

**School District of River Falls
Special Board Meeting**

Monday, December 11, 2023 - 6:00 PM

District Office

852 E Division Street

River Falls, Wisconsin 54022

Educational Program Committee members: Alan Tuchtenhagen (Chair), Lindsey Curtis, & Cindy Holbrook

Agendas can be viewed at <https://www.rfsd.k12.wi.us/district/school-board.cfm> or at

<https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/1447>

1. **CALL TO ORDER - 6:00 PM in the District Office Conference Room**
2. **MANNER OF PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF MEETING**
3. **HEARING OF VISITORS OR DELEGATIONS**

4. **Adopt Resolution Authorizing the School District Budget to Exceed Revenue Limit for Recurring Purposes.** **2**

Description: Administration is recommending the Board adopt three separate resolutions for operational funding and for facility additions, remodeling, and updates.

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution Authorizing the School District Budget to Exceed Revenue Limit for Recurring Purposes.

5. **Adopt Initial Resolution Authorizing General Obligation Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$28,000,000.** **34**

Description: Administration is recommending the Board adopt three separate resolutions for operational funding and for facility additions, remodeling, and updates.

Recommended Action: Adopt Initial Resolution Authorizing General Obligation Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$28,000,000.

6. **Adopt Resolution Providing for a Referendum Election on the Questions of the Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the School District Budget to Exceed Revenue Limit for Recurring Purposes and an Initial Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$28,000,000.** **35**

Description: Administration is recommending the Board adopt three separate resolutions for operational funding and for facility additions, remodeling, and updates.

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution Providing a Referendum Election on the Questions of the Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the School District Budget to Exceed Revenue Limit for Recurring Purposes and an Initial Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$28,000,000

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SCHOOL
DISTRICT BUDGET TO EXCEED REVENUE LIMIT
FOR RECURRING PURPOSES

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the School District of River Falls, Pierce and St. Croix Counties, Wisconsin that the revenues included in the School District budget be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$1,000,000 for the 2024-2025 school year; by an additional \$1,000,000 (for a total of \$2,000,000) for the 2025-2026 school year; and by an additional \$1,000,000 (for a total of \$3,000,000 and to remain at that amount) for the 2026-2027 school year and thereafter, for recurring purposes consisting of operational expenses, including to maintain curriculum programs and services, to retain staff, and to provide for safety, security, transportation, utilities and technology.

Adopted and recorded December 11, 2023.

Stacy Johnson Myers
District President

ATTEST:

Alan Tuchtenhagen
District Clerk

(SEAL)



School District of River Falls

Referendum Details

February 20, 2024

Wisconsin Dept. Ed. (DPI)

Four Star Rating

Academic Performance

“Report Card”

Plus: Musical, Community Ed., Character Ed.,
Marching Band, Athletics, Co-curricular Clubs,
Leadership Opportunities, Community Service Projects,
Arts, Kids Club, Summer School, Ag/FFA, Vocational
Training...

High quality staff - great kids - supportive community.



City RF Survey 2023

K-12 Education = 89% Excellent/Good



District Parents - Survey Reply September 2023 *High Quality Education 100%*

Delivering a high-quality education (n=816)

Poor (1)	0	0%	
Fair (2)	0	0%	
Good (3)	425	52.1%	100%
Great (4)	391	47.9%	
Not sure/no opinion (0)	0	0%	5

AVG: 3.48 SD: 0.5

Challenges Facing the District



- *State funding* formula = Deficit begins 2024-25
- Attract and retain high quality staff.
- Students struggling with mental health.
- Removing student's demographic achievement barriers.
- Politics, soc-media misinformation, national trends.

 Funding Formula is the challenge creating the need for referendum.

State Funding Formula = Deficit Cause



80% Wisconsin Districts = Operational Referendum

- 1993 antiquated funding formula = revenue “cap”
- Inflation outpaces revenue increases (formula)

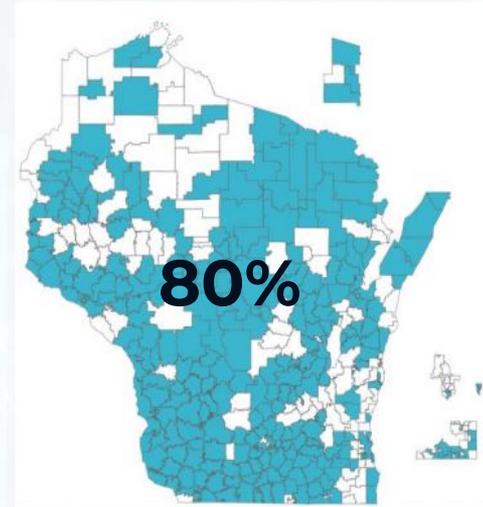
Operational Referendum Summary

Districts that have at least 10% of their base revenue limit supplemented by non-recurring operating referendum



Source: Department of Public Instruction

Source: DPI



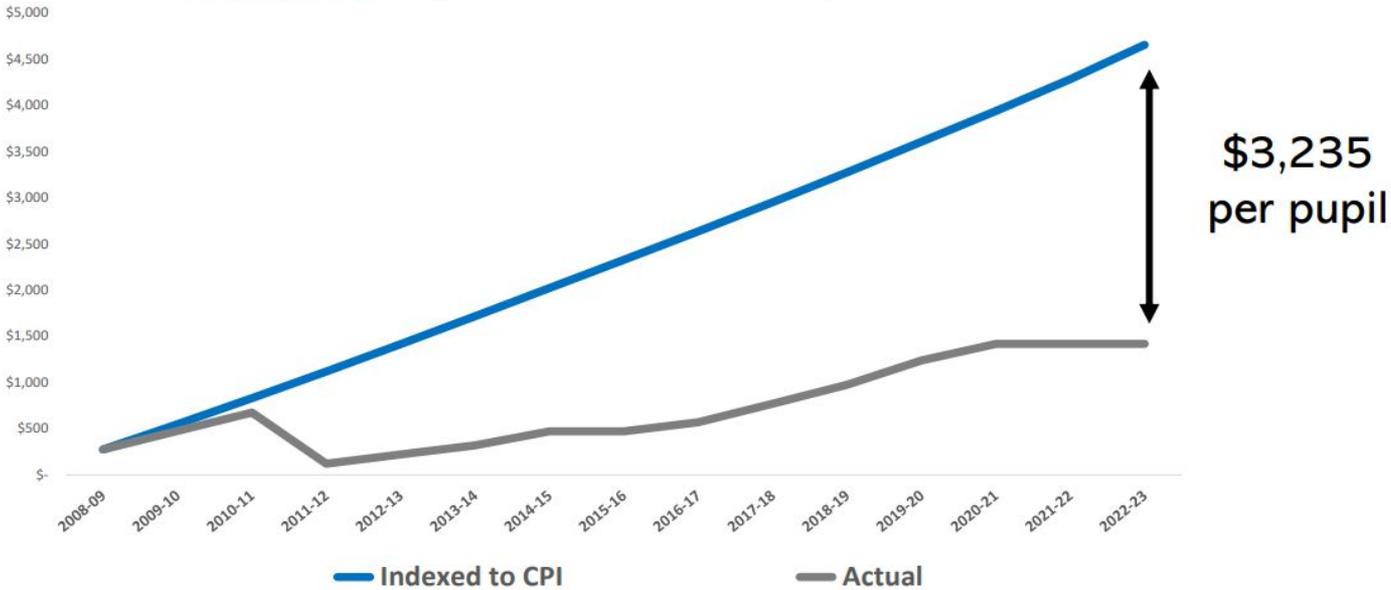
Districts who have passed an Operational Referendum Question since 1992



Inflation outpaces revenue cap limit



Cumulative view: Per pupil revenues lag inflation by more than \$3,200 since 2009



Source: Kava, Russ (January 9, 2023) Legislative Fiscal Bureau Memo re: Revenue Limit Per Pupil Adjustment Indexed to Inflation; WASBO Calculations

Revenue Cap Limit

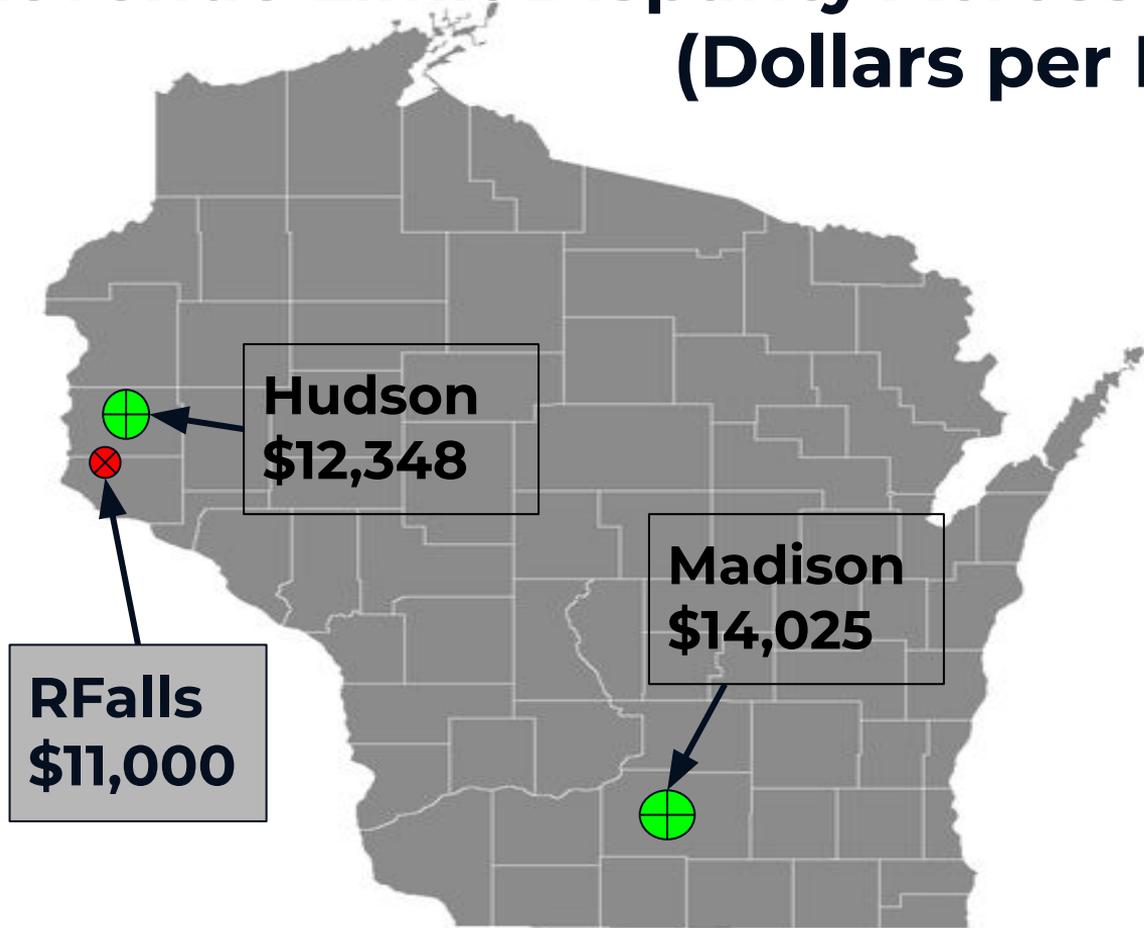


State revenue cap formula determines annual total funds. (Varies per district statewide)

2022 RF ranked **418 of 421**.

2023 Tied for lowest

Revenue Limit Disparity Across State (Dollars per Pupil)



Revenue cap (per pupil) 2023-24



River Falls
\$11,000

Tied Last entire state

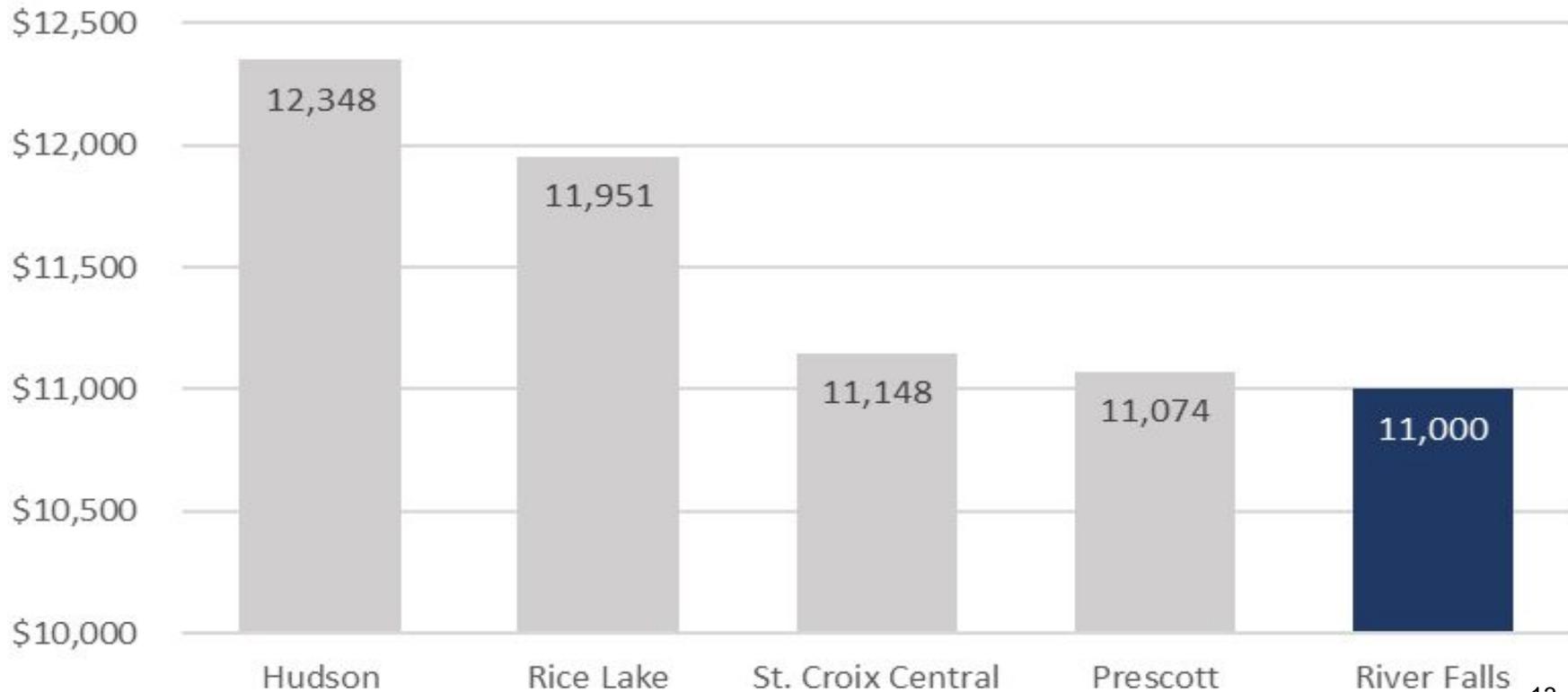
Hudson
\$12,348

+\$1348 per pupil

Madison
\$14,025

+\$3025 per pupil

2023-24 Revenue Limit Per Student



Source: Wisconsin DPI 2023-24 Pre-populated Revenue Limit Worksheet

Two referendum questions

Q#1: “Operational”

*Maintain day-to-day operations

Q#2: Bond (Capital/Facilities)

*Maintain + Improve facilities



Q#1 “Operational” Referendum



Authorization to exceed the state imposed revenue cap limit for day-to-day operational expenses.

Q#2 “Bond” (Capital/Facility) Referendum

Allows a district to issue a bond which loans us money (similar to a home mortgage) for capital/facility improvements.

Deficit Projection - Operational



2024-25 -\$1M deficit

2025-26 -\$2M deficit

2026-27 -\$3M deficit

Q#1: Estimated Operational Tax Impact

Table 3: Property Tax Impact of Operational Referendum Question #1

YEAR	Revenue Generated	Estimated Yearly Property Tax Impact <i>(per \$100,000 of assessed property value)</i>
2024-25	\$1M	\$5
2025-26	\$2M	\$11 <i>(previous \$5+\$6=\$11)</i>
2026-27	\$3M	\$19 <i>(previous \$11+\$8=\$19)</i>
2027-beyond	\$3M Recurring	<i>No additional increase tax (stabilizes at \$19)</i>

Q#2 Bond (Facility) Referendum

- Several 50-year old buildings creates ongoing maintenance improvement needs that are not funded in our annual budget.
- Insufficient annual operating budget does not meet all facility needs.
- Some facility items were not financed in past referendums. Needs are prioritized.





Past Referendum

- *MMS Science labs + HS Vocational/shop
- *Additional Elementary Classrooms
- *Academy Bldg + Montessori
- *Flexible learning spaces, MMS LMC
- **Some* HVAC, electrical, maintenance, co-curricular

Now...continuing needs not included in the past referendum...Rotational needs...prioritized

Q#2 “Bond” (Facility) Referendum



Three Categories for Facility Improvements

- Security/ Bldg. Systems/Grounds (\$20M)
- Transportation Center (\$4M)
- HS Indoor multi-purpose space (\$4M)

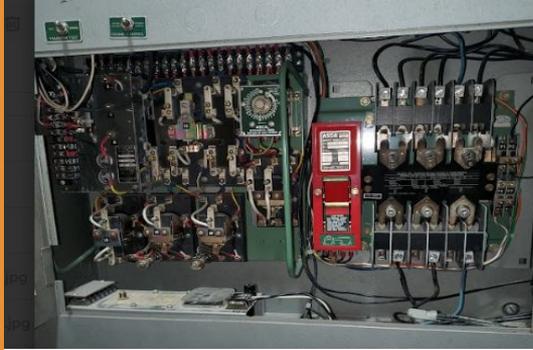


Capital/Facility Improvements

Category 1: *Security/Building Systems/Grounds*

Electronic Door Security, Fire Protection, Security Cameras, PA notification system, Tennis Courts, Sidewalks, Emergency Generators, Boilers, Air Transfer, Dehumidification, Fan Coils, Restrooms, Ceiling Tiles, LED Lights, Kitchen Exhaust...

Building Systems are Aging in 50-year old buildings



Capital/Facility Improvements



Category 2: Transportation Center (Built 1966)

(New Building)

***Maintenance Shop; Office Area, Restrooms,
Lunch/Meeting Room**

***Storage at existing site; Improve emission
exhaust fans**

Proposed Transportation Center Site Plan



Transportation Center (Built 1966)



Capital/Facility Improvements

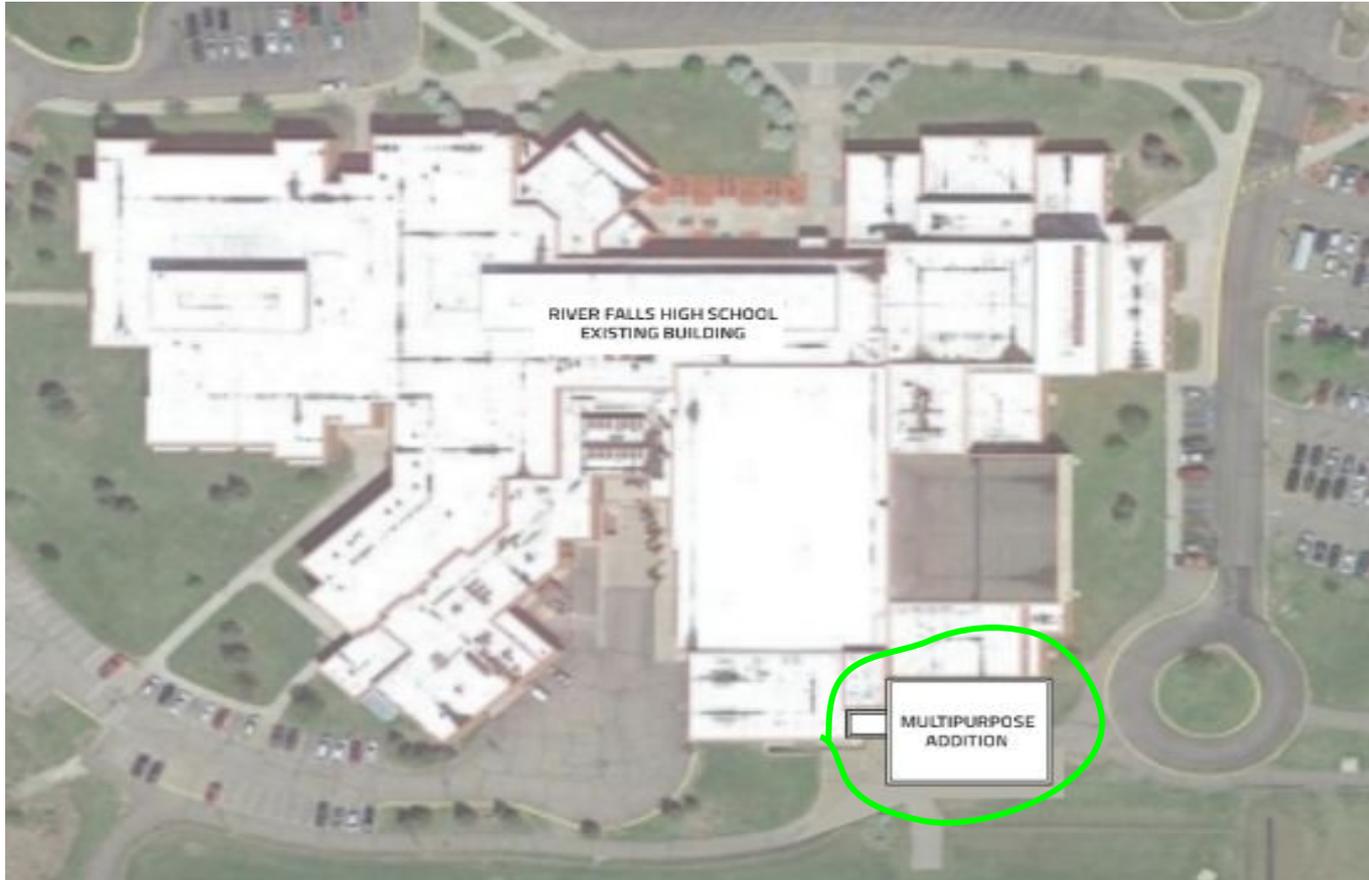


Category 3: Multi-Purpose Indoor Athletic Facility (Addition onto HS)

- *Physical Education Classes and Speed/Strength Program*
- *Community Youth/Adult Sports = district space flexibility*
- *Wrestling practice out of MMS basement*
- *Community Education (physically active classes)*
- *Dance, Yoga, Cheerleading, Summer Kids Club*



Proposed Multi-Purpose Space Site Plan



Multi-Purpose Space at HS



Extreme

Practical

NO



YES





Q#2 Bond: Estimated Property Tax Impact

Table 4: Estimated Property Tax Impact of Bond Referendum Question #2

YEAR	Revenue Generated	Estimated Yearly Property Tax Impact <i>(per \$100,000 of assessed property value)</i>
2024-25	\$28M	\$58.50 <i>(remains the same year-over-year)</i>



Transparent Communication

Helping voters make an informed decision:

- >Public Forums
- >Mailer; Newspaper; Referendum Guide; e-News
- >Civic Groups; PTO's
- >Website; Social Media; Videos
- >Coffee + Lunch Meetings

Investing in Kids



Thanks to community for ongoing support.

Great staff - relationships with students; high quality professionals; dedicated servant leaders

Tradition - Great schools...great kids...
community trust+support matters



Q + A

*“Change happens at
the speed of trust”*

INITIAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN AN AMOUNT
NOT TO EXCEED \$28,000,000

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the School District of River Falls, Pierce and St. Croix Counties, Wisconsin that there shall be issued pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$28,000,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school building and facility improvement project consisting of: district-wide safety, security, building systems, grounds and infrastructure improvements; construction of a bus and vehicle maintenance shop and related facilities; construction of an addition for a multi-purpose indoor facility and renovations at the High School; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment.

Adopted and recorded December 11, 2023.

Stacy Johnson Myers
District President

ATTEST:

Alan Tuchtenhagen
District Clerk

(SEAL)

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A REFERENDUM
ELECTION ON THE QUESTIONS OF THE APPROVAL OF A
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUDGET TO EXCEED REVENUE LIMIT FOR RECURRING
PURPOSES AND AN INITIAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING
THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN AN
AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$28,000,000

WHEREAS, the School Board of the School District of River Falls, Pierce and St. Croix Counties, Wisconsin (the "District"), has heretofore duly adopted resolutions entitled: "Resolution Authorizing the School District Budget to Exceed Revenue Limit for Recurring Purposes" (the "Revenue Limit Resolution") and "Initial Resolution Authorizing General Obligation Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$28,000,000" (the "Initial Resolution"); and

WHEREAS, the School Board deems it to be desirable and in the best interest of the District to direct the District Clerk to submit the Revenue Limit Resolution and the Initial Resolution to the electors for approval or rejection at the regularly scheduled election to be held on February 20, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the District as follows:

Section 1. Referendum Election Date. The District Clerk is hereby directed to call a referendum election to be held in the District at the regularly scheduled primary election to be held on February 20, 2024 for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the District the propositions of whether the Revenue Limit Resolution and the Initial Resolution shall be approved.

Section 2. Notice to Electors. The District Clerk is directed to give notice by:

- (a) causing a Notice to Electors in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A to be published in the Pierce County Journal and the Star-Observer within ten days after the date hereof.
- (b) causing a Notice of Election in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit B to be published in the Pierce County Journal and the Star-Observer in the issue published immediately prior to the fourth Tuesday before the referendum election.
- (c) causing a Notice of Referendum (which includes the facsimile of the sample ballot) in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit C to be published in the Pierce County Journal and the Star-Observer in the issue published immediately preceding the referendum election. This Notice shall also be posted in each polling place on election day.

If any of the municipalities within the District use an electronic voting system employing a ballot label and ballot card, the Notice of Referendum set forth in Exhibit C shall also include a true, actual-size copy of the ballot label and ballot card in the form in which they will appear on election day.

Section 3. Polling Places and Hours. The District electors must vote at the referendum election at the times and polling places at which they cast their ballots in regularly scheduled elections.

Section 4. Referendum Election Officials. The election officials appointed in each of the municipalities within the District shall conduct the election.

Section 5. Official Referendum Ballot Form. The ballot to be used at the referendum election shall be prepared in accordance with the provisions of Sections 5.64(2) and 7.08(1)(a), Wisconsin Statutes. The ballot shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit D.

The District Clerk shall cause to be printed sufficient ballots for use at said referendum election, both as actual ballots in those polling places which do not use voting machines and as absentee ballots where voting machines are used and as specimen ballots (the latter to be of a different and easily identifiable color from the actual ballot). The form of the ballot shall be filed with the official responsible for providing the ballots for the election, and the District Clerk shall file a copy of the ballot with the clerk of each county having territory within the District, as soon as possible after the date hereof but in no event later than 70 days prior to the election, as provided in Section 8.37, Wisconsin Statutes. If the District prepares the ballots, they should be delivered to the municipal clerks running the election at least 25 days prior to the election, to allow the municipal clerks to comply with their obligation to provide absentee ballots under Section 7.15, Wisconsin Statutes.

The municipal clerks of the municipalities within the District shall receive applications for absentee ballots and initial the same when issued to qualified absentee voters.

Section 6. Canvass. The returns of the referendum election shall be canvassed by the Board of Canvassers of each municipality within the District. Each Board of Canvassers shall certify the returns of the referendum election to the District Clerk. The District Clerk and two other reputable citizens appointed by the District Clerk prior to the date of the referendum election shall act as the District's Board of Canvassers for this referendum election. This Board of Canvassers shall meet in open session no later than 9:00 a.m. on the Tuesday after the election to determine the result of the referendum election. The canvass shall be open to the public and the District Clerk is directed to give due notice of said meeting.

Section 7. DPI Notice. Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 121.91(3) and 120.115(1), Wisconsin Statutes, the District Clerk shall notify the Department of Public Instruction of the date of the referendum election and shall provide the Department with copies of the Revenue Limit Resolution and the Initial Resolution within 10 days after the adoption of the Revenue Limit Resolution and the Initial Resolution and shall further notify the Department of the results of the referendum within 10 days following the election using the method prescribed by the Department.

Adopted and recorded December 11, 2023.

Stacy Johnson Myers
District President

ATTEST:

Alan Tuchtenhagen
District Clerk

(SEAL)

EXHIBIT A

NOTICE TO THE ELECTORS
OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF RIVER FALLS
PIERCE AND ST. CROIX COUNTIES, WISCONSIN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the School Board of the above-named School District, at a meeting duly called, noticed, held and conducted on December 11, 2023, adopted an Initial Resolution entitled:

INITIAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN AN AMOUNT
NOT TO EXCEED \$28,000,000

Said Initial Resolution was adopted pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes to authorize a borrowing in an amount not to exceed \$28,000,000 through the issuance of general obligation bonds of the District for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school building and facility improvement project consisting of: district-wide safety, security, building systems, grounds and infrastructure improvements; construction of a bus and vehicle maintenance shop and related facilities; construction of an addition for a multi-purpose indoor facility and renovations at the High School; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment.

Copies of said Initial Resolution and a detailed breakdown of the school building and facility improvement program to be financed with the proceeds of the proposed Bond issue are on file in the District Office located at 852 East Division Street, River Falls, Wisconsin and may be inspected weekdays except holidays, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

The School Board has called for a referendum election on the Initial Resolution together with the Revenue Limit Resolution also adopted on December 11, 2023 to be held on February 20, 2024.

Dated December 11, 2023.

BY ORDER OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD
Alan Tuchtenhagen
District Clerk

EXHIBIT B

NOTICE OF ELECTION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF RIVER FALLS
FEBRUARY 20, 2024

Referendum Details

At an election in the School District of River Falls on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, the following questions will be submitted to a vote of the people:

QUESTION NUMBER I

"Shall the School District of River Falls, Pierce and St. Croix Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$1,000,000 for the 2024-2025 school year; by an additional \$1,000,000 (for a total of \$2,000,000) for the 2025-2026 school year; and by an additional \$1,000,000 (for a total of \$3,000,000 and to remain at that amount) for the 2026-2027 school year and thereafter, for recurring purposes consisting of operational expenses, including to maintain curriculum programs and services, to retain staff, and to provide for safety, security, transportation, utilities and technology?"

QUESTION NUMBER II

"Shall the School District of River Falls, Pierce and St. Croix Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$28,000,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school building and facility improvement project consisting of: district-wide safety, security, building systems, grounds and infrastructure improvements; construction of a bus and vehicle maintenance shop and related facilities; construction of an addition for a multi-purpose indoor facility and renovations at the High School; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment?"

A copy of the entire text of the resolution directing submission of the questions set forth above to the electorate and information concerning District boundaries can be obtained from the District Clerk at the School District offices located at 852 East Division Street, River Falls, Wisconsin.

Additional Information

Acceptable photo ID will be required to vote at this election. If you do not have a photo ID you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Persons with questions regarding the referendum election should contact Jamie Benson, District Administrator.

Done in the School District of River Falls
on [January 17] [January 18], 2024
Alan Tuchtenhagen
District Clerk

EXHIBIT C

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF RIVER FALLS
FEBRUARY 20, 2024

Referendum Election Details

At an election to be held in the School District of River Falls on February 20, 2024, the following proposed Revenue Limit Resolution and Initial Resolution of the School Board will be submitted to a vote of the people:

RESOLUTION NUMBER I

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SCHOOL
DISTRICT BUDGET TO EXCEED REVENUE LIMIT
FOR RECURRING PURPOSES

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the School District of River Falls, Pierce and St. Croix Counties, Wisconsin that the revenues included in the School District budget be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$1,000,000 for the 2024-2025 school year; by an additional \$1,000,000 (for a total of \$2,000,000) for the 2025-2026 school year; and by an additional \$1,000,000 (for a total of \$3,000,000 and to remain at that amount) for the 2026-2027 school year and thereafter, for recurring purposes consisting of operational expenses, including to maintain curriculum programs and services, to retain staff, and to provide for safety, security, transportation, utilities and technology.

RESOLUTION NUMBER II

INITIAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN AN AMOUNT
NOT TO EXCEED \$28,000,000

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the School District of River Falls, Pierce and St. Croix Counties, Wisconsin that there shall be issued pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$28,000,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school building and facility improvement project consisting of: district-wide safety, security, building systems, grounds and infrastructure improvements; construction of a bus and vehicle maintenance shop and related facilities; construction of an addition for a multi-purpose indoor facility and renovations at the High School; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment.

Ballot Text

The questions will appear on the ballot as follows:

QUESTION NUMBER I

"Shall the School District of River Falls, Pierce and St. Croix Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$1,000,000 for the 2024-2025 school year; by an additional \$1,000,000 (for a total of \$2,000,000) for the 2025-2026 school year; and by an additional \$1,000,000 (for a total of \$3,000,000 and to remain at that amount) for the 2026-2027 school year and thereafter, for recurring purposes consisting of operational expenses, including to maintain curriculum programs and services, to retain staff, and to provide for safety, security, transportation, utilities and technology?"

QUESTION NUMBER II

"Shall the School District of River Falls, Pierce and St. Croix Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$28,000,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school building and facility improvement project consisting of: district-wide safety, security, building systems, grounds and infrastructure improvements; construction of a bus and vehicle maintenance shop and related facilities; construction of an addition for a multi-purpose indoor facility and renovations at the High School; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment?"

Explanation

The referendum election ballot will ask District electors to vote "yes" or "no" on the referendum election questions as set forth above.

A "yes" vote on Question Number I is a vote to authorize the School District of River Falls budget to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$1,000,000 for the 2024-2025 school year; by an additional \$1,000,000 (for a total of \$2,000,000) for the 2025-2026 school year; and by an additional \$1,000,000 (for a total of \$3,000,000 and to remain at that amount) for the 2026-2027 school year and thereafter, for recurring purposes consisting of operational expenses, including to maintain curriculum programs and services, to retain staff, and to provide for safety, security, transportation, utilities and technology.

A "no" vote on Question Number I is a vote to deny the School District of River Falls the authority to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by

\$1,000,000 for the 2024-2025 school year; by an additional \$1,000,000 (for a total of \$2,000,000) for the 2025-2026 school year; and by an additional \$1,000,000 (for a total of \$3,000,000 and to remain at that amount) for the 2026-2027 school year and thereafter, for recurring purposes consisting of operational expenses, including to maintain curriculum programs and services, to retain staff, and to provide for safety, security, transportation, utilities and technology.

In the event a majority of the electors voting on Question Number I vote "yes", the District will be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$1,000,000 for the 2024-2025 school year; by an additional \$1,000,000 (for a total of \$2,000,000) for the 2025-2026 school year; and by an additional \$1,000,000 (for a total of \$3,000,000 and to remain at that amount) for the 2026-2027 school year and thereafter, for recurring purposes consisting of operational expenses, including to maintain curriculum programs and services, to retain staff, and to provide for safety, security, transportation, utilities and technology; if a majority vote "no" on Question Number I, the District will not be so authorized.

A "yes" vote on Question Number II is a vote to approve the borrowing of \$28,000,000 by the School District of River Falls through the issuance of general obligation bonds for the purpose of paying the cost of a school building and facility improvement project consisting of: district-wide safety, security, building systems, grounds and infrastructure improvements; construction of a bus and vehicle maintenance shop and related facilities; construction of an addition for a multi-purpose indoor facility and renovations at the High School; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment.

A "no" vote on Question Number II is a vote to deny the School District of River Falls the authority to borrow \$28,000,000 through the issuance of general obligation bonds for the purpose of paying the cost of a school building and facility improvement project consisting of: district-wide safety, security, building systems, grounds and infrastructure improvements; construction of a bus and vehicle maintenance shop and related facilities; construction of an addition for a multi-purpose indoor facility and renovations at the High School; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment.

In the event a majority of the electors voting on Question Number II vote "yes", the District will be authorized to undertake the school building and facility improvement program described in Question Number II and borrow not in excess of \$28,000,000 therefor; if a majority vote "no" on Question Number II set forth above, the District will not be so authorized.

Location and Hours of Polling Places

Information as to the location of the polling places is available in the District Office at 852 East Division Street, River Falls, Wisconsin.

All polling places will be open at 7:00 A.M. and will close at 8:00 P.M. All polling places are accessible to elderly and disabled voters.¹

¹ THIS NOTICE MUST CONTAIN A STATEMENT ABOUT THE ACCESSIBILITY TO THE ELDERLY AND

If you have any questions concerning your polling place, contact the municipal clerk:

(Name Of Municipal Clerk)	(Name Of Municipal Clerk)
(Address)	(Address)
(Telephone)	(Telephone)
(Office Hours)	(Office Hours)

Notice of Meeting of the School District Board of Canvassers

By no later than 9 a.m. on the Tuesday after the election, the school district board of canvassers shall convene, pursuant to the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 19.84, for the purpose of conducting the school district canvass pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 7.53(3). This meeting will be open to the public pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 19.81-89.

Information to Electors²

Upon entering the polling place and before being permitted to vote, an elector shall:

- state their name and address
- show an acceptable form of photo identification*
- sign the poll book**

***If an elector does not have acceptable photo identification, the elector may obtain a free photo ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.**

****If the elector is unable to sign the poll book due to disability, a poll worker may write the word "exempt."**

If an elector is not registered to vote, they may register to vote at the polling place serving their residence if the elector provides proof of residence.

Where ballots are distributed to electors, the initials of two inspectors must appear on the ballot.³

Upon being permitted to vote, the elector shall enter a voting booth or go to a machine and cast their ballot. The vote should not be cast in any manner other than specified here. Sample ballots or other materials to assist the elector in marking their ballot may be taken into the booth and copied. The sample ballot shall not be shown to anyone so as to reveal how the ballot is marked.

An elector who is a parent or guardian may be accompanied by the elector's minor child or minor ward.

An election official may inform the elector of the proper manner for casting a vote but the official may not advise or indicate a particular voting choice.

DISABLED FOR EACH POLLING PLACE. IF ANY POLLING PLACES ARE NOT ACCESSIBLE OR IN COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW, CONTACT THE ELECTIONS COMMISSION.

² This section should be adapted depending upon what type of voting procedure is used.

³ Remove this sentence if only touch screen voting system(s) are used.

Assistance for Voting

An elector may select an individual to assist in casting their vote if the elector declares to the presiding official that they are unable to read, have difficulty reading, writing, or understanding English, or that due to disability are unable to cast their ballot. The selected individual rendering assistance may not be the elector's employer or an agent of that employer or an officer or agent of a labor organization which represents the elector.

Where Paper Ballots are Used

On referendum questions, the elector shall make a mark (X) in the square next to "yes" if in favor of the question, or the elector shall make a mark (X) in the square next to "no" if opposed to the question.

Where Optical Scan Voting is Used

On referendum questions, the elector shall fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to "yes" if in favor of the question, or the elector shall fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to "no" if opposed to the question.

When using an *electronic ballot marking device* (“*Automark*,” “*ExpressVote*,” *Clear Access* or “*ImageCast Evolution-ICE*”) to mark an **optical scan ballot** on referendum questions, the elector shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select "yes" if in favor of the question, or the elector shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select "no" if opposed to the question.

Where Touch Screen Voting is Used

On referendum questions, the elector shall touch the screen at "yes" if in favor of the question, or the elector shall touch the screen at "no" if opposed to the question.

After Voting the Ballot

After an official **paper ballot** is marked, it shall be folded so the inside marks do not show, but so the printed endorsements and inspectors' initials on the outside do show. The elector shall deposit the voted ballot in the ballot box or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit and shall leave the polling place promptly.

After an official **optical scan ballot** is marked, it shall be inserted in the security sleeve, so the marks do not show. The elector may insert the ballot in the voting device and discard the sleeve or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit. If a central count system is used, the elector shall insert the ballot in the ballot box and discard the sleeve or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit. The elector shall leave the polling place promptly.

After an official **touch screen ballot** is cast, the elector shall leave the polling place promptly.

Spoiling Ballots

If an elector spoils a **paper or optical scan** ballot, they shall return it to an election official who shall issue another ballot in its place, but not more than three ballots shall be issued to any one elector. If the ballot has not been initialed by two inspectors or is defective in any other way, the elector shall return it to the election official who shall issue a proper ballot in its place.⁴

The elector may spoil a **touch screen** ballot at the voting station before the ballot is cast.

⁴ Remove this sentence if only touch screen voting system(s) are used.

The following is a sample of the official ballot:

Official Referendum Ballot

February 20, 2024

Notice to Voters: If you are voting on Election Day, your ballot must be initialed by two election inspectors. If you are voting absentee, your ballot must be initialed by the municipal clerk or deputy clerk. Your ballot may not be counted without initials. (See end of ballot for initials).

Instructions to Voters

If you make a mistake on your ballot or have a question, ask an election inspector for help. (Absentee voters: contact your municipal clerk).

To vote in favor of a question, make an "X" or other mark in the square next to "Yes," like this:

To vote against a question, make an "X" or other mark in the square next to "No," like this:

School District

Question Number I: Shall the School District of River Falls, Pierce and St. Croix Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$1,000,000 for the 2024-2025 school year; by an additional \$1,000,000 (for a total of \$2,000,000) for the 2025-2026 school year; and by an additional \$1,000,000 (for a total of \$3,000,000 and to remain at that amount) for the 2026-2027 school year and thereafter, for recurring purposes consisting of operational expenses, including to maintain curriculum programs and services, to retain staff, and to provide for safety, security, transportation, utilities and technology?

Yes

No

Question Number II: Shall the School District of River Falls, Pierce and St. Croix Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$28,000,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school building and facility improvement project consisting of: district-wide safety, security, building systems, grounds and infrastructure improvements; construction of a bus and vehicle maintenance shop and related facilities; construction of an addition for a multi-purpose indoor facility and renovations at the High School; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment?

Yes

No

Persons with questions regarding the referendum election should contact Jamie Benson, District Administrator.

Done in the School District of River Falls
on [February 14] [February 15], 2024
Alan Tuchtenhagen
District Clerk

EXHIBIT D

Official Referendum Ballot

February 20, 2024

Notice to Voters: If you are voting on Election Day, your ballot must be initialed by two election inspectors. If you are voting absentee, your ballot must be initialed by the municipal clerk or deputy clerk. Your ballot may not be counted without initials. (See end of ballot for initials).

Instructions to Voters

If you make a mistake on your ballot or have a question, ask an election inspector for help. (Absentee voters: contact your municipal clerk).

To vote in favor of a question, make an "X" or other mark in the square next to "Yes," like this:

To vote against a question, make an "X" or other mark in the square next to "No," like this:

School District

Question Number I: Shall the School District of River Falls, Pierce and St. Croix Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$1,000,000 for the 2024-2025 school year; by an additional \$1,000,000 (for a total of \$2,000,000) for the 2025-2026 school year; and by an additional \$1,000,000 (for a total of \$3,000,000 and to remain at that amount) for the 2026-2027 school year and thereafter, for recurring purposes consisting of operational expenses, including to maintain curriculum programs and services, to retain staff, and to provide for safety, security, transportation, utilities and technology?

Yes

No

Question Number II: Shall the School District of River Falls, Pierce and St. Croix Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$28,000,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school building and facility improvement project consisting of: district-wide safety, security, building systems, grounds and infrastructure improvements; construction of a bus and vehicle maintenance shop and related facilities; construction of an addition for a multi-purpose indoor facility and renovations at the High School; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment?

Yes

No

(Reverse Side of Ballot)

OFFICIAL REFERENDUM BALLOT
February 20, 2024
for
School District of River Falls, Wisconsin

Municipality and ward number(s): _____

Ballot issued by

Initials of Inspectors of Election

Absentee Ballot issued by

Initials of Municipal Clerk or
Deputy Clerk
(If issued by SVDs, both SVDs must initial.)

Certification of Voter Assistance

I certify that I marked or read aloud this ballot at the request and direction of a voter who is authorized under Wis. Stat. §6.82 to receive assistance.

Signature of assistor
