

1. What is the proposed referendum?

The proposed referendum will seek an increase in revenue limits for Green Lake School District (GLSD). More specifically, the referendum will ask voters for a four-year phase-in revenue limit increase for a total of \$4.385 million.

- 2020-2021 \$810,000
- 2021-2022 \$975,000
- 2022-2023 \$1,200,000
- 2023-2024 \$1,400,000

2. What is the revenue limit?

In 1993, the Wisconsin legislature instituted a limit on the revenue a district is entitled to receive each year from general state aid and local tax levies. The revenue limit for a district indicates the maximum amount a district can receive through the combination of general state aid and local tax levy. The revenue limit caps the district's ability to fill the gap in needed funding through additional tax levy. A school district can exceed the revenue limit through a voter approved referendum.

3. Why is this referendum necessary?

School districts are limited by the state as to how much they can spend and due to the district's unique ratio of property value and low population, the school does not receive any general state aid. GLSD's 2016 approved referendum ends in June 2020 which will leave a major gap in funding. Constantly battling cost of living increases, inflation, and lack of state funding, it is increasingly difficult to provide students with the best educational experience. The only alternative to increasing spending is a voter approved referendum. In the last 25 years more than 400 of the state's 421 school districts have sought and passed a referendum to do just that.

4. What will the referendum cost and how will it affect me?

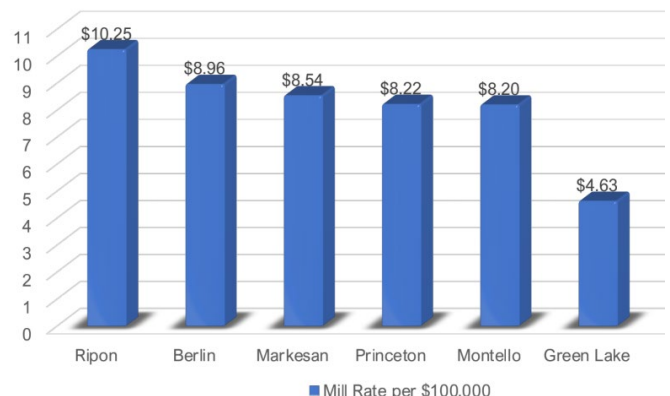
The referendum will ask voters for a four-year revenue limit increase for a total of \$4.385 million. If you are a property owner, the estimated calculated 4-year tax impact would be approximately \$75 per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

This means the owner of a home valued at \$150,000 would contribute an additional 31 cents a day to the district if the referendum passes.

5. What is a mill rate?

The mill rate is the amount of tax payable per dollar of the assessed value of a property. The mill rate is based on "mills." It is a figure that represents the amount per \$1,000 of the assessed value of the property, which is used to calculate the amount of property tax.

2019-2020 Mill Rate Comparison



6. How does our lack of state aid compare to other districts?

Since the mid-1970s, Wisconsin has distributed state general aid to public school districts through a tax-based, three-tiered equalization formula. The equalization formula is a cost-sharing formula-- the state and the local district each contribute a portion to fund the total cost. The district's percentage is determined by the percentage the district value per member is of the guaranteed valuation per member.

When completed, this formula does not produce any funding from the state due to our high property values and low population. Surrounding districts such as Ripon, Berlin, and Princeton, all qualify and are largely supported by state funding.

7. What if the referendum fails?

The school district has enough funds saved to remain open for two additional years if the referendum does not pass. However, it will be hard to sustain school faculty, staff, and administration without the hope of continuing beyond that. In the meantime, students would be provided far fewer educational opportunities than their peers in other districts.

Should our school close, taxpayers will see a substantial increase in their taxes due to equalizing our mill rate with that of a combining school district's.

The community at large will suffer. GLSD connects youth with its community. Families thrive where there is education and investment into future generations. GLSD is one of the largest employers in Green Lake and nurtures the workforce of tomorrow.

8. Can we look to combine just part of the school with another district?

Unfortunately, the state and our own research has indicated it is not fiscally responsible to partition our classes by grade or otherwise. Just as if the school would close, the equalization of our mill rate with another will increase taxes by a minimum of 30%.

9. What has GLSD done to reduce costs?

We are proud to say that we have kept overall expenses under the rate of inflation for over 4 years now. Which means, as cost of living goes up, we're finding ways to be more efficient and fiscally responsible. Notable items include:

- Energy efficient HVAC and other projects
- Purchased school vans in lieu of costly bussing service
- Revenue opportunities with the international student program
- Increased open enrollment to 30% which brings in additional funding
- Joined an insurance consortium to reduce overall costs
- Consolidated athletic teams with surrounding schools
- Administration, staff and faculty hold multiple roles to reduce FTEs

10. How will this funding be spent?

If passed, the additional funding will help GLSD sustain its quality programs and services. It will allow the district to continue operating with class sizes that support a highly effective learning environment and retain high-quality, certified teachers.

Your taxes will allow the district to offer more career and technical education programs; and maintain art, music, physical education, and language programs. The approved referendum will allow the school to take advantage of Fund 46 – a long-term capital improvement trust fund which earmarks funds for future facility maintenance.

All budget allocations are approved by the elected members of the Green Lake School District board of education after public input.

11. How will the referendum be worded on the ballot?

Shall the School District of Green Lake, Green Lake County, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$810,000 for the 2020-2021 school year, by \$975,000 for the 2021-2022 school year, by \$1,200,000 for the 2022-2023 school year and by \$1,400,000 for the 2023-2024 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of operational costs to maintain instruction programs, staffing, and technology and capital project costs associated with facilities

12. When do I vote and who may I contact for more information?

Please contact your local municipal clerk for poll times on **Tuesday, April 7, 2020**. Feel free to share any additional feedback and questions with us at info@glsd.k12.wi.us or visit our information page at <https://www.greenlakeschool.com/district/2020-referendum.cfm>.