Edgar School District
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POSTAL PATRON

A Message from the Edgar School District Superintendent, Dr. Cari Guden

On the November 3 ballot, Edgar School District voters will decide whether to approve a non-recurring operational referendum. The proposed referendum replaces the 2022 operational referendum, which expires June 2027. When a referendum becomes the focus of the conversation, it's important to remember that, at its heart, this is about our students and their education.

Because state funding has not kept pace with rising costs, the district faces an ongoing funding gap. The proposed referendum would provide the local funding needed to continue providing a strong education for all Edgar students. It's also important to remember that the revenue raised through the referendum stays here in our community, directly supporting the Edgar School District and its students.

Board members and I have been out talking to community members: We've heard questions and comments. Thank you for the respectful conversations. This information offers clarifying facts to encourage every voter to cast an informed vote. Learn more at **edgar.k12.wi.us**.

About the Edgar School District Referendum

AMOUNT
$1.4 million
Per year, for five years

OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM
Non-recurring
Expires 2031-32 school year

REPLACES
2022 Operational Referendum
Which expires June 2027

PROPERTY TAX IMPACT
84 cents
per $1,000 property value per year

Edgar School District Referendum
CLARIFYING THE FACTS

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

WHAT WE'VE HEARD:
Could changes in the district's budget management eliminate the need for additional revenue?

CLARIFYING FACT:
Edgar is not alone. More than 75% of Wisconsin school districts use voter-approved referendums to help fund their schools.

Why? State funding has not kept pace with rising costs. Since 2011, state funding has remained flat while expenses have increased. For example, health insurance costs have increased 30%, utility and transportation costs continue to rise, and the district's share of school voucher costs will be $378,428 in 2026-27.

State law also limits how much school districts can raise through property taxes. When those funds are not enough to cover the cost of maintaining school programs and services, a referendum is one way Wisconsin law allows districts to seek additional local revenue.

REFERENDUM HISTORY

WHAT WE'VE HEARD:
Why are you asking taxpayers again?

CLARIFYING FACT:
The proposed referendum replaces the expiring referendum.

Referendums are the "tool" given to school districts to request funding when state funding isn't meeting needs. Here is Edgar's recent history:

2010 Capital Referendum: Paid in full
Approved for one-time, large scale building projects, and did not fund day-to-day operational costs.

2022 Operational Referendum: Expires June 30, 2027
Approved $950,000/year to fund daily expenses including utilities, wages, transportation.

2026 Referendum: On the Ballot
Requesting authority to add up to $1.4 million/year for 5 years to keep pace with rising costs and falling state aid. Would expire June 30, 2032.

BUDGET CUTS

WHAT WE'VE HEARD:
Budget cuts can solve this deficit without a referendum AND without affecting programming.

CLARIFYING FACT:
Further cuts <u>will</u> impact programs. Edgar has cut staff, limited pay raises, and reduced other costs for years.

Further budget cuts alone will not close the projected funding gap without affecting programs and services. Without referendum funding, the district will consider:

- Up to 10% fewer staff
- Fewer bus routes
- Delayed curriculum updates
- No middle school sports
- Delayed building repairs
- Less summer school, or none at all

TAXPAYERS

WHAT WE'VE HEARD:
Consider the taxpayer.

CLARIFYING FACT:
The Board worked hard to balance two things: the need to fund schools and the impact on taxpayers.

The decision to seek a referendum was carefully considered, with taxpayers in mind. Board members are taxpayers too. In fact, the $1.4 million request doesn't fully close the projected funding gap. More cuts may be needed within the five-year period covered by the referendum.

PLEASE VOTE NOVEMBER 3, 2026

SCAN HERE

All eligible residents of the Edgar School District can vote on this issue on Election Day – Tuesday, November 3.

Referendum information at
edgar.k12.wi.us