Edgar School District Seeks to Maintain Educational Programs Through Proposed Referendum

October 26, 2026

Edgar School District voters will consider a proposed operational referendum on November 3, 2026, to help maintain the educational programs, services and learning opportunities available to local students.

The proposal asks voters to approve $1.4 million annually for five years, beginning July 1, 2027 (next school year). If approved, the referendum would replace the District's current $950,000 annual operational referendum, which expires June 30, 2027. It would not be added on top of the existing referendum.

"When voters approved the 2022 referendum, we committed to using the funding for educational programs and maintenance projects the District otherwise could not complete. We followed through on those commitments. Looking ahead, our projections show that without continued referendum funding, significant cuts to programs and services may be necessary.

"State funding has remained flat while expenses continue to rise. Our State legislators allows us to turn to the voters for local funding. There are 78 school referendums on the ballot Statewide. We are not alone. This is the only way we can maintain the educational opportunities our students have today," said Dr. Cari Guden, district administrator.

Projections indicate that the owner of an average Edgar home valued at $229,000 would pay approximately $16 more per month in property taxes initially if the referendum is approved, with the projected additional amount decreasing in future years.

"The Board took a conservative approach to the referendum and is asking for additional funding because our costs continue to rise, including expenses for special education, transportation, utilities and other requirements. We also understand that we must continue to be fiscally conservative and cost-efficient to sustain programs that provide the education students need," Guden added.

Without the proposed referendum, Guden says the Board will need to make significant budget adjustments that could affect student programs, services and learning opportunities.

“It is a very accurate projection. If it fails, we would likely come back to the voters in April with the same proposal. We take this very seriously. Our local school needs this funding to maintain student programming,” Guden said.

She asks everyone to cast an informed vote in November. Community members can find additional information about the proposed referendum and answers to frequently asked questions on the Edgar School District website: https://edgar.k12.wi.us/referendum/index.cfm.