

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WAUZEKA-STEUBEN

REFERENDUM 2022 INFORMATION

In 2020, the School District of Wauzeka-Steuben asked voters for approval to exceed state imposed revenue limits for a specified period of three years. The voters in the school district approved the referendum by a 389-180 vote. The referendum in 2020 was necessary to close a budget gap, since the state funding formula depends on resident student enrollment to provide revenues for the school district to operate.

That referendum provided the district with revenues to continue to operate at then current levels, and to provide dollars to address some facility issues, such as roof sections of the school. School officials targeted to maintain a tax levy mill rate similar to that of the 2018-19 school year, which was \$12.71 per thousand of property value. The actual tax rate for 2020-21 was \$12.99, and for 2021-22 was \$11.42.

The 2020 referendum revenue authority has a sunset of next year, 2022-23. Without the approval of voters, the state imposed revenue limits will drop off significantly. Therefore, school district officials have begun discussions on how to prepare for years beyond 2022-23.

Considering current enrollment trends and current levy restrictions from the state's revenue cap formula, financial projections have been developed to help plan a strategy to close the budget gap. A point that needs to be emphasized is that within these projections, there is no additional programs or staffing included that would have a negative impact on the budget. The plans are to maintain current staffing and programming.

Working with conservative assumptions, it appears that with the support of another school district referendum, school operations can be sustained, and the tax rate can be maintained in the neighborhood of \$12.90.

School District officials will be holding a brief informational meeting on Monday, May 16th at 6:00 PM in the school library. More information about the possible referendum will be shared with community members, and this will afford folks the opportunity to ask questions and offer suggestions.

As planning develops further, more information—such as a “Frequently Asked Questions” page will be added to this website.