various items in a potential referendum. Those results showed:
  - ⇒ 71.9% support a plan to address deferred maintenance projects.
  - ⇒ 69.4% support offering competitive salaries & benefits.
  - ⇒ 68.1% support investing in safety & security upgrades.
  - ⇒ 66.6% support maintaining or reducing class sizes.
  - ⇒ 62.8% support investing in current technology for students.