

Learn More About the Referendum

Visit our website: <https://www.rvschools.org/>

Call us to arrange a meeting or ask questions: 608-588-2551

Connect with us on Facebook: @RiverValleySchoolDistrictWisconsin

Request a speaker to visit your organization, group, or event:

<https://www.rvschools.org/district/operationalreferendumapril12025.cfm>



Join Us for Referendum Presentations

- Tuesday, 3/4/2025: 5:00 pm at Grandma Mary's Café Event Hall (175 US-14, Arena)
- Monday, 3/10/2025: 6:30 pm at RV Early Learning Center Gymnasium (1370 Cherry St., Plain)
- Tuesday, 3/11/2025: 5:30 pm at Lutheran Church Community Hall (250 W. Richland St., Lone Rock)
- Tuesday, 3/18/2025: 5:30 pm at RV Middle School Library (660 W. Daley St., Spring Green)

**REMEMBER TO VOTE
ON
TUESDAY, APRIL 1**

Referendum Overview

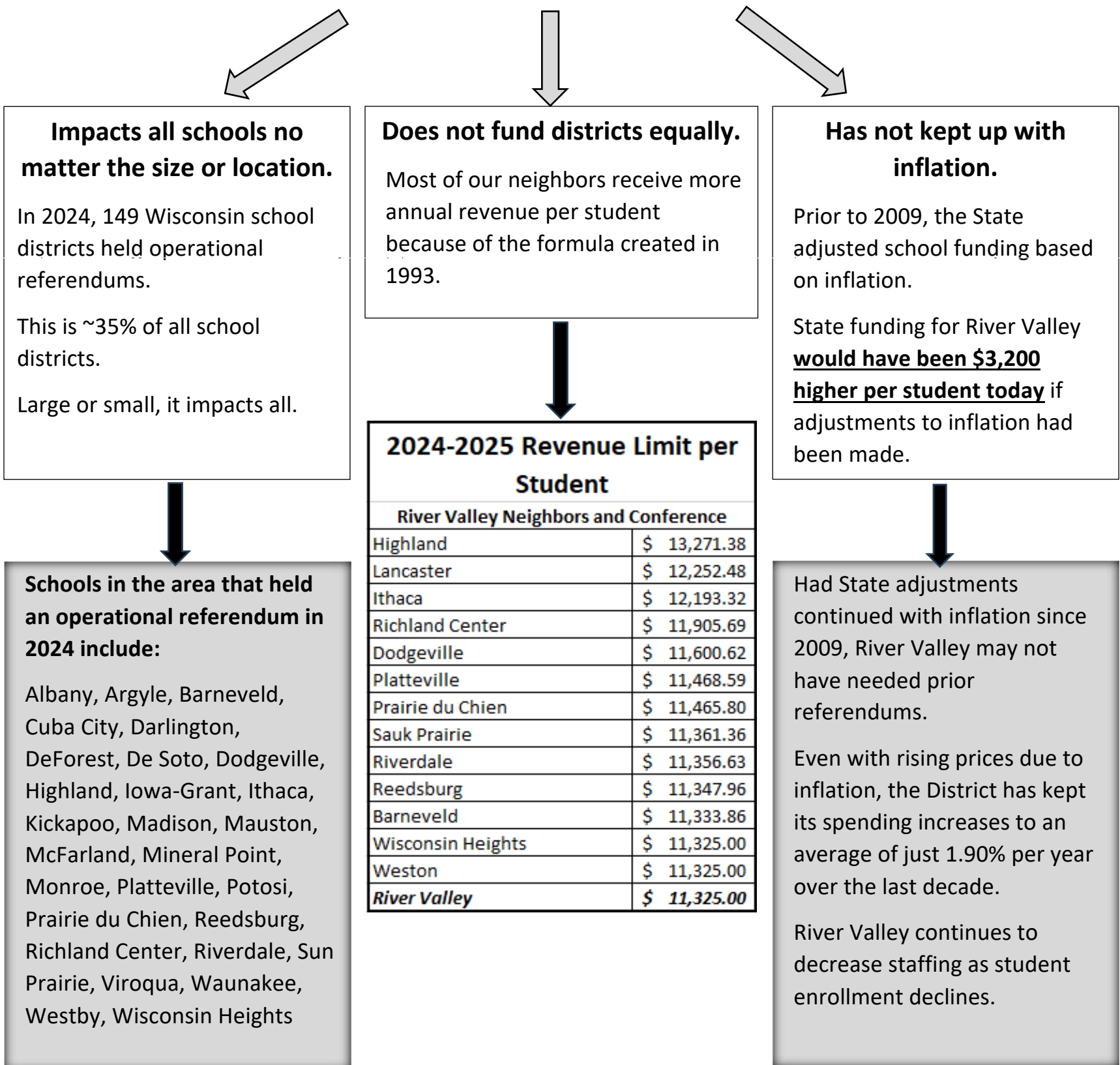
- The River Valley School District is asking voters for continued tax funding over the next 3 years to **maintain existing educational courses, programs, services, and moderate class sizes.**
- These funds are not for new buildings or facilities.

- Ballot language for April 1, 2025

Shall the River Valley School District, Sauk, Iowa, Richland and Dane Counties, Wisconsin, be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$4,150,000 for the 2025-2026 school year, by \$4,750,000 for the 2026-2027 school year, and by \$5,200,000 for the 2027-2028 school year for non-recurring purposes consisting of paying the costs of maintaining educational programs and maintenance of the District?

Why do school districts need operational referendums?

The State of Wisconsin funding formula for schools...



Why does River Valley need an operational referendum?

- **Prior Referendums**

- The River Valley community passed 3-year operational referendums in 2019 and again in 2022 to preserve existing programs, courses, services, and manageable class sizes.
 - The 2022 operational referendum expires at the end of this school year.

- **Cost Reductions**

- At the end of this school year, River Valley will close the Early Learning Center in Plain. All students will attend on the campus in Spring Green.
 - Moving to a 3-building configuration increases efficiencies throughout the District and saves \$1,000,000 annually.
 - These savings help reduce the amount needed for the operational referendum, however this only covers a portion of our projected deficits.

- **State Funding Formula**

- Despite significant cuts made to the district budget over the last decade, the state funding formula isn't enough to maintain existing programs, courses, services and class sizes offered to students.

How much will the operational referendum cost?

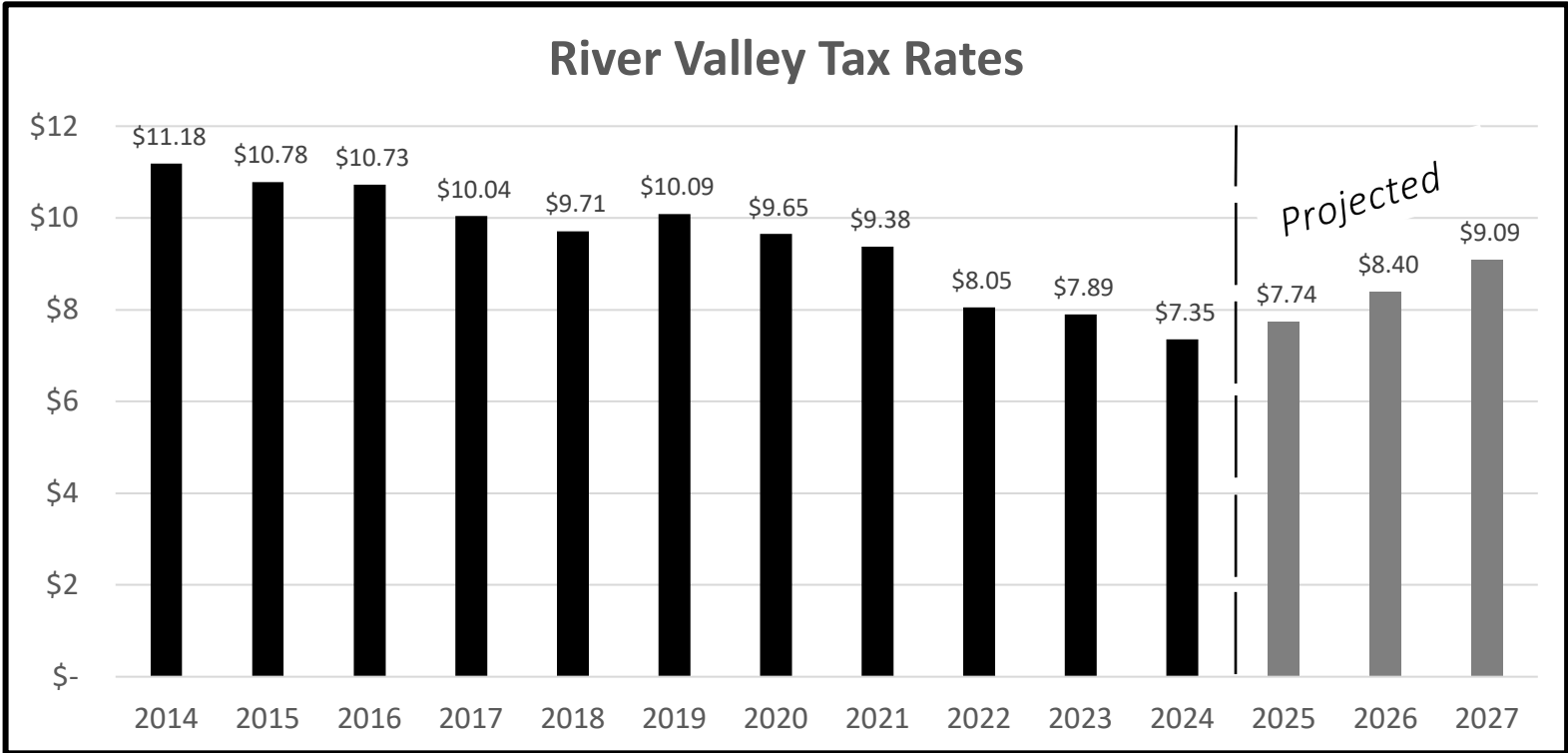
In order to maintain existing programs, courses, services, and class sizes, River Valley needs to close a funding gap of \$14.1 million over three years.

Current Tax Rate	Projected Tax Rate with Referendum		
2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
\$7.35	\$7.74	\$8.40	\$9.09

Approximate Annual Tax Increase per \$100,000 in Property Value			
2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	
\$39	\$66	\$69	

Approximate Monthly Tax Increase per \$100,000 in Property Value			
2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	
\$3.25	\$5.50	\$5.75	

Surrounding District	2024-2025 Tax Rate
Ithaca	\$10.90
Highland	\$10.71
Wisconsin Heights	\$9.43
Weston	\$9.27
Richland Center	\$8.76
Barneveld	\$8.41
Sauk Prairie	\$7.41
River Valley	\$7.35
Reedsburg	\$7.00
Riverdale	\$6.43
Dodgeville	\$5.80



Per State Statute, the River Valley School District is not allowed to advocate for or against a referendum.

River Valley has worked hard to prioritize students' needs.

River Valley continues to offer a variety of courses at the Middle School and High School, while keeping class size at a level that supports student learning.

- Programs offered in addition to English, Math, Science and Social Studies to students at the High School include:
 - Art
 - Band
 - Automotive
 - Agriculture
 - Health & Physical Education
 - Spanish
 - Choir
 - Woodworking
 - Animal Science
 - Financial Literacy (Required)
 - Business
 - Welding
 - Youth Apprenticeships
 - Dual Credit Classes (8)
 - AP Classes (12)

River Valley ranks 3rd in overall accountability score in comparison to neighbors and conference schools. See chart below.

2023-2024 DISTRICT REPORT CARD SCORES FROM WISCONSIN DPI			
RIVER VALLEY NEIGHBORS & CONFERENCE SCHOOLS			
Wisconsin Heights	81.1	Dodgeville	69.7
Barneveld	75.8	Reedsburg	67.0
★★★★☆ River Valley	74.1	Sauk Prairie	66.3
Platteville	72.5	Highland	64.4
Richland Center	72.0	Riverdale	63.5
Prairie du Chien	71.2	Ithaca	61.4
Lancaster	70.4	Weston	59.9

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) produces report cards for every publicly funded school & district in Wisconsin as part of the state accountability system. These report cards include data on multiple indicators for multiple years across four Priority Areas. In addition, the report cards provide course and program participation information for grades 9-12 for public schools and districts. RIVER VALLEY RANKS 3RD OUT OF 14 AREA SCHOOLS.	ACCOUNTABILITY RATING SCALE	
	83-100	Significantly Exceeds Expectations ★★★★★★
	70-82.9	Exceeds Expectations ★★★★★☆
	58-69.9	Meets Expectations ★★★★★
	48-57.9	Meets Few Expectations ★★★★★
0-47.9	Fails to Meet Expectations ★☆☆☆☆	

What happens if this operational referendum fails?

If the April 2025 referendum does not pass, the district will move forward into the 2025-26 school year. However, doing so would leave the district in a financially fragile position.

Looking ahead, the District would need to put an operational referendum on the ballot in April 2026 and could be forced to make substantial budget reductions. These reductions would impact course offerings, programs, services, class sizes and other essential areas that contribute to the success of our schools.

As the District navigates this process, we will continue to provide updates and opportunities for community engagement. We encourage all residents to stay informed, ask questions, and participate in the discussions that will shape the future of our schools.

OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM VOTE ON APRIL 1

Per State Statute, the River Valley School District is not allowed to advocate for or against a referendum.

RIVER

VALLEY

River Valley School District
660 W. Daley St.
Spring Green, WI 53588

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