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Q. Where will the questions be located on the actual ballot?

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REFERENDUM Q & A

ENHANCING OUR VISION OF PRIDE AND EXCELLENCE

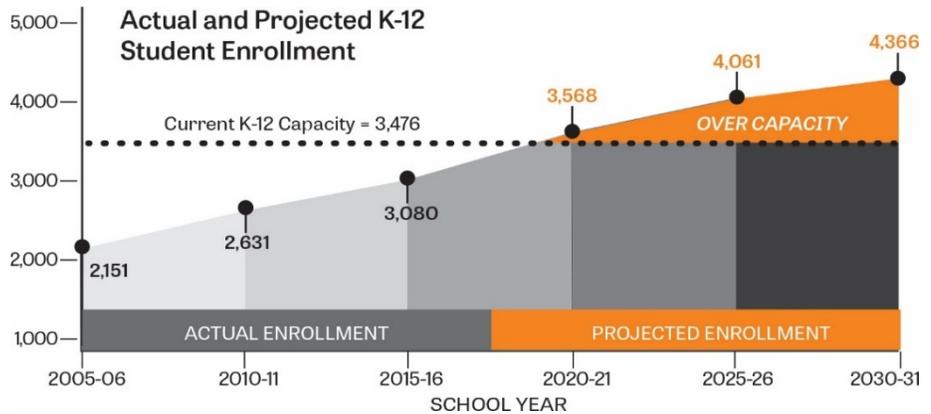
Q. Why a referendum now?

The solutions proposed focus on four key initiatives:



Responding to Continued Enrollment Growth

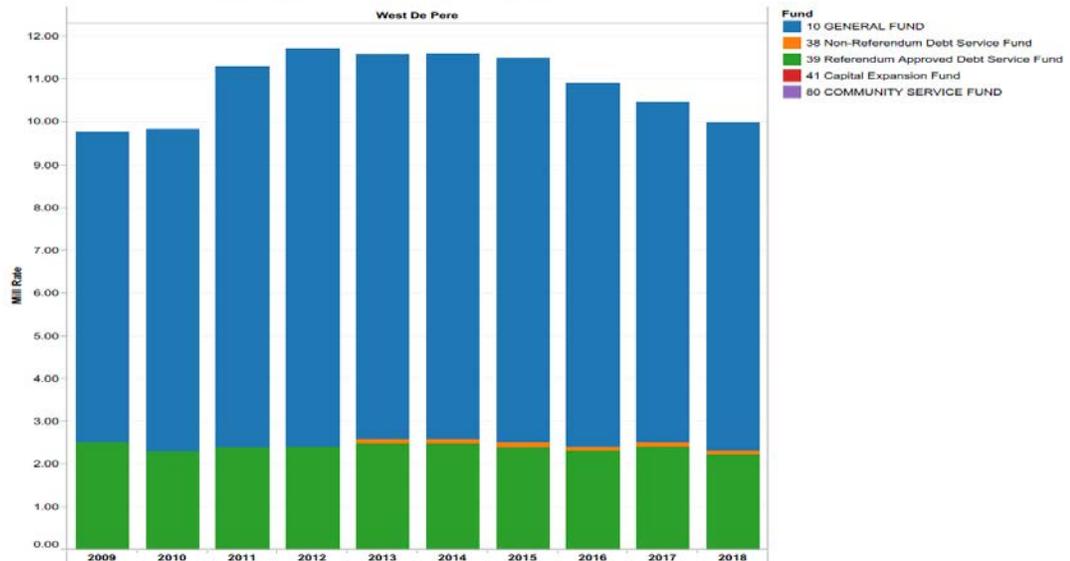
Over the past 13 years (2004-2017), the District has grown by more than **1,100 students** and is projected to grow by an **additional 1,150 resident students** over the next 13 years (2017-2030). Based on the projected growth, and if no additional capacity is added, the District will be approximately 100 students over capacity by 2020 and almost 900 students over capacity by 2030 (see chart below).



Continuing Fiscal Responsibility

The School Board works very hard to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars, evidenced by the **decline of our mill rate** over the last seven years from \$11.30 to our current mill rate of \$9.98. One example of the District's strong financial management and planning is the completion of the Hemlock Creek Elementary School expansion in 2015 without additional referendum funding.

Mill Rates
Source: WI Certification of Tax Levy Summary Per DPI



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Supporting Student Achievement

West De Pere Schools are great places for students to reach their highest academic potential! We are a **School District of Choice**, and our schools have consistently been recognized for outstanding staff and student achievements. This year, we again received an **"Exceeds Expectations"** rating on the state report cards and were recently ranked as the **#1 Best School District in Brown County** by niche.com.



Maintaining Existing Facilities

Thanks to the community's support of previous referenda, the District has great schools. In order to **protect the investments** made through prior referenda, the District continues to allocate dollars in the annual budget to address routine maintenance needs such as mechanical, electrical and roofing upgrades. Even with this annual maintenance plan, it is not possible to complete larger projects without the use of referendum dollars.

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Q. What are we voting on?

Question 1 asks for approval to borrow an amount not to exceed \$64,800,000 for construction of a new Intermediate School; construction of additions and renovations at the High School; renovations at Westwood Elementary School and the current Middle School; District-wide building system, infrastructure and site improvements, including relocation of certain athletic fields to accommodate construction of the new Intermediate School.

Question 2 asks for approval to borrow an amount not to exceed \$9,900,000 for construction of a new indoor multi-purpose facility and other outdoor stadium and athletic facility improvements at the High School, including construction of concession/restroom/team facilities, new bleachers and track improvements.

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Q. How was this plan developed?

The administrative team and Board of Education have been discussing our enrollment growth since 2008 with studies being completed by Applied Population Laboratories, (Madison, Wisconsin) and MDRoffers Consulting, (Madison, Wisconsin). School Perceptions LLC, (Slinger, Wisconsin) completed a community survey and a summary of the results were shared in the Winter 2017 Phantastic Newsletter. In addition, district data was presented at two Focus Group sessions to share more information. Before our grade configuration change was final, four of our administrators completed site visits to eight school districts in Wisconsin that were high performing and have established K-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-12 buildings. The Board took action to approve this grade structure at their July 25th meeting. If you would like more information, please go on the district website which will provide all of this background information.

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Q. Why two questions?

Each question is distinct and requires its own yes or no vote. The Board of Education has prioritized the needs of the District and is asking the community to vote on each group of projects independently. Both questions are important to the District, and each requires a separate response.

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This is NOT an either/or situation; you should consider each one independently. However, should Question 1 fail and Question 2 pass, the District would not go forward with only Question 2 projects.

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Q. Will there be a new grade configuration?

Yes. In order to address increasing enrollment and best utilize existing facilities, the proposed solution includes the following grade reconfiguration:

	 Westwood Elementary	 Hemlock Creek Elementary	 Proposed West De Pere Intermediate	 West De Pere Middle	 West De Pere High
Current Grade Configuration	Kindergarten - 5 th	Kindergarten - 5 th	Not Applicable	6 th - 8 th	9 th - 12 th
Proposed Grade Configuration	Kindergarten - 4 th	Kindergarten - 4 th	5 th - 6 th	7 th - 8 th	9 th - 12 th

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Q. What if Question #1 passes and Question #2 fails?

If Question #1 passes and Question #2 fails, the Board of Education will still proceed with Question #1.

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Q. What if Question #2 passes and Question #1 fails?

If Question #2 passes and Question #1 fails, the Board of Education has stated that they **will not proceed** with Question #2.

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Q. What is the scope of work and cost at each school?

Question 1: \$64,800,000

- Westwood Elementary School: \$3,600,000
 - Plumbing, heating/ventilation and electrical system improvements
 - Cafeteria/kitchen renovation and upgrades
 - Playground improvements
 - Relocation of softball fields from Middle School, including expanded parking and new restroom facilities with concessions
- New Intermediate School: \$35,400,000
 - New two-story school including:
 - General and special education classrooms
 - Art, music and science
 - Resource and small group instruction areas to support hands-on learning

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- Library, cafeteria and two-court gymnasium
- Additional playground area
- Separate parent and bus drop-off/pick-up areas
- West De Pere Middle School: \$4,900,000
 - Building system and exterior upgrades including:
 - Plumbing, heating/ventilation and electrical system improvements
 - Air conditioning of the existing gym and kitchen
 - Partial roof and exterior door replacements
 - Site improvements, including parking lot resurfacing and additional sidewalks
- West De Pere High School: \$20,900,000
 - Plumbing, heating/ventilation and electrical system improvements
 - Two-story classroom addition
 - Classroom and office renovations
 - Auditorium expansion and renovation
 - Fitness/locker room additions and renovations
 - Site improvements, including main parking lot expansion

Question 2: \$9,900,000

- West De Pere High School
 - Indoor multi-purpose facility addition onto High School (\$7,200,000)
 - Stadium improvements, including expanded bleachers, sprint lanes to existing track and a concession/restroom/storage building (\$2,700,000)

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Q. What is a multi-purpose facility?

A multi-purpose facility is an indoor structure providing a synthetic turf surface that could be used year-round for various academic, co-curricular, fitness and public activities, including:

- Physical education classes
- Advanced Placement (AP) and state testing (ACT, Aspire, Civics)
- Marching band practice
- Speed and strength training
- Athletic and co-curricular practices
- Community activities and events

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Q. Will the community be able to use the multi-purpose facility?

Like all school facilities (e.g. gymnasiums, outdoor fields, etc.), the District will aim to make the multi-purpose facility available as frequently as possible to the community when it is not being used for school activities.

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Q. Is there a pool in the multi-purpose facility?

No, there is not a pool in this facility.

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Q. Has the district ever considered fundraising for athletic improvements?

Many of our major athletic improvements have primarily been achieved through community donations.

- Stadium Concession Stand – **Donors**
- Baseball/Softball Concession Stand – **Donors**
- Soccer Complex – **Donors**
- Varsity Baseball Lights – **Donors**
- Fitness Room Addition – **Donors**
- Fitness Room Equipment (2002) – **Booster Club**
- Varsity Softball Field – **City of De Pere** / District
- Tennis Courts – **Donor** / District
- Synthetic Stadium Turf & Press Box – **Donors** / District
- Football/Soccer Lights – District

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Q. If the referendums pass, how will it affect my taxes?

The District is about to pay off the loans associated with updates at Westwood Elementary, as well as the Middle and High Schools, that were approved by the May 2000 referendum. As a result, the debt portion of the school property tax bill will begin to drop in 2020.

The tax impact calculation for Question 1 takes into consideration the drop in 2020 and represents the increase over the current amount paid for referendum debt. The tax impact for Question 2, on the other hand, is on a stand-alone basis.

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 Home or Property Value	Question 1 \$64,800,000		Question 2 \$9,900,000		If Both Questions Are Approved	
	Yearly	Monthly	Yearly	Monthly	Yearly	Monthly
\$100,000	\$24.00	\$2.00	\$31.00	\$2.58	\$55.00	\$4.58
\$200,000	\$48.00	\$4.00	\$62.00	\$5.17	\$110.00	\$9.17
\$300,000	\$72.00	\$6.00	\$93.00	\$7.75	\$165.00	\$13.75

Assumptions: Referendum assumes two-phase borrowing (in 2019 and 2020) with 20-year amortizations using interest rates of 4.00% and 4.25%, respectively. State Aid Reimbursement: 10% (current tertiary level). Valuation Growth: 2.00% for four years and 0% thereafter. Projections provided by PMA Securities, District Financial Advisor.

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Q. What is a mill rate?

The District's mill rate has a direct impact on the school portion of each taxpayer's annual property tax bill and is determined by dividing the tax levy by the equalized valuation. The tax levy is the total amount of money that is being requested for the District's operations; the limit is set through the State's revenue limit formula. Equalized value is the fair market dollar value of the property within District boundaries. The District's goal has always been to provide the highest quality education possible while being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. The mill rate is represented per 1,000 of property value; to translate the mill rate into tax impact, multiply the mill rate x 1,000 of property value. For example, Question 1 of the referendum is estimated to increase the District's mill rate by \$.24 over the 2018-2019 mill rate. If your home is valued at \$100,000, your taxes are estimated to increase by \$24 per year.

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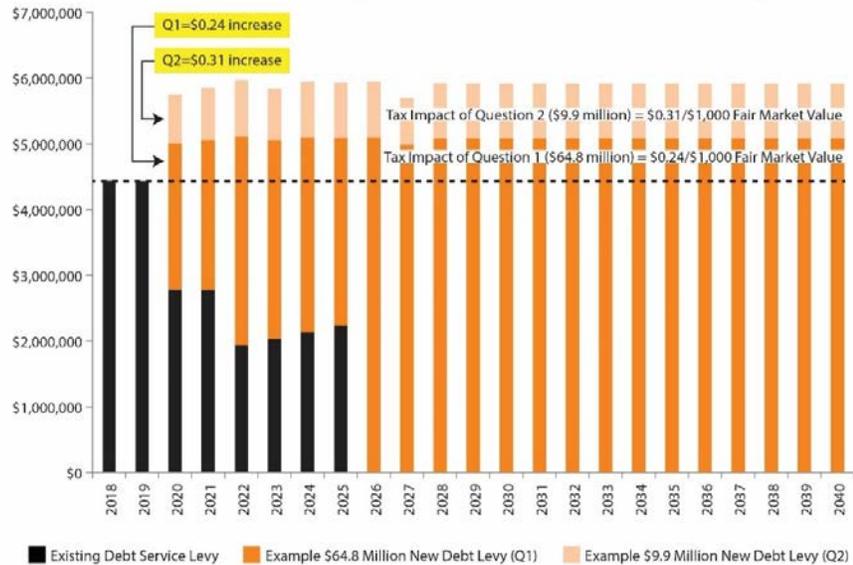
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School District of West De Pere Current and Projected Referendum Debt Levy

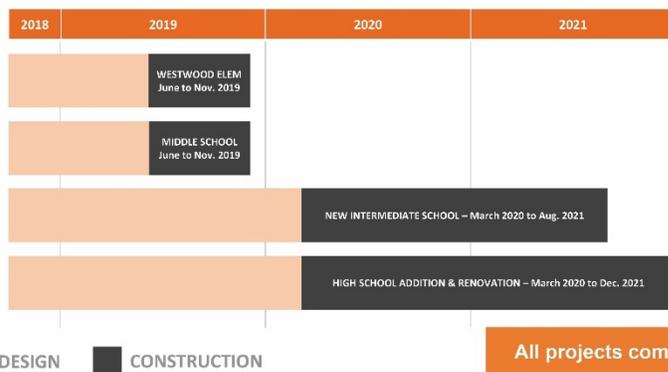


- Referendum assumes 2-phase borrowings (in 2019 and 2020) with 20-year amortizations using interest rates of 4.00% and 4.25% respectively.
- State Aid Reimbursement assumed at 10% (current tertiary level).
- Valuation Growth assumed at 2.00% for 4 years and 0% thereafter.

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Q. When will the projects be complete?

Preliminary Project Schedule



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Q. Why is the debt amortized over 20 years?

Wisconsin State Statute limits the District to a maximum of 20 years for general obligation debt. However, there is no penalty to pay the debt off early.

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Q. Why can't the district address its facility needs within its maintenance budget?

The District's maintenance budget cannot cover the investments that the district currently needs. The District can do minor repairs, upgrades, or improvements through their annual maintenance budget, but new buildings, or large scale renovations/additions or upgrades, as in the proposed referendum can only be completed with a bond issue amortized over 20 years.

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Q. What happens if the referendum does not pass?

The School District would have multiple options to include, but are not limited to: larger class sizes, purchase of portable trailers to be used as classrooms

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Q. Where can I get more information about the referendum?

There are several options for residents to get more information:

Visit the District's website: wdpsd.com

Call the District Office: 920.337.1393 ext. #8025

Email: jzegers@wdpsd.com

Follow the District on Facebook, www.facebook.com/SchoolDistrictofWDP

Watch for future mailings

Attend an Open House:

Wednesday, October 17th, 6-7:30PM, High School Commons

Tuesday, October 25th, 6-7:30PM, Middle School Commons

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Q. Where can I get information about voting?

Visit MYVOTE.WI.GOV to:

- Find out where you vote
- Update your voter registration
- Request an **absentee ballot**
- Review your voting history
- Find your local municipal clerk

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Q. Where will the questions be located on the actual ballot?

It depends on the municipality in which you live. In the City of De Pere and Town of Oneida, the questions will be on the back of the ballot. In the Town of Lawrence, Village of Ashwaubenon, Village of Hobart; the questions will be on the front of the ballot.

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Q. How are you going to handle, and hopefully improve, drop off/pick up at Westwood Elementary School?

We are currently discussing traffic patterns in and around the Middle School, High School and Westwood Elementary with the City of De Pere. Our current plan is to create separate parent and bus drop off and pick up areas at the new 5/6 building. The new bus drop off/pick up area will serve both the new school and the existing middle school. This shared use will eliminate bus traffic on the south and west sides of the current middle school. A traffic analysis will be completed after the November 6th voting.

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Q. Why wouldn't you connect the new 5/6 building to the 7/8 building?

Connecting the two schools was considered and after weighing the advantages and disadvantages, the District elected to connect the two buildings with an outdoor sidewalk vs. an expansion of the building. This decision was made after consulting with school district officials throughout Wisconsin that currently operate successfully with a 5/6 and 7/8 grade configuration. In addition, connecting the two schools would add additional expense that we didn't feel was necessary.

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