

# OPERATING REFERENDUM FACT SHEET

## Strong Schools: Shaping the Future of Our Children and Our Community

### Vote April 2

*The Tomah Area School District is committed to providing a high quality educational experience for our students. Our mission, High Quality Student Learning: Every Child, Every Day, is our commitment to our students, families and our communities.*

#### Referendum Overview

The Tomah Area School District Board of Education is seeking the renewal of an operational referendum to exceed current revenue limits. On Tuesday, April 2, 2019, voters will be asked to approve increased funding for the district. The district is asking for a budget increase of \$1.5 million for four years to maintain quality programs and course offerings, and to maintain district facilities and operational costs.

- This is a four year non-recurring referendum. This means that each year is a new \$1.5 million. We will spend a total of \$6 million over the next four years.



#### How Will the Question Appear on the Ballot?

Shall the Tomah Area School District, Jackson, Juneau and Monroe Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$1,500,000 for each of the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and the 2022-2023 school years for non-recurring purposes to maintain and enhance educational and technology programs, school safety and security, school facilities and to maintain current levels of operational expenses?



#### The Need

If successful, the referendum will help ALL schools and ALL students:

#### Maintain current quality programs and educational opportunities

- Offer a wide range of academic courses, programs and services to engage and inspire all learners to thrive
- Prepare our graduates to be college, career and life ready
- Offer career and technical education opportunities in partnership with local businesses and post secondary educational institutions (i.e. Project Lead the Way, Architecture, Construction and Engineering Academy, Certified Nursing Assistant Program, Apprenticeships and Advanced Placement Classes)
- Preserve class sizes

#### Maintain and update district facilities and technology

- Continue with technology enhancements
- Increase school safety and security initiatives
- Make capitol improvements based on district facility priorities

## Minimal Tax Impact

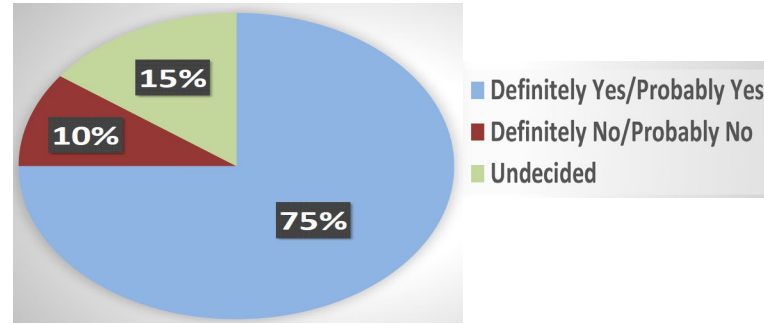
The question on the April 2 ballot will ask voters to support a non-recurring referendum for an additional \$1.5 million for the next four-consecutive years. The additional revenues will be used to maintain quality programs and course offerings, enhance technology and school safety initiatives and to maintain district facilities and operational costs

- The additional monthly cost to the taxpayer over the next four years (48 months) increases from \$2.00 per year in the first year to \$12.00 per year in the second year and then decreases \$8.00 in year three and has no change in year four.
- Over four years, the estimated total tax impact would be \$1.50 per year for every \$100,000 of property valuation. This averages to a 13 cents per month increase for that four year period.
- The Tomah School District takes pride in being fiscally responsible. Our current spending is \$200 lower than the state average on a \$100,000 property. We currently rank as the 29th lowest spending district in Wisconsin, placing us in the lowest 10% of the 368 k-12 school districts.

## Community Involvement in the Referendum Planning?

A community survey conducted in October 2018 provided significant input on what the community's priorities are, as well as how much money the community is willing to support in renewing a referendum. To maintain the current level of educational satisfaction, a renewal of the previous non-recurring operating referendum is necessary.

*Would you support renewing the District's \$1.5 million operational referendum in order to fund day-to-day operations for each of the next three years?*



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why does the school district have to go to referendum?

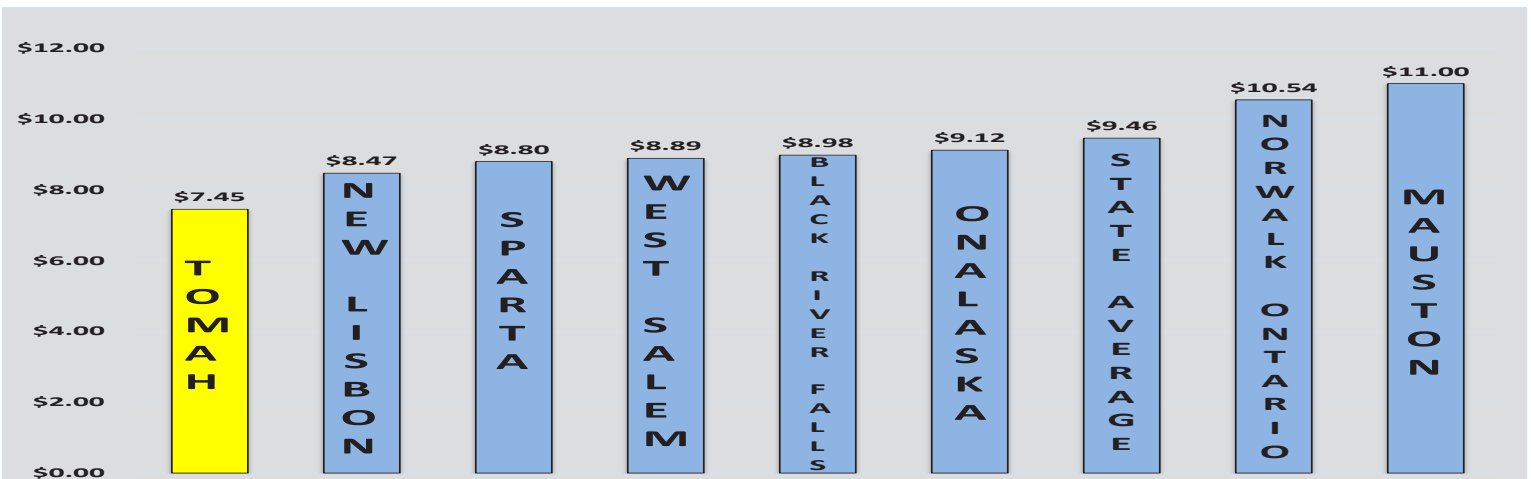
A 1993 law limited how much the Board of Education can raise property taxes to fund our schools each year. Meanwhile the direct funding from the state has been significantly reduced, requiring us to ask the community for extra funds to continue current programs. Members of the community can vote on the referendum on April 2, 2019.

### Will these funds be used immediately?

Yes. The funds the district obtains from the operating referendum will be used each year to support instruction, technology, maintenance of facilities and general operations of the district.

## Low Tax Mill Rate

The Tomah Area School District is committed to being good stewards of taxpayers' dollars. The graph below compares the District's 2018-19 tax mill rate with those of neighboring school districts. The Tomah Area School District is the lowest in the area and \$2.00 lower than the state average.



Referendum | Vote on April 2, 2019

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and Our Community

For More Information View Our Referendum Page at: [www.tomah.education](http://www.tomah.education)

This informational piece was created to assist you in making an informed decision regarding the Tomah Area School District's upcoming referendum. If you have additional questions, please call the District Office at (608) 374-7004.