



# Evansville

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

All Learners Thriving, Contributing & Belonging  
**APRIL 2, 2024 | REFERENDUM**



## DEAR ECSD RESIDENTS:

Our students, staff and community have a lot for which to be proud! Coupled with strong student achievement, positive performance in our clubs, performances and athletics programs and a high performing staff, the Evansville Community School District is a great place for students to thrive, contribute and belong!

ECSD residents are a big reason for the District's success. Without the financial support provided in the 2018 operational referendum, the District would not have the revenue to provide the quality opportunities for our students.

The 2018 referendum expires in June and without it being renewed, significant budget cuts will be necessary which will threaten the level of learning our community has grown to expect. Costs have risen noticeably since 2018 and as such the Board voted to place an operational referendum on the April 2 ballot.

The referendum question asks for voter support to levy an additional \$2,700,000 in 24-25, \$3,900,000 for 25-26, \$4,600,000 for 26-27, \$5,200,000 for 27-28 and \$5,900,000 for 28-29.

## A SUCCESSFUL REFERENDUM WILL ENSURE:

- Class sizes maintained at their current levels
- Providing high quality resources to support all students thriving, contributing & belonging
- Continuing to offer courses to prepare students for college and careers
- Maintaining salaries and benefits to recruit and retain high quality staff
- Addressing building maintenance and rising operating costs

## ECSD STRATEGIC PLAN: 4 PILLARS



**STUDENT LEARNING, ENGAGEMENT & BELONGING**



**FAMILY & COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS**



**PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**



**OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS**

## INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

|                                    |                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| TUESDAY, JANUARY 30 <sup>TH</sup>  | 6:00 <sup>PM</sup> | Evansville High School Media Room  |
| TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20 <sup>TH</sup> | 6:00 <sup>PM</sup> | Evansville High School Media Room  |
| WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6 <sup>TH</sup>   | 6:00 <sup>PM</sup> | Board Conference Room              |
| MONDAY, MARCH 11 <sup>TH</sup>     | 6:00 <sup>PM</sup> | JC McKenna Middle School Cafeteria |
| THURSDAY, MARCH 21 <sup>ST</sup>   | 6:00 <sup>PM</sup> | Evansville High School Media Room  |

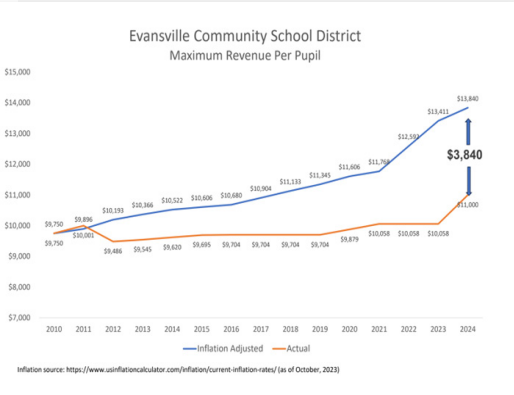
A video recording of the presentation is available. Scan the QR Code to the right to access.



SCAN FOR MORE *information* on our website.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU VOTE “NO” AND THE OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM IS UNSUCCESSFUL?

- If the referendum is not approved, the Evansville Board of Education will have to reduce the District budget by \$2.4 million.
- Multiple employee positions may be eliminated
- Class sizes may increase 5-6 students per room where teacher reductions are made.
- Investment in curriculum may be reduced by \$400,000-\$500,000.
- Many advanced courses that prepare students for college and career may not be sustainable.
- Quality employees may leave if salaries and benefits for employees are frozen at current levels.
- Reductions in bus routes, resulting in increased ride time to and from school



## WHY IS AN OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM NECESSARY?

- Since 2011, State funding for ECSD and all public schools has lagged significantly behind inflation.
- As shown in the graph (left), the Wisconsin Legislature has underfunded the Evansville Community School District, along with all other Wisconsin school districts.
- The blue line represents inflation since 2010 while the red line represents the level of state funding for ECSD.
- If the Wisconsin Legislature had aligned funding for school districts with inflation, which they had done prior to 2010, ECSD would not need to go to referendum.

## IN 2023-24, THE CUMULATIVE GAP BETWEEN ECSD STATE FUNDING AND INFLATION IS \$3,840 PER STUDENT.

- Based on ECSD's enrollment of 1680 students, this represents \$6,451,200 in revenue, far more than the amount being requested in the April 2 operational referendum.
- The Wisconsin Legislature did not provide any additional revenue to ECSD or any school district in 2021-22 or 2022-23 (\$0.00 increase in both years) which limited the District's ability to cover expenses
- The Federal ESSER funds provided to help address COVID-19 related expenses expire on June 30, creating a larger District deficit

## HOW WILL THE OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM IMPACT MY PROPERTY TAXES?

The chart below shows the proposed tax increase each year based on the assessed value of your property. The amount for each year is in addition to the previous year.

### SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY TAX IMPACT



| PROPERTY VALUE<br>REQUESTED AMOUNT | 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | 2027-28 | 2028-29 |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| \$100,000                          | \$147   | +\$81   | +\$67   | +\$58   | +\$55   |
| \$200,000                          | \$294   | +\$162  | +\$134  | +\$116  | +\$110  |
| \$300,000                          | \$441   | +\$243  | +\$201  | +\$174  | +\$165  |

*The amount for each year is in addition to the previous year.*