



Understanding the PSD April 2, 2024 Referendum

<p style="text-align: center;">Why is there an April 2, 2024 Referendum vote?</p>	<p><i>WI educational funding once above national averages is now below the national average (and dropping).</i> Also, PSD is experiencing declining enrollment. Thus, the district has had to spend its 'rainy day fund' (i.e., fund balance), depleting our reserves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This year PSD is running a \$900,000 deficit budget. ● Our 'rainy day fund' will be depleted by the end of 2027 without community assistance. ● We project enrollment to decrease by another 25 students in fall 2024 resulting in an additional loss of \$280,000 in revenue. <p>*Flat funding from the state 6 of the last 8 years w/o any increase per pupil aid and state funding falling well behind inflation (see postcard attached) makes it impossible to sustain the programming, people, and production without the April 2, 2024 Operating Levy Referendum Question.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Revenue is not tied to inflation.</p>	<p>The postcard mailed out last week displayed how state educational funding is not tied to inflation. The estimated revenue lost is approximately \$4 Million per year (see postcard graph).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Operating costs do not go away. Regardless of whether 10, 20, or 30 students are in a classroom: facility costs to light, heat, cool, clean, and staff our facilities remain the same. ● Transportation and meal preparation costs remain.
<p style="text-align: center;">What?</p>	<p>The Prescott School Board approved a referendum question for April 2, 2024. This question will ask taxpayers for an additional \$1.2 million in operating funds annually (recurring) <i>to sustain the PSD Programs, Performance, and High-Qualified Staff within the Prescott School District.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recurring means the \$1.2 Million will be added to the budget each year. As operation costs don't go away
<p style="text-align: center;">If it passes?</p>	<p>It will be an amazing support for our staff, students, and community! We will be able to continue the amazing academic achievement we have seen in recent years...AND allow PSD to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invest in retaining and recruiting High-Qualified staff ● Provide market-competitive salary and benefits ● Sustain outstanding academic performance ● Continue to provide a wide array of educational programming.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Mill Rate Comparison with MBC & Neighboring Districts*</p> <p>Other districts are also seeking referendums that will likely affect their current mill rate.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mill Rate Comparison MBC & Neighbors</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">District-Mill Rate</th> <th>2021-22</th> <th>2022-23</th> <th style="background-color: #90EE90;">2023-24</th> <th>Change-Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SCC</td> <td>10.2</td> <td>9.2</td> <td>9.2</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #00FFFF;">Hudson</td> <td>9.93</td> <td>8.84</td> <td>8.2</td> <td>-0.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #FFFF00;">Prescott</td> <td style="background-color: #FFFF00;">10.23</td> <td style="background-color: #FFFF00;">8.55</td> <td style="background-color: #FFFF00;">7.7</td> <td style="background-color: #FFFF00;">-0.85</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Somerset</td> <td>8.27</td> <td>7.91</td> <td>7.2</td> <td>-0.71</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Altoona</td> <td>8.33</td> <td>8.29</td> <td>6.9</td> <td style="background-color: #FFFF00;">-1.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amery</td> <td>7.98</td> <td>7.72</td> <td>6.9</td> <td>-0.82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Osceola</td> <td>7.81</td> <td>6.86</td> <td>6.9</td> <td>0.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Baldwin-Woodville</td> <td>7.11</td> <td>6.55</td> <td>6.8</td> <td>0.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ellsworth</td> <td>8.07</td> <td>7.1</td> <td>6.7</td> <td>-0.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #00FFFF;">River Falls</td> <td>7.87</td> <td>6.85</td> <td>6.6</td> <td>-0.25</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	District-Mill Rate	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Change-Amount	SCC	10.2	9.2	9.2	0	Hudson	9.93	8.84	8.2	-0.64	Prescott	10.23	8.55	7.7	-0.85	Somerset	8.27	7.91	7.2	-0.71	Altoona	8.33	8.29	6.9	-1.39	Amery	7.98	7.72	6.9	-0.82	Osceola	7.81	6.86	6.9	0.04	Baldwin-Woodville	7.11	6.55	6.8	0.25	Ellsworth	8.07	7.1	6.7	-0.4	River Falls	7.87	6.85	6.6	-0.25
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<p style="text-align: center;">But what about the facility referendum we just passed?</p> <p><i>Bonds are for buildings and Levies are for learning.</i></p>	<p>School funding is divided among designated buckets. Money can only be used for what it is initially designated. The facility bond dollars are being invested at Malone Elementary, the Intermediate and Middle School. This work continues into the summer of 2024. The investment by our community in 2022 is providing generational upgrades to our facilities and allow PSD to invest in more energy-efficient mechanical systems. This will save on future operating costs - saving taxpayers' money.</p> <p>Over the last three years, the School Board has been fiscally responsible saving \$1.4 million of taxpayers' money by paying off high-interest bonds early. The dollars being used to prepay high-interest bonds cannot be used for learning or operations.</p>																																																							

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<p>If the referendum doesn't pass?</p>	<p><u>We will be required to eliminate over \$1.2 Million from 2024-25</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This will impact and require decisions on following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ In-town busing○ Reduce any non-required educational programs○ Class sizes / sections above current board / Admin Targets○ Staff Professional Development & travel○ Increase meal prices to close gap○ Salary Freeze across the board○ Benefit changes & modifications○ Sell District excess property○ Review Athletic & Arts programs & funding○ No textbook or curricular updates○ Other <p>Without the additional funding, the district will be forced to make cuts to non-required educational programs, reducing extracurricular options, and increasing class sizes above current school board targets of 20-24 students per section.</p>
<p>What can I do?</p>	<p>*Attend the Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday February 21, 2024. Time: 6:00 pm. Location: Prescott HS Library Who: BAIRD FINANCIAL Topic: Educational Funding 101 and its impact on PSD</p> <p>This presentation will also be recorded.</p> <p>*Educate yourself so that when community members speak, you can accurately address questions.</p> <p>Stay up-to-date by visiting the April 2, 2024 Website page</p> 

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