



Argyle School District

November 5, 2024 Referendum

Community Education Newsletter

“Every Child is a Promise”

Moving Forward with a November 5, 2024 Operational Referendum

On August 14, 2024, the Argyle School Board adopted resolutions to hold an operational referendum on November 5, 2024. The School District is asking voter permission to exceed the revenue limit for ongoing operating expenses in two ways: 1. By \$310,000 beginning with the current school year (2024-2025); and 2. By extending the \$490,000 approved by the 2022 Referendum, which expires in 2026-2027. The combined amounts provide the District with a total of \$800,000 of tax revenue to pay District operating expenses.

In 2022, District voters approved a \$490,000 operational referendum to be in effect for four years. The District is currently in the third year and the \$490,000 expires after one more school year. For the past two school years, the District’s operating budget has experienced inflationary pressures, while, at the same time, losing federal funding. Therefore, the District is asking voter permission to exceed the revenue limit beginning with the current school year by an additional \$310,000, and to extend the 2022 Referendum authority on an ongoing basis.

Exceeding the revenue limit allows the District to levy taxes to pay for District operating expenses to maintain the current level of operations.

The 2024 Referendum will Provide Tax Levy Revenue to:

- Pay District operating expenses (i.e. curriculum costs, student activities and programs, technology, equipment, salaries, benefits, utilities, transportation, insurance, maintenance, etc.)
- Sustain and maintain the current level of District programs and services
- Retain and recruit high quality staff
- Offset rising Consumer Price Index costs

The Revenue Limit

The **revenue limit** is a State law imposed on all Wisconsin school districts beginning in 1993. It limits the amount of revenues a school district receives from property taxes and state aid to pay the School District’s operating budget expenses. The revenue limit law is subject to legislative changes with each State biennial budget. The **revenue limit** is calculated each year using the School District’s September resident enrollment count. The decision to use referendum authority, is made each year by Administration and the School Board, based on annual September resident enrollment and the revenue limit law.

Sample Ballot Language

Below is the question that will appear on the November 5, 2024 ballot to vote “Yes” or “No”:

Shall the School District of Argyle, Lafayette and Green Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$310,000 for the 2024-2025 school year (and to remain at that amount for the 2025-2026 school year), and by an additional \$490,000 for the 2026-2027 school year (for a total of \$800,000 and to remain at that amount thereafter) for recurring purposes, consisting of sustaining district operating expenses to maintain the current level of operations?

2024 Referendum Estimated Tax Impact

The 2024 Referendum tax impact begins with the December 2024 tax bill.

- The estimated tax rate impact for the \$310,000 is **\$1.16** per \$1,000 of property value (\$116 for every \$100,000 of “fair market” property value shown on Dec 2023 tax bills)

Taxes increase once and remain in tax bills ongoing (“recurring”)

- Taxes do not increase by extending the \$490,000 in two years since this amount has been included in tax bills beginning with the December 2022 tax bill and will remain in tax bills going forward.

What Happens if the Referendum Does Not Pass?

- Hold a referendum in April 2025
- Prioritize operating budget reductions:
Staffing / benefits / programs / services
- Challenges District’s ability to retain and attract staff
- Apply general fund balance – challenging District’s sound financial position
- Combination of all of the above

Public Information Sessions – High School Cafetorium – 6:00 P.M.

October 9, 2024 (Wednesday)

October 17, 2024 (Thursday)

November 4, 2024 (Monday)

Additional Referendum Information

Newsletters and brochures will also be distributed to the community. Information will be posted on the District’s website, and is available from the District Administrator, Randy Refsland, phone: 608-543-3318 ext. 304 or email: rarefsland@argyle.k12.wi.us