

# River Valley School District Financial Data and Projections

**Board Workshop** 

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# Agenda

- Basics of Wisconsin School Finance
- Surrounding Area Mill Rate Comparison
- History of River Valley Mill Rate
- Operational vs. Capital Referendum
- Options for Mill Rate Impact
  - Isolate Debt Mill Rate
  - All Inclusive Mill Rate



# Basics of Wisconsin School Finance

#### Revenue Limit

# Less: State Aid

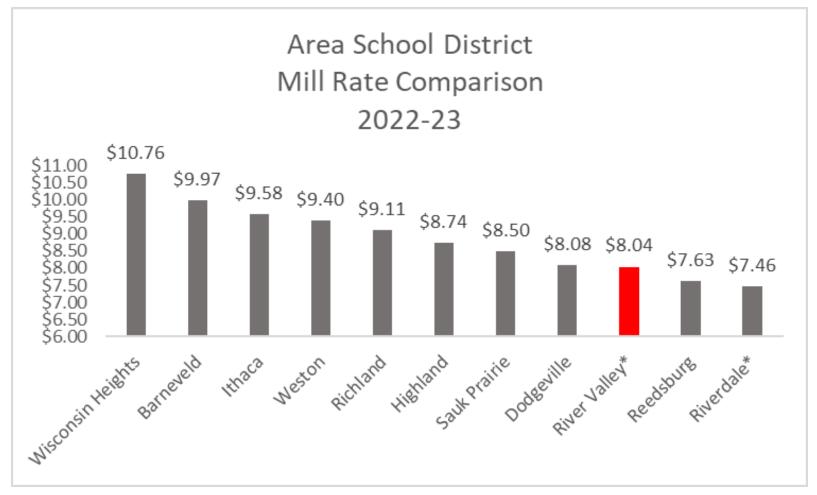
Equals: Local Property Tax Levy

- In fall of 1993, Wisconsin legislature instituted a control on revenue a school district is entitled to receive from two sources:
  - 1. General State Aid
  - Select Local Levies
- Based upon 3-year average resident enrollment multiplied by a per pupil amount
- Wisconsin Biennial Budget determines maximum revenue per resident pupil

- Wisconsin Biennial Budget determines the amount of revenue available for public schools
- Distribution is based on the following factors:
  - Property value per student
  - 2. Spending per student
- Reimbursements at Various levels: primary, secondary, tertiary

 The revenue limit calculation (less) state aid (equals) local property tax levy

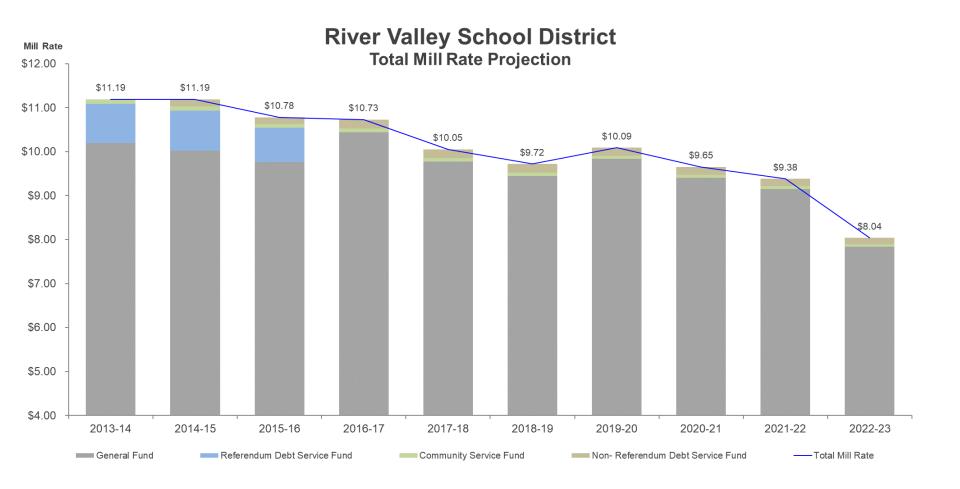
# Surrounding Area Mill Rate Comparison



<sup>\*</sup>Denotes a District that does not have existing referendum approved debt as part of the property tax levy



# History of River Valley SD Mill Rate





#### Basics of Wisconsin School Finance

State law allows additional revenue authority above the allowable revenue maximum through exemptions. The two most popular approaches are through referendum.

#### Operational Referendum

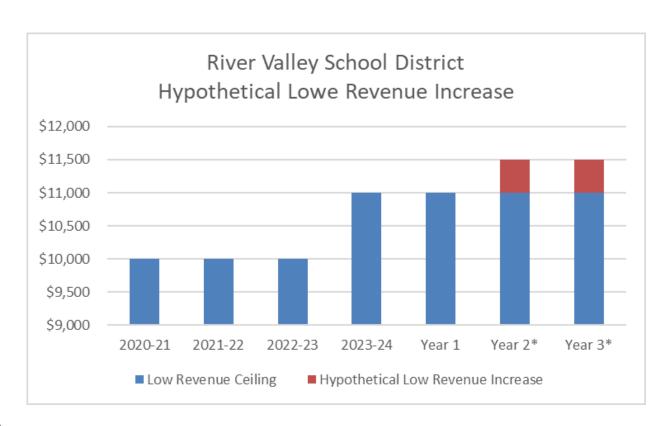
- A school district may ask voters to exceed the allowable maximum revenue through a voter approved referendum to support operational expenses
  - Recurring Referendum never stops
  - Non-Recurring Referendum exists for a defined period of time

#### Capital Referendum

- A school district may ask voters to exceed the allowable maximum revenue through a voter approved referendum to support capital expenses
  - Allows the district to borrow funds immediately and pay back over time
  - Alleviates the tax burden of a long term capital asset over a longer period of time

## Impact of Failed Operational Referendum

Currently under Wisconsin State Law, any School District that has failed an Operational Referendum does not receive any benefit from increases to the Low Revenue Ceiling for a period of 3 years.

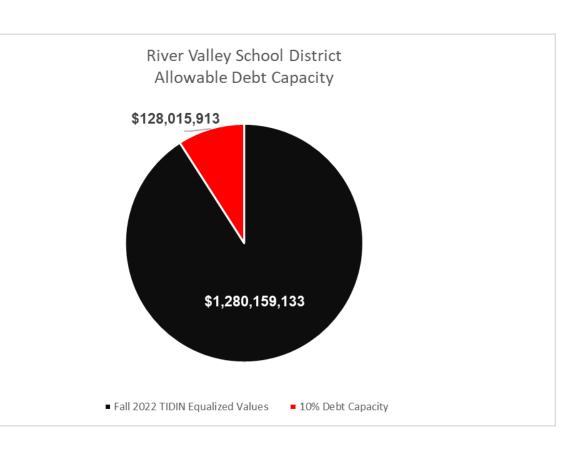




<sup>\*</sup>Hypothetical example of low revenue ceiling increase in 2025-27 biennial budget

# **Debt Capacity**

- A Public School District may have outstanding debt less than or equal to 10% of their equalized values at any point in time.
  - For the River Valley School District that would be \$128,015,913 as of November 1, 2022
- As of June 30, 2023 the River Valley School District has \$593,672 outstanding long term debt obligations with the State Trust Fund, allowing for up to \$127,422,241 of additional debt



### Options for Mill Rate Impact to Consider

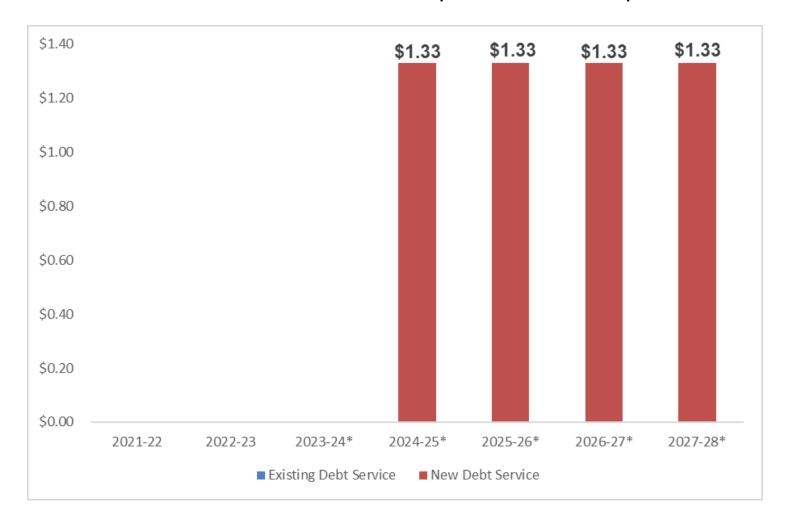
- There are two common approaches to projecting the Mill Rate Impact for a referendum
  - 1. Isolate the levy for existing debt (in this case \$0) and use that as the base to project future impacts
  - Project the overall mill rate to include the general fund levy to

The following examples assume a \$20 million capital referendum and 0% property value increase



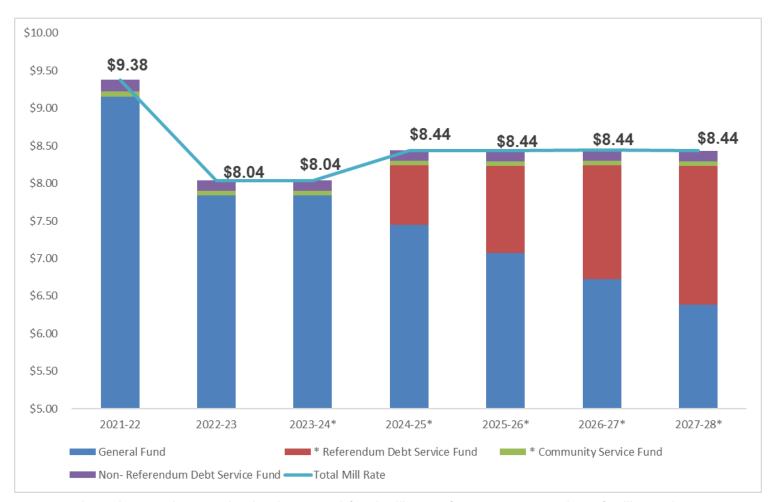
# Isolated Mill Rate Projection

The Illustration below assumes an example \$20 million capital referendum



# Inclusive Mill Rate Projection

The Illustration below assumes an example \$20 million capital referendum



<sup>\*</sup>Future years are projected assuming a reduction in general fund mill rate of 5% per year and are for illustration purposes only



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