

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 an information summary sheet for families and others who may be interested. There are certainly additional details included on the district website both in the “District Update & Referendum Information” PowerPoint and the “Operational Referendum Information & FAQ” document.

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 Sturgeon Bay School District’s revenue limit with this three-year referendum may increase only during the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022 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 bringing it together which is what is needed for the benefit of children, families, and the community as a whole.

To try to put this in perspective, **\$2.9 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 9—and that would be just in the first of the three years. There would have to be **additional cuts in year two and in year three without a referendum.** (*Also see slide 22 of the District Update Presentation for a visual of what the cuts 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 three 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. Since the current referendum expires on June 30, 2019, we could not wait until the state budget process plays out. (See the *Understanding the State Budget Process* document on the website, if interested, for more information about how that state-level process and timing works.)

<u>Total Override Amount</u>	<u>Total Increase from Previous Year</u>	<u>Impact of Total Increase from Previous Year on \$100,000 house</u>	<u>Projected Mill Rate</u>
\$2,900,000	\$200,000	\$33 (\$2.75 per month)	\$11.01
\$3,200,000	\$300,000	\$8 (\$.67 per month)	\$11.09
\$3,600,000	\$400,000	\$27 (\$2.25 per month)	\$11.36

What is the actual wording that will be on the April 2, 2019 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 \$2.9 million for the 2019-2020 school year only; by \$3.2 million for the 2020-2021 school year only; and by \$3.6 million for the 2021-2022 school year only, for non-recurring purposes consisting of funding education 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 2, 2019.**

Where do I vote? City of Sturgeon Bay Wards 1-6, 22-24, 29 at City Hall; Wards 7-10, 18-21, 25-27 and 30 at Bay View Lutheran; Wards 11-17 & 28 at Jaycee Hall. All Town of Sevastopol eligible voters vote at the Sevastopol Town Hall (including the Town of Sevastopol residents living in Sevastopol Ward 2/Sturgeon Bay School District).

How do I get an absentee ballot if I’m not able to vote on Tuesday, April 2? In order to vote by absentee ballot in Sturgeon Bay, contact Municipal Clerk Stephanie Reinhardt at 746-2900. March 18 is the first day that electors are able to go into the Clerk’s Office to vote. March 28 at 5:00 P.M. is the last day for electors to request an absentee ballot by mail. March 29 at 5:00 P.M. is the last day for electors to register to vote for the April 2 election—and it is also the last day to absentee vote in person in the Clerk’s Office. To vote absentee ballot for Sevastopol, contact Municipal Clerk Amy Flok at 746-1230.

Additional Information: If you have specific questions that are not answered in this document, please check out the **“District Update Presentation”** PowerPoint that also contains 8 slides of referendum information and the **“Operational Referendum Information & FAQ”** document on the Sturgeon Bay Schools website (www.sturbay.k12.wi.us). There are also other resources available on our website, including a resource document about the state budget process and the most recent edition of the *ClipperPride* community newsletter.

Superintendent Dan Tjernagel welcomes your questions and can be reached at dtjernagel@sturbay.k12.wi.us or 920-746-2801. Thank you for taking some time to be informed on this topic that is very important to our school district and community, thank you for your continued support, and don’t forget to vote on Tuesday, April 2.