

School District of Sturgeon Bay Educational Programming Operational Referendum Information Summary Sheet



“What do I need to know?” regarding the Educational Programming Operational Referendum Revenue Limit Override

We understand that people are very busy, so we put together a two-page information summary sheet for families and others who may be interested. More information is available on the district website both in the District Update Presentation and the 10-page Information and Frequently Asked Questions document. Additionally, the website has the 32-slide presentation outlining the results of the community survey that went out last fall dealing with this educational programming operational referendum.

Why does the School District need to go to referendum? The School Board unanimously voted for a referendum so that the district can continue to maintain the educational programs we currently offer to the students and families of our community. We have cut a variety of positions over the years and have made changes (made possible in part by Act 10) to save the district and taxpayers money related to staff compensation and benefits. However, we still need the educational programming revenue limit override operational referendum to cover the gap between what the revenue limit formula (*implemented in 1993*) would allow in needed revenue and what our community has come to expect from us and what we provide. This referendum allows us the resources we need to provide quality educational programs and the staff members who are needed to work with our students.

What is a non-recurring referendum? A referendum that is “non-recurring” means that the money is received only for the years for which it is specifically approved—it does not recur or continue indefinitely. The most recent non-recurring referendum was approved in April of 2019 and expires on June 30, 2022. The Sturgeon Bay School District’s revenue limit with this replacement five-year referendum may increase only during the 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026, and 2026-2027 fiscal years.

I realize that school funding can be complicated, but what is the money for? The educational programming operational referendum will provide dollars for educational programming for students. It is very difficult to articulate exact positions that the educational programming referendum supports without communicating some sort of threat or giving the impression that those positions would be the exact positions cut if a referendum would not pass, or that cutting positions is actually a suitable alternative (see next paragraph). Such a list could cause people, programs, departments, and grade levels to be pitted against each other thereby fracturing our school community, rather than being united for the benefit of children, families, and the community as a whole.

To try to put this in perspective as an example, **\$2.6 million would be the equivalent of approximately 22 teacher positions** (out of a total of 104), **18 support staff positions** (out of a total of 81), **AND 3 director/administrator positions** out of a total of 10—and that would be just in the first of the five years. There would have to be **additional cuts in years two, three, four, and five without a referendum.** (*Also see a slide in the District Update Presentation for a visual of what the cuts in the example described above could look like.*)

Neither the Board of Education nor the Administration can imagine being able to meet the needs of children and families as well as continuing to provide what our community has come to expect with cuts of this magnitude.

How much will it cost me as a homeowner in each of the five school years?

While we do not yet know exactly what will happen with the state budget process or what the property valuation in the school district will look like in future years, we project the impact on taxpayers to be as follows based upon the budget forecast software we utilize. It is also important to note that the State of Wisconsin’s Biennial Budget impacts school funding, referenda, etc. No one knows exactly what will happen with future state budgets.

<u>Total Override Amount</u>	<u>Total Change from Previous Year</u>	<u>Impact from Previous Year on \$100,000 house</u>	<u>Projected Mill Rate</u>
\$2.6 million	\$1 million decrease	\$4 (33 cents per month)	\$10.73
\$2.9 million	\$300,000 increase	\$19 (\$1.58 per month)	\$10.92
\$3.3 million	\$400,000 increase	\$28 (\$2.33 per month)	\$11.20
\$3.5 million	\$200,000 increase	\$8 (67 cents per month)	\$11.28
\$3.8 million	\$300,000 increase	\$18 (\$1.50 per month)	\$11.46

What is the actual wording that will be on the April 5, 2022 ballot?

“Shall The School District of Sturgeon Bay, Door County, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$2,600,000 for the 2022-2023 school year; by \$2,900,000 for the 2023-2024 school year; by \$3,300,000 for the 2024-2025 school year; by \$3,500,000 for the 2025-2026 school year; and by \$3,800,000 for the 2026-2027 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of funding educational programming for students?”

A “Yes” vote would be in favor of passing the referendum and authorizing the school district to exceed the revenue limit by the amounts stated for those particular years, while a “No” vote would not be in favor of passing the referendum or authorizing the school district to exceed the revenue limit.

When is the election? The educational programming operational referendum to exceed the revenue limit will be held along with the School Board election and other elections on **Tuesday, April 5, 2022.**

Where do I vote? City of Sturgeon Bay Wards 1-9 at City Hall; Wards 10-15 at Bay View Lutheran; Wards 16-21 at PATH of Door County (formerly Jaycee Hall). All Town of Sevastopol eligible voters vote at the Sevastopol Town Hall (including Town of Sevastopol residents living in Sevastopol Ward 1/Sturgeon Bay School District).

How do I get an absentee ballot if I’m not able to vote on Tuesday, April 5, 2022? To have an absentee ballot mailed to you, go to myvote.wi.gov and complete the information. March 22, 2022 is the first day that electors can go to the City Clerk’s office to vote. Regular City Hall hours are 8 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. March 31, 2022 by 5:00 P.M. is the last day for electors to request an absentee by mail. April 1, 2022, by 5:00 P.M. is the last day for electors to vote absentee in the Clerk’s Office. To vote absentee ballot for Sevastopol, contact Municipal Clerk Amy Flok at 746-1230.

Additional Information: If you have questions that are not answered in this summary document, please check out the **District Update Presentation/PowerPoint** that also contains referendum information as well as the **10-page Operational Referendum Information & Frequently Asked Questions** document on the Sturgeon Bay Schools website (www.sturbay.k12.wi.us). A presentation on the community survey from last fall is also on the website.

Thank you for taking some time to be informed on a topic that is very important to our school district and community, and don’t forget to vote on Tuesday, April 5. Feel free to contact Superintendent Dan Tjernagel at dtjernagel@sturbay.k12.wi.us or 920-746-2801 if you would like to discuss the referendum or other district information. Thanks for your ongoing support as we navigate another school year.