



Voters Approve MPSD Operating Referendum

Tax rate to remain flat under \$4.3 million annual referendum

Voters in the Manitowoc Public School District on Tuesday approved an operational referendum to exceed state revenue limits by \$4.3 million annually for a period of three years to maintain existing K12 district-wide educational programming and opportunities, and fund capital and technology needs.

Unofficial, unaudited results* show the referendum garnered support from about **59%** of voters.

“We cannot thank residents enough for supporting our community youth and their education,” MPSD Superintendent Mark Holzman said. “I am deeply grateful and will make sure we use only the referendum dollars we need after analyzing future state and federal aid.

“This vote of support means that we will be able to continue providing high-quality educational and extracurricular opportunities for our 4K-12 students for years to come,” Holzman added. “We can fulfill our mission: to educate, engage and inspire all learners to thrive in a global community.”

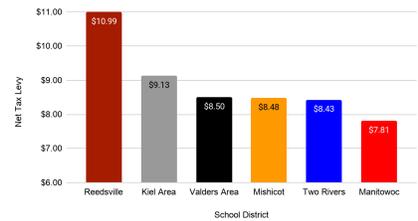
Under the approved referendum, MPSD’s school property tax levy rate is projected to decrease by a cent to \$7.80 per \$1,000 of equalized value in the first year and remain flat to slightly declining in years two and three. Referendum funding will be used to maintain current programs and educational opportunities such as:

- Offer a wide range of academic courses, programs and services for all students
- Provide our students 21st Century workforce development skills
- Protect class sizes
- Provide employee training and development, and competitive wages/benefits
- Maintain capital improvement projects on our aging buildings
- Maintain technology hardware and software

If the referendum had failed, the district faced a projected budget deficit that would have required significant cuts to staff and programs. Because about 80% of the district’s budget is staff salary and benefits, the deficit could have forced a reduction of 49 full-time staff members across all employee segments district-wide – administrators, teachers, support staff, custodians and food service.

The MPSD has taken pride in being fiscally responsible as a low spending school district. Manitowoc’s 2020 property tax rate of \$7.81 per \$1,000 of equalized tax value remains the lowest in Manitowoc County. MPSD’s \$11,825 per-pupil spending ranks 386 out of 420 districts in Wisconsin. The average Wisconsin public school district spends \$13,280 per pupil - which would increase MPSD’s budget by \$1,995 per pupil or \$9.9 million annually.

MANITOWOC COUNTY NET TAX LEVY 2020



The Board of Education and District Administration will provide community updates on how and where referendum dollars are spent. Keep updated by following the District website (www.manitowocpublicschools.org) and our social media channels. If you have questions please contact Supt. Mark Holzman at holzmanm@mpsd.k12.wi.us or 920-686-4781.

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* Election results will remain unofficial until the Board of Canvassers meets on Friday, April 9.