

(3-6-19 District Administrator's Corner article)

As many of you are aware, the River Valley School District will be asking the public to vote on an operational referendum on April 2, 2019. An operational referendum asks permission of voters to exceed the State of Wisconsin imposed revenue limit placed on school districts for the purpose of funding school operations.

This is NOT a capital project referendum, which is designed to provide school districts the opportunity to take on debt to build or remodel facilities. Again, no building or remodeling projects are associated with the upcoming River Valley operational referendum.

The operational referendum on the ballot for April 2 asks voters to approve levying additional revenues over the next three years to maintain current levels of operations within the River Valley School District. This referendum does not add any new or additional positions to our current staff or program offerings for our students. If approved, this referendum allows us to maintain our current course and co-curricular offerings to the students we serve. At the same time, we anticipate staff reductions associated with declining enrollment.

Operational referendums have become common across Wisconsin, particularly for rural school districts. Since 2015, many communities in southwestern Wisconsin have passed operational referendums for their school districts. Some of these districts include Richland Center, Wisconsin Heights, Riverdale, Weston, Highland, Iowa Grant, Lodi, Mineral Point, Darlington, Boscobel, Pecatonica, Potosi, Cuba City, and Shullsburg.

Over the last two years, across the state of Wisconsin, there have been 115 operational referendums. Of those 115 referendum, 94 have passed. Approximately 80% of the 115 operational referendums have been in districts identified as rural.

If you would like more information about the upcoming referendum, I encourage you to review our website at <https://www.rvschools.org/district/april22019referendumelection.cfm>. The website includes detailed information about the financial implications of the referendum as well as projected tax implications.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Wermuth, District Administrator
River Valley School District