



# Investing in the Future of Tomahawk Schools

## **OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM: FEBRUARY 18, 2025**


The School District of Tomahawk is a source of immense pride, with a history of fostering a high-quality learning environment and providing students with the resources they need to fulfill their potential.

However, the district faces serious financial challenges that make it difficult to continue meeting our mission to empower all students to become life-long learners capable of thriving in an ever-changing world.


These challenges are out of our control and largely tied to the state’s school funding formula and state aid that has failed to keep pace with inflation for many years.

On **Tuesday, February 18, 2025**, our community will consider approving a four-year, non-recurring operational referendum. If this measure is approved, we will have the ability to continue our current permission to exceed the revenue limit by \$3.25 million annually.


### **WHY DO WE NEED AN OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM?**




Wisconsin schools operate under a state-imposed revenue limit that restricts the amount of money they can receive in state aid and property taxes. As a result, the School District of Tomahawk does not receive enough revenue to adequately fund district programs.



In April 2022, our voters approved a non-recurring operational referendum for the school district that provided an additional \$3.25 million annually over a three-year period. These funds improved the district’s financial picture after the School Board and administration were forced to approve nearly \$1.2 million worth of expense reductions.



The existing operational referendum will sunset at the end of the 2024-25 school year. We are now asking voters to consider renewing the referendum in the same amount for four additional years so future budget cuts can be avoided



The needs of our students have grown considerably, particularly in the areas of special education and mental health services, for which the district receives insufficient funding. Costs for things like technology, running contracted buses, and heating our schools continue to rise, as do other expenses that are out of our control.

### **OUR PRIORITIES**

An approved referendum would allow Tomahawk Schools to:

- Maintain current programming levels through 2029
- Make strategic investments in our district, designed to bolster learning and student opportunities
- Preserve academic programs and extracurricular activities for students
- Avoid further reductions of teachers and staff

### **KEEPING THE TAX RATE FLAT**

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



Learn more by scanning the QR code or visiting

[tomahawkreferendum2025.org](http://tomahawkreferendum2025.org)

**ELECTION DAY: FEBRUARY 18, 2025**