

You asked, we answer.



1. How much is our referendum?

On April 1, 2025, voters will decide whether to allow the Prentice School District to increase its budget by \$950,000 per year for the next four years. This money will help cover important school costs, including student programs, building repairs, and staffing needs.

2. Why does our school need more money?

The way Wisconsin funds schools hasn't kept up with rising costs. Since 1993, most schools in our state have needed to ask their communities for extra funding through referendums. **In the past two years, 12 other schools in our region have done the same.**

3. Will taxes go up every year because of this?

No. The school is asking for \$950,000 each year for four years. **This amount will not increase over time.**

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4. How much will my taxes increase?

If the referendum passes, property taxes will go up by about **\$1.12 for every \$1,000 of assessed value**. For example, if your home is worth \$100,000, your taxes would increase by about \$112 per year.

5. The last referendum didn't pass, but my taxes still went up. Why?

School funding comes from a mix of state aid and local taxes. State aid went down, so local taxes made up the difference. **The school district did not receive more funding. The state pushed more of the burden onto tax payers.**

6. Why is the district asking for \$950,000 now instead of \$1.2 million or \$1.8 million like before?

The school board listened to community feedback and worked hard to cut costs. Even after reducing expenses, the school still needs additional funds. Some projects, like replacing aging roofs, will have to wait. This new number is pushing the cost of those repairs to the future.

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7. Why do some schools have different tax rates than ours?

Property values are different in every district. Schools with higher property values can collect the same amount of money with a lower tax rate, while districts with lower property values need a higher tax rate to raise the same amount.

8. Why can't the state just give schools more money?

Wisconsin has had a school funding limit since 1993. Even when the state adds money to education, it often just lowers local taxes instead of increasing school funding. Most school districts in the state have had to ask their communities for extra support through referendums.

9. Is the referendum paying for the new track?

No. The track is funded by grants and donations, not tax dollars. In fact, a large donation to the school is waiting for this referendum to pass. Their donation is contingent on the voters showing their support of us.

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10. Can anything be done to fix how schools are funded?

Right now, schools are funded based on an outdated formula. **Prentice receives one of the lowest amounts per student in the state.** If the state adjusted funding to match inflation, our district would receive over \$1.2 million more each year. Communities across Wisconsin need to ask lawmakers to fix this system.

11. Why is our school facing financial challenges?

The biggest reason is that the state hasn't kept up with inflation. **Since 1993, school costs have gone up, but state funding has not.** If funding had kept up, our school wouldn't need to ask for extra money now.

More questions? Please contact us!



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