

2026 REPLACEMENT OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM



On November 3, 2026, voters in the Fox Point-Bayside School District will be asked to consider a \$3.95 million operational referendum to replace the expiring annual funding approved via referendum in 2022, allowing the District to maintain instructional programs, class sizes and school services.

The question will appear as follows on the November 3 ballot:

Shall the Joint School District Number 2, Villages of Fox Point and Bayside, Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$3,950,000 beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, for recurring purposes in order to maintain instructional programs, operations, and services?

WHY DO WE NEED A REPLACEMENT REFERENDUM?

Our current \$3.1 million operating referendum is set to expire at the end of the 2026–27 school year and represents approximately 19.5% of our operating funding.

For the past 11 years, our community has generously approved funding via operational referendums that directly support our students' day-to-day educational experience by helping us:

Attract and retain exceptional teachers and staff

Maintain small class sizes and personalized learning opportunities

Preserve academic programs, student supports and extracurricular opportunities

Without a replacement for the expiring referendum, the annual budget will automatically **DECREASE** by about 19.5% for the first time since 2015, requiring **significant budget cuts beginning in the 2027–28 school year.**

In the past, the District pursued time-bound referenda with sunsets every few years. As we look to the future, the School Board has chosen to place a question before voters that would replace the expiring referendum with a single, permanent increase to the tax levy, known as a recurring referendum, to provide more predictability to the taxpayer and provide long-term stability to the District's operating budget.

The proposed \$3.95 million amount is in response to increased inflation, rising costs, a decrease in state and federal funding, and the **strong desire we heard from our community to maintain the Fox Point-Bayside educational experience for current and future students.**

SCHOOL DISTRICTS FACE LONG-TERM FUNDING CHALLENGES

Due to state law, the amount of total funding (from property taxes and state aid) school districts can levy is limited on a per-resident pupil (per-student) basis. State funding has not kept pace with inflation since 2009, requiring districts to seek approval from voters to exceed the state-imposed limits via referendum to meet rising costs.

In addition, districts continue to experience rising costs in every area of operation:

- Classroom supplies and instructional materials
- Special education and student services
- Employee salaries and benefits
- Utilities and transportation
- Facility maintenance
- Life-safety systems and infrastructure
- Property and liability insurance

The significant per-student gap in funding from the State, coupled with increasing operational costs and inflation, has led 87% of Wisconsin school districts to ask their communities for referendum support to meet basic operational needs.

(Source: WI DPI)

VOTE

**TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 3**



IF A MAJORITY VOTE “YES”

The District would be allowed to permanently exceed its state-imposed revenue limits, sustaining annual funding that will not expire. This would enable the District to **maintain instructional programs, class sizes and school services, and to support the operational costs of running two schools.**

The net annual property tax impact is estimated to be \$20 (\$1.67 monthly) per \$100,000 in assessed property value.

Property Value	Change from Current Tax Bill (per year)	Change from Current Tax Bill (per month)
\$100,000	\$20	\$1.67
\$300,000	\$60	\$5
\$500,000	\$100	\$8.33

The impact on an average home assessed at \$300,000 is estimated to be \$60 (\$5 monthly). This would not go into effect until the expiration of the current operating referendum in June 2027 and would be reflected in tax bills beginning December 2027.

IF A MAJORITY VOTE “NO”

The current operational referendum amount of \$3.1 million will expire if not renewed by June 30, 2027. **The District will be unable to replace this annual funding without making significant and long-lasting reductions to the budget, an estimated 19.5%.**

These cuts would impact educational opportunities for students, including some or all of the following:



Reductions in staffing, including teachers, support staff and administrators



Increased class sizes due to teaching staff reductions



Reductions in support services and enrichment opportunities for students



Reductions in “specials” courses and athletic and co-curricular programs

AWARD-WINNING EDUCATION

Our schools continue to receive statewide and national recognition, a direct result of our community’s strong support of our schools and students.



11 YEARS FPBS rated “**SIGNIFICANTLY EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS**” by the Department of Public Instruction



Stormonth Elementary listed **TOP 15 BEST** Best Wisconsin Elementary Schools by the U.S. News & World Report (2026)



TOP 5 middle schools in the state by U.S. News & World Report (2026)

Bayside Middle School named **#1 BEST** Public Middle School in Wisconsin by Niche (2026)

Awarded **NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON** by the U.S. Department of Education (2022)

LEARN MORE



Watch your mailbox for more information from the District



Email us at referendum@foxbay.org



Schedule an informational presentation for neighbors or community groups at referendum@foxbay.org



Visit the District website at foxbay.k12.wi.us/referendum

ATTEND A REFERENDUM INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Bayside Middle School

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Stormonth Elementary School