



NORTHLAND PINES SCHOOL DISTRICT

REFERENDUM INFORMATION

VOTE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022

A Message from District Administrator, Scott Foster:

On Tuesday, February 15, 2022, the District will ask residents to vote on an operational referendum. The question on the ballot will be as follows: *Shall the Northland Pines School District be authorized to exceed state revenue limits by \$4,600,000 each year for a period of three years on a non-recurring basis for each of the 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25 school years, in order to maintain School District programs and operations?*

Past referendums have assisted the District in maintaining educational programming and implementing safety measures across the district, such as a school resource officer and making all entrances/access into our buildings more secure. We would like to continue to be proactive in our endeavors to maintain quality educational programs, keep our students and staff safe and maintain our buildings.

The previous three year non-recurring referendum dollar amount, approved by residents in February of 2019, will expire on June 30, 2022; therefore, this \$4.6 million will come **off** the tax levy in 2022.

If approved, the next three year non-recurring referendum dollar amount would keep the same amount on the tax levy as follows:

- ✓ Referendum dollars included in total tax levy 2022 - \$4,600,000
- ✓ Referendum dollars included in total tax levy 2023 - \$4,600,000
- ✓ Referendum dollars included in total tax levy 2024 - \$4,600,000

* A very important aspect of the 2024/25 levy is approximately \$2.4 million will come off as the current Middle and High School Building will have its last payment in 2023/24.

We are asking for the same amount as the current three year referendum; we have utilized our budget dollars wisely and made cuts over the past three years. Taxpayers will see an estimated small decrease in the mill rate the first two years of the referendum and a significant decrease in year three of approximately 68 cents.

The Northland Pines School District continues to be very successful, offering a vast array of choices for our students

and parents, as we realize all students learn differently. NPSD educational options include traditional school choices, charter school choices, alternative education choices and personal learning plan choices. Student academic achievement is high, test scores are well above state averages and our Department of Public Instruction issued School Report Cards are consistently rated as one of the highest in our CESA #9 region (which includes 22 school districts). We currently have 12 teachers who have received the prestigious National Board Teaching Certification; there are only 1,509 National Board Certified Teachers across the entire state. Our Open Enrollment students choosing to transfer **into** Northland Pines from other school districts continues to rise, making NPSD the District of choice. NPSD has been fiscally responsible and has saved our taxpayers millions of dollars. Some of our specific cost-saving measures are as follows: a reduction in HRA funding by the district due to a change in health insurance plan deductible, the addition of two additional solar energy projects, increased federal funding by providing free meals to all students, improving and enhancing student and staff technology and connectivity using federal dollars vs. tax payer dollars, using federal dollars vs. local dollars we have during the pandemic whenever feasible.

The Northland Pines School District residents and communities are known throughout the northwoods and beyond as being highly supportive of our schools and the education of all our students. Thank you for the support the district has received. There are referendum facts and information available on the District website. Five public presentations will also be held to give residents the opportunity to hear first-hand information about the referendum, and to have your questions answered. If you would like to have us present information to your club/organization, or if you want more information, please contact me at (715) 479-6487, Option 3, Ext. 1, or by email at sfoster@npsd.k12.wi.us. You may also contact any administrator or any of our seven elected school board members. We appreciate your attention to this information. We value your time and thank you for becoming informed regarding the operational budget and referendum for the Northland Pines School District. **Please remember to vote on Tuesday, February 15, 2022.**

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Northland Pines Middle and High School

Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Land O' Lakes Elementary

Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. St. Germain Elementary School

Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Northland Pines Middle and High School

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Northland Pines Middle and High School

Inquiries regarding the referendum can be made by calling the Northland Pines School District office: Scott Foster, District Administrator: (715) 479-6487 option 3, extension 1, email sfoster@npsd.k12.wi.us or Tera Fritz, Business Manager: (715) 479-6487 option 3, extension 3, email tfritz@npsd.k12.wi.us



NORTHLAND PINES SCHOOL DISTRICT

REFERENDUM INFORMATION

Why does Northland Pines need to continue going to an operating referendum?

Wisconsin Act 16 implemented revenue limits beginning with the 1993-94 school year. A district's revenue limit is the maximum amount of revenue it may raise through state general aid and property taxes. Once a district begins an operational referendum cycle, it must continue as long as the state has the same funding formula. At the end of each three year cycle, the previous referendum dollars must be removed from the budget and a new referendum may be placed on the ballot, asking for the revenues for the next three/four years. As fixed costs and expenses continue to increase and state funding and revenue limits remain constant, the Northland Pines School District will have to find ways to cut expenses and increase revenue to maintain a balanced budget. Pursuant to WI state law, we must go to a referendum to exceed the revenue limit.

Building Tours

(all tours will start in the main office)

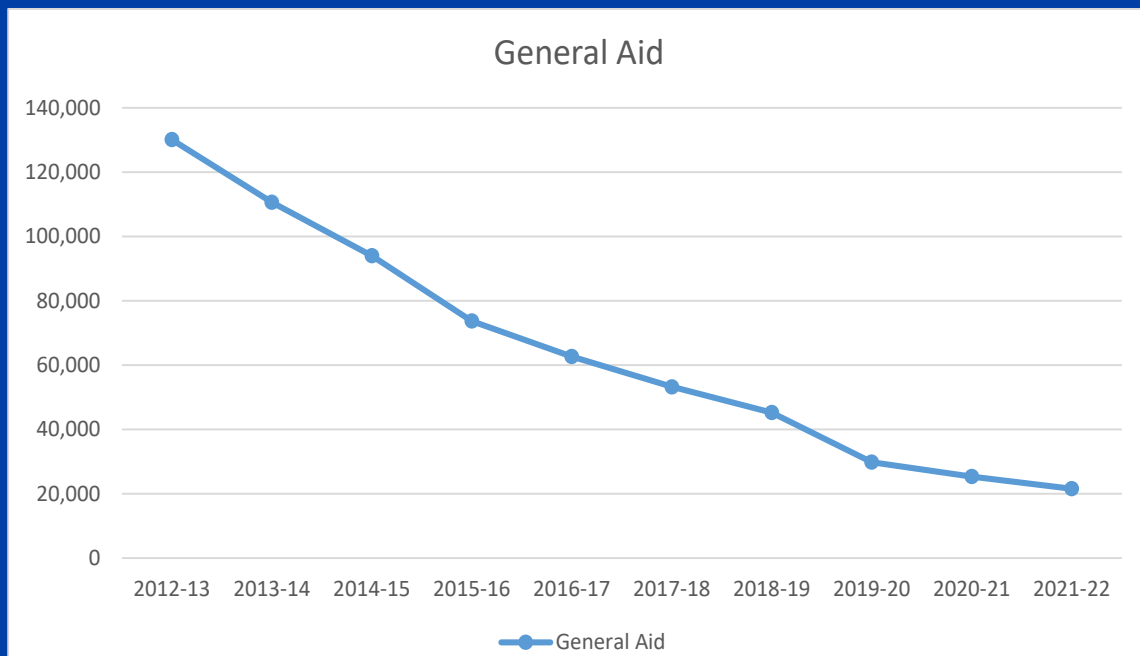
Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Land O' Lakes Elementary School

Friday, January 21, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Northland Pines Middle and High School

Friday, January 21, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. Eagle River Elementary School

Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. St. Germain Elementary School

Over the past 10 years Northland Pines general aid from the state continues to decrease.



WHAT WILL THE REFERENDUM DOLLARS BE USED FOR?

Referendum dollars will be used to continue to provide high quality education and offer options and opportunities for students and families. Unique to this referendum, we will use funds to replace the roofs at St Germain and Land O' Lakes Elementary. These buildings were opened in 1997 and are in need of repair. These funds will also continue to assist in maintaining a proactive approach to safety, including our school resource officer who is a vital team member. Continued opportunity for use of the buildings in all areas will be supported as well.

**REFERENDUM
DOLLAR AMOUNT:**

\$4.6 million per year for three years.

The 2019 operating referendum money (\$4.6 million) expires on June 30, 2022.

NORTHLAND PINES SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOTE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022

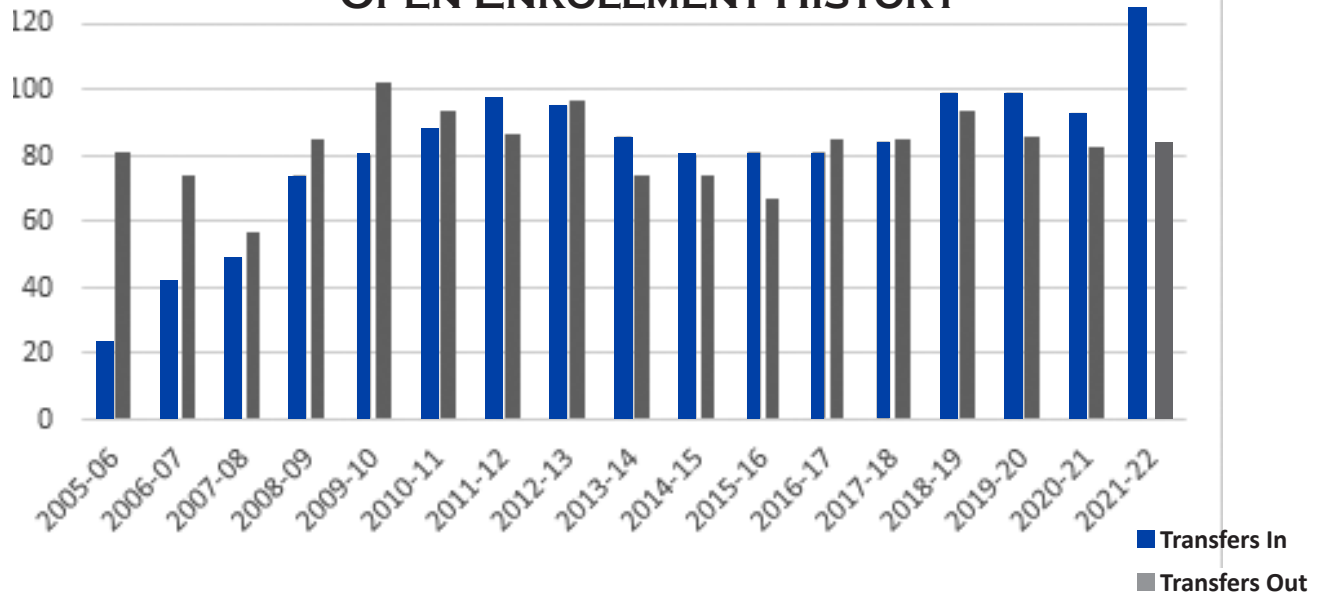


District of Choice

The graph below shows that NPSD has become a district of choice; more students are open enrolled into the district than are leaving. In 2002, only 18 students open enrolled into the district and today 125 students open enroll in. NPSD has worked very hard to accomplish this great feat. Quality staff, program offerings, high test scores, and excellent facilities are a few of the reasons students and families are choosing to be educated at NPSD.

Each open enrolled student that attends NPSD generates approximately \$8,161 of revenue for each year of attendance.

OPEN ENROLLMENT HISTORY



TAX IMPACT ON CITIZENS

The "Mill Rate" is the rate at which property taxes are determined. A property tax bill is comprised of four taxing authorities: City/Township, Vilas County, Nicolet Area Technical College and the Northland Pines School District.

If passed, the referendum would not increase the NPSD mill rate. The mill rate for 2021-22 is \$5.40 per thousand of equalized valuation and that rate is projected to drop over the next three years.

\$5.39 in 2022-2023
(Decrease of \$0.01)*

\$5.36 in 2023-2024
(Decrease of \$0.04)*

\$4.68 in 2024-2025
(Decrease of \$0.72)*

* Based on the 2021/2022 Mill Rate

How has NPSD reduced operating costs?

1. Efficiently use staff around the district
2. Outsource food service to a private vendor
3. Regular solicitation for quotes from multiple vendors on projects and purchases
4. Continuous evaluation of employee insurance costs vs. benefits
5. Adjustments to the Health Reimbursement plan
6. Moved to a self-funded dental insurance plan
7. Continued success with grant awards
8. Regular assessment of district energy efficiency, resulting in more projects to reduce costs
9. Solar Projects at Eagle River, Land O' Lakes, and St. Germain
10. Work with Bus Company to reduce routes and provide efficient service



Northland Pines School District
 1800 Pleasure Island Road
 Eagle River, WI 54521

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Eagle River, WI
 Permit No. 5
ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

ABSENTEE VOTING INFORMATION

If you are interested in voting by absentee ballot, please contact your town clerk to request your absentee ballot or visit elections.wi.gov/voters/absentee. Contact information for clerks of all townships and the City of Eagle River can be found on our website at www.npsd.k12.wi.us on the referendum page. If you are not yet registered to vote, you will need to register before requesting an absentee ballot.

2021-22 MILL RATES

There are 421 school districts in the state of Wisconsin.
 See below how Northland Pines compares to other districts.

10 Lowest K-12 Mill Rates

1. Drummond	\$2.72
2. Gibraltar Area	\$3.42
3. Northwood	\$3.94
4. Washington	\$4.18
5. Webster	\$4.76
6. Mercer	\$4.97
7. Green Lake	\$4.99
8. Northland Pines	\$5.40
9. Three Lakes	\$5.41
10. Elcho	\$5.68

10 Highest K-12 Mill Rates

1. Goodman-Armstrong	\$16.76
2. Gresham	\$14.52
3. Gilmanton	\$12.78
4. Shorewood	\$12.74
5. White Lake	\$12.72
6. Verona Area	\$12.64
7. Saint Francis	\$12.59
8. Clinton Community	\$12.50
9. Juda	\$12.40
10. Cambria-Friesland	\$12.29

HOW HAS NPSD PURSUED ADDITIONAL REVENUES?

Notable Grants Awarded

2020-Future: \$3,700+Annually-Land O' Lakes Solar Rental
 2020: \$50,000 Tawani Foundation
 2020: \$20,000 State Fiber Grant Match
 2020: \$150,000 Choicetel State Grant
 2019: \$153,000 Montessori Grant
 2018: \$45,000 TEACH Infrastructure Grant
 2018: \$153,000 Montessori Grant
 2018: \$41,000 Fab Lab Grant
 2018: \$71,000 Safety Grant #2

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE REFERENDUM FAILS?

If the referendum fails NPSD will have an average budget deficit of \$4,583,142 million per year over the next three years and some very difficult decisions will need to be made on how to balance the budget. **All aspects of the district will be impacted.**

REMEMBER TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022!

**VISIT NPSD.K12.WI.US/DISTRICT/REFERENDUM.CFM
 FOR COMPLETE VOTING INFORMATION, PUBLIC MEETINGS,
 VIDEOCAST AND POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS.**