

WHAT ABOUT HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS?

The School Board bid out health insurance to various providers last school year. The School Board accepted the low bid from Medica Health Insurance, replacing WEA Health Insurance effective July 1, 2007. The involvement of the School District employees was **essential** in making a change of health insurance carriers. The people of the Prescott School District can be assured that health insurance was bid out and is providing some short-term relief to rapidly rising health insurance costs.

OFFICIAL REFERENDUM BALLOT QUESTION

“Shall the following Resolution be approved: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET TO EXCEED REVENUE LIMIT FOR FOUR YEARS BY \$1,120,000 PER YEAR FOR NON-RECURRING PURPOSES. Be it resolved by the School Board of the School District of Prescott, Pierce County, Wisconsin, that the revenues included in the School District budget beginning with the 2008-2009 school year and ending with the 2011-2012 school year be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$1,120,000 per year, for non-recurring purposes?”

POLLING PLACES AND HOURS - TUESDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2007

Municipality	Polling Address	Regular Polling Hours	Absentee Ballot Contact
City of Prescott	Prescott City Hall 800 Borner Street Prescott, WI 54021	7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Jayne Brand (715) 262-5544
Town of Clifton	Clifton Town Hall W11705 County Rd FF River Falls, WI 54022	7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Judy Clement-Lee (715) 426-6332
Town of Oak Grove	Oak Grove Town Hall N5495 County Rd QQ Prescott, WI 54021	7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Jim Allen (715) 262-5226
Town of Diamond Bluff	Diamond Bluff Town Hall W9870 290th Ave. Hager City, WI 54014	7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Bob Schlichting (715) 792-2526
Town of Trimbelle	Trimbelle Town Hall W9115 501st Ave. Ellsworth, WI 54011	7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Mary Kees (715) 273-5860

INFORMATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Roger Hulne	262-5782
Peggy Kosin	262-3428
Amanda Matzek	262-5638
Kevin McCarthy	262-4406
Jim Packard	262-3289
Jim Reichert	262-5985
Jeff Ryan	262-3159
Steve Shaw	262-5010
Melissa Timmins	262-5495
Yvonne Zarnstorff	262-4273

PURPOSE OF THE INFORMATION COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Information Committee is to provide Prescott School District residents with accurate information about the November 6th Referendum.

**Second Public
Informational Meeting**

Tuesday, October 30th

Meeting to be held in the
High School library
at 7:00 p.m.



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**Information About The November 6th
REPLACEMENT Levy Cap Override Referendum**

**WHAT IS THE REFERENDUM
QUESTION?**

Voters will be asked to consider increasing the current \$700,000 levy cap override by \$420,000 for a total of \$1,120,000 per year. The **replacement** levy cap override would begin with the 2008-2009 school year and end with the 2011-2012 school year.

**WHAT HAPPENED TO THE
\$700,000 LEVY CAP OVERRIDE
THAT PASSED IN 2002?**

It has been put to great use to fund needed programs and activities over the past five years. The 2007-2008 school year is the final year this levy is in effect.

**WHY IS THE LEVY CAP
OVERRIDE NEEDED?**

The levy cap override is needed due to rising costs and to maintain current programs important to the education of students and the community.

The State of Wisconsin caps the amount of money a school district can raise through a combination of state aid and local property taxes. The number of students per taxable property valuation determines the amount of state aid districts receive. If state aid decreases,

property taxes may go up in order to make up the difference.

The revenue caps first took effect in 1993 when Prescott was a low spending school district. Prescott will **still** be below the state average in per pupil spending if the levy cap override is approved.

For the past five years Prescott's revenue cap has been limited to an average increase of 2.8% per year. However, Prescott's expenses have increased by an average of 4% per year. This leaves a **negative 1.2% gap** between revenues and expenses, despite District cost cutting measures. The costs of needed items such as fuel, electricity, natural gas, and health insurance are rising much faster than the amount of increase allowed by the State.

**HOW WAS THE FIGURE OF
\$1,120,000 CHOSEN FOR THE
REFERENDUM?**

A special Budget and Finance Committee was formed, consisting of 13 community and school volunteers. The purpose of the committee was to recommend a replacement levy cap override and allow for stable budgets over the next few years. It presented a recommendation to the School Board on

May 23, 2007.

The committee examined the various components of the negative 1.2% gap between the revenue cap limits and actual expenditures. For the current school year the committee recommended steep budget cuts that led to \$226,750 in permanent cuts. It also recommended a \$420,000 increase in the current levy cap override to \$1,120,000 **to prevent any further cuts** into the meat of the school's academic and extra curricular programs. Since it is very difficult to predict future school budgets a four year time period was recommended by the committee.

**WHAT WILL THE \$420,000
INCREASE COST TAXPAYERS?**

Property Value	Tax Increase
\$100,000	\$51.00
\$200,000	\$102.00
\$300,000	\$153.00
\$400,000	\$204.00
\$500,000	\$255.00

*Based on an estimated 5% yearly increase in property valuation

The increase would take place on the property tax bill payable in 2009.

Better Schools Build Better Communities.

WHAT AREAS COULD BE AFFECTED IF THE LEVY CAP OVERRIDE IS NOT SUCCESSFUL?

The following could be the result if the referendum is not approved. The School Board has not acted on these, but will be forced to consider them in the next four years should the levy cap override be rejected.

Larger class sizes in the high school = 30-35 students in each class*	\$60,000
Elimination of reading teacher who provides reading instruction and leadership for the entire School District*	\$45,000
Fewer elective offerings at the High School in many areas including English, science, math, and social studies*	\$50,000
Fewer opportunities for students with the elimination of a band teacher*	\$50,000
Fewer opportunities for students with the elimination of an art teacher*	\$69,000
Elimination of Guidance Counselor, reducing services to students*	\$48,000
Elimination of Gifted & Talented Program*	\$32,000
Severe reduction or elimination of High School and Middle School athletics and extra curricular offerings (i.e. Forensics, Drama) • This amount is the total cost of all athletics and extra curricular activities	\$211,475
Elimination of part-time High School secretary*	\$16,000
Elimination of all regular Malone Elementary education aides, who provide additional education services for needy students*	\$92,000
Elimination of S.A.G.E. Program, resulting in larger class sizes in grades K-3* • S.A.G.E Program = 15 students to 1 teacher in grades K-3. • Elimination of the S.A.G.E program could result in class sizes of 28-31 students in grades K-3, which is already the case in grades 4 & 5. • The state contributes an additional \$120,000 to this program	\$135,000
Elimination of all city bus routes, causing safety concerns*	\$57,000
Replacement of textbooks, resulting in shortage of books and using outdated information	\$65,025
Reduction of the building and maintenance budget, leading to higher future costs	\$50,000
Elimination of the Destination Imagination Program*	\$8,500
Elimination of all educational field trips, which enhance learning	\$27,000
Elimination of computer replacement budget, limiting the ability to keep education current to meet today's needs	\$29,000
Elimination of yearly replacement of aging school buses	\$75,000
Total	\$1,120,000
* Cost listed includes salaries and benefits	

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THESE PRECEEDING CUTS ARE MADE?

The quality of education in the Prescott School District will significantly decline and make us less competitive with area school districts that would offer a wider variety of school programs and extra curricular activities. Parents may choose to open enroll their students out of our District or enroll them in private schools. This would take funds away from our District, putting further strains on available resources. Our students and community would not have access to the quality of education they need to compete with other students in Wisconsin and the world.

Fewer students means less State aid resulting in higher local property taxes.

WHAT PERMANENT CUTS WERE MADE IN PAST SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGETS ?

These cuts were made even with previous levy cap overrides.

Permanent Cuts 2007-2008	
High School detention Supervision	\$3,550
Rent at the First National Bank - Moved Early Childhood to Malone	\$12,000
One first grade teacher*	\$58,000
High School math teacher*	\$44,000
Elementary EBD teacher*	\$65,500
Half-time LD teacher*	\$23,700
Reduced a High School technology teacher from full time to part time*	\$20,000
Total	\$226,750
Permanent Cuts 2003-2004	
Part-time fourth grade teacher*	\$10,780
Third grade teacher*	\$61,925
Middle School aide*	\$28,278
Reduced Middle School vocal*	\$9,051
One librarian	\$47,615
Vocational agriculture teacher*	\$64,725
Half-time Middle School reading teacher*	\$19,000
German teacher*	\$14,696
High School tutor services*	\$29,708
Copy aide*	\$13,000
Pupil travel	\$2,900
Employee travel	\$2,900
One city bus route	\$9,000
Athletic Director (filled by current staff)	\$56,700
Total	\$370,278
Permanent Cuts 2001-2002	
Two special education aides*	\$23,000
Transferred a regular aide to special ed vacancy*	\$14,000
Curriculum director reduced to 60 days*	\$23,000
Late bus*	\$10,000
German teacher reduced to one period*	\$35,000
Computer technician*	\$31,000
Total	\$136,000
Grand Total Of \$733,028 In Permanent Cuts	

***Cost listed includes salaries and benefits.**