



Investing in the Future of Tomahawk Schools **OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM: FEBRUARY 18, 2025**

The School District of Tomahawk has a long history of fostering a high-quality learning environment and is a source of immense pride in our community. However, the district continues to face serious financial challenges, making it difficult to continue meeting our mission to empower all students to become life-long learners capable of thriving in an ever-changing world.

On **Tuesday, February 18, 2025**, our community will consider renewing a four-year, non-recurring operational referendum. If approved, we will have the ability to continue exceeding the revenue limit by \$3.25 million through the 2028-29 school year while keeping the school tax consistent with the previous referendum.

? **WHY IS THE REFERENDUM NEEDED?**

Each Wisconsin school district has a revenue limit created by the state, capping the amount of money they can raise. However, that limit was established more than 30 years ago and has failed to keep pace with inflation. Our current enrollment, which also affects state aid, is approximately 65% of what it was two decades earlier.

The School District of Tomahawk trails many of its peers when it comes to state aid disbursements. While the average district receives \$8,060 per student in state aid, we receive \$3,147 per student. In fact, school districts like ours would receive roughly \$3,300 more per student for the 2024-25 school year if revenues had maintained pace with inflation since 2009.



REDUCING EXPENSES

The School Board and administration have taken significant steps to address our financial challenges, including nearly \$1.2 million worth of spending cuts during the 2021-22 school year. This included freezing salaries, eliminating a bus route, and not replacing a limited number of staff. The board also used \$1.8 million from the district's reserve fund to balance its budget.

Our community's voters approved a non-recurring, three-year operational referendum in April 2022 to address this issue. This has provided \$3.25 million annually, but is scheduled to sunset at the end of the current school year.

TAX IMPACT

An approved renewal of the operational referendum is **not projected to have a levy rate increase**. The district is estimating a \$5.59 levy rate per \$1,000 of estimated fair market value.

Learn more by scanning the QR code

