



River Ridge School *District*

November 5, 2024 Operational Referendum

Community Information Meeting

October 30, 2024 (Wednesday) – 7:00 P.M.

(District Multi-Purpose Room)

Presented by:

Clay Koenig, Superintendent
River Ridge School District

Carol Wirth, President
Wisconsin Public Finance Professionals, LLC

April 2024 vs November 2024 Operational Referendums

April

Recurring (On-going)

Four Different Dollar Amounts

2024-2025 - \$1,250,000

2025-2026 - \$1,500,000

2026-2027 - \$1,750,000

2027-2028 - \$2,000,000 (On-going)

Tax Rate for 2024-2025: \$3.56/\$1,000

(Based on 2023 Equalized Values)

November

Non-Recurring (Three Years and Expires)

One Dollar Amount

2024-2025 - \$1,100,000

2025-2026 - \$1,100,000

2026-2027 - \$1,100,000 (Expires)

Tax Rate for 2024-2025: \$2.60/\$1,000

(Based on 2024 Equalized Values)

Same Purpose: For Operational Costs to Maintain Instructional Programs, Staffing, Technology and Facilities Management

History of River Ridge School District Approved Operational Referendums

2008	2008-09	\$300,000	2014	2014-15	\$150,000	\$350,000 (Recurring)
	2009-10	\$400,000		2015-16	\$150,000	
	2010-11	\$440,000		2016-17	\$150,000	
	2011-12	\$440,000		2017-18	\$150,000	
2012	2012-13	\$440,000		2018-19	\$150,000	
	2013-14	\$515,000				

History of River Ridge School District Approved Facility Referendums

- 2008** \$595,000 to refinance existing debt originally issued to pay off pension liability – Annual debt payments approximately \$67,000 paid off 2022
- 2016** \$9,500,000 to combine District facilities to create one Pre K-12 campus at Patch Grove site including classroom and gym addition, remodeling, energy efficiency improvements, site and baseball field improvements. Annual debt payments approximately \$700,000 through 2037
- 2020** \$2,300,000 to construct outdoor educational facility including athletic fields. Annual debt payments approximately \$140,000 through 2039

Facility referendums authorize borrowing for projects. Annual debt service payments are included in the District's tax levy. After final payments are made, taxes will decline by that amount.

November 2024 Ballot Language

Shall the River Ridge School District, Grant County, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$1,100,000 per year for three years, beginning with the 2024-2025 school year and ending with the 2026-2027 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of operational costs to maintain instructional programs, staffing, technology and facilities management?

Explanation:

Question Asks Voter Permission to Levy Taxes (\$1,100,000) to Increase School District Revenues, by Exceeding the Revenue Limit to Pay Operating Expenses for Three Years

“Non-Recurring” Means the November 2024 Referendum Authority Expires After Three Years

The Revenue Limit

A State Law

Wisconsin Statute Section 121.91 imposed on School Districts in 1993

Subject to Legislative Changes During State's Biennial Budget Process

Limits Operating Revenue School District Receives from Tax Levy and State Aid

Voter Approval Required to "Exceed" the Revenue Limit

The Revenue Limit

DPI Worksheet

Limit is calculated each year using WI Dept. of Public Instruction (“DPI”) worksheet:

11. 2024-25 Revenue Limit With All Exemptions	
12. Total Aid to be Used in Computation	
13. Allowable Limited Revenue: (Line 11 - Line 12)	

Line 11 = Maximum Revenue District is Allowed for Operating Expenses

Line 12 = Less: Aid Received from State (Property Tax Relief*)

Line 13 = Tax Levy for Operating Expenses

***More State Aid = Less Tax Levy / Less State Aid = More Tax Levy**

The Revenue Limit

A Formula Tied to Enrollment

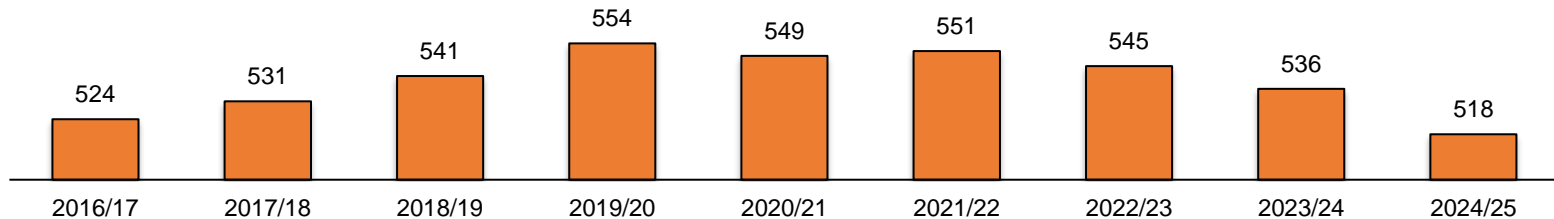
The “Limit” is Driven by Resident Student Enrollment and Legislative Changes

3rd Friday of September Full-Time Equivalent Count – Averaged Over 3 Years

Open Enrolled Students Are Not Included in the Revenue Limit Count

Decline or Increase in Enrollment Count = Decline or Increase in Limit

Three-Year Average FTE



River Ridge School District Enrollment

School District Enrollment is Counted in Various Ways:

Resident Enrollment – Students Living in the River Ridge School District

Resident Enrollment is Student Count used for Revenue Limit Calculation

Open Enrollment Out – Students Living in the River Ridge School District, but are Attending Another School District.

River Ridge School District Pays “Tuition” to the Other School Districts for These Students

Open Enrollment In – Students Living in Other School Districts but are Attending the River Ridge School District

Other School Districts Pay “Tuition” to School District of River Ridge for These Students

Total Students in Seats = Resident Enrollment (-) Open Enrolled Out (+) Open Enrolled In

Six Year Historical District Enrollment

<u>Budget Year</u>	<u>Resident Enrollment</u>	<u>Open Enrolled Out</u>	<u>Open Enrolled In</u>	<u>Total In Seats</u>
2019-2020	568	56	33	545
2020-2021	550	64	47	533
2021-2022	568	66	41	543
2022-2023	546	63	41	524
2023-2024	519	62	48	505
2024-2025	511	72	42	481

Resident Enrollment Decline Impacts District Revenues Received from Property Taxes + State Aid

Open Enrolled Out – Tuition Paid by River Ridge School District to Other School Districts

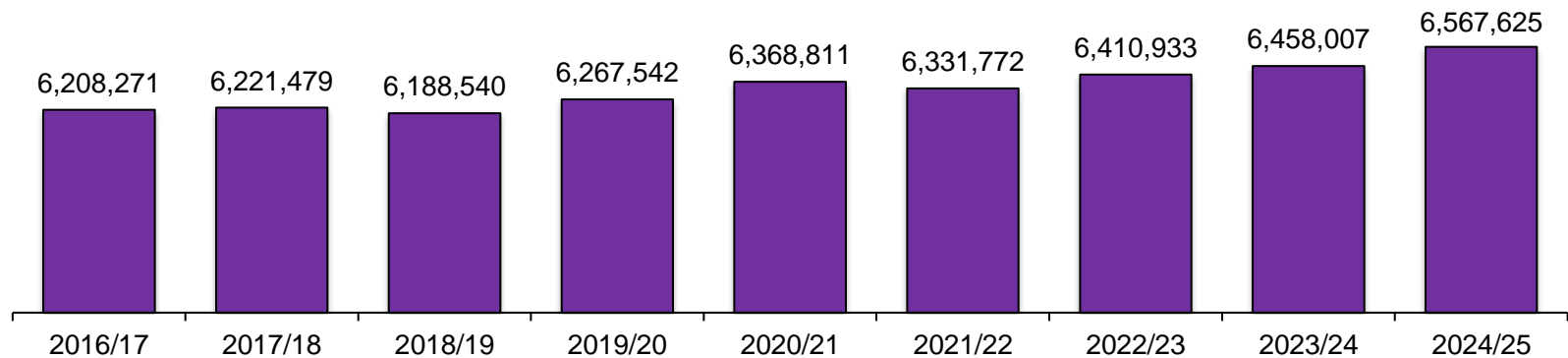
Open Enrolled In – Tuition Received by River Ridge School District from Other School Districts

Total Students in Seats Educated by River Ridge School District

River Ridge's Historical Revenue Limit

Line 11

(Without Nov 2024 Referendum)



Legislative Changes – Per Pupil Adjustments – State Biennial Budget (2 Yr)

2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$175	\$179	\$0	\$0	\$325	\$325

River Ridge's Historical State Aid

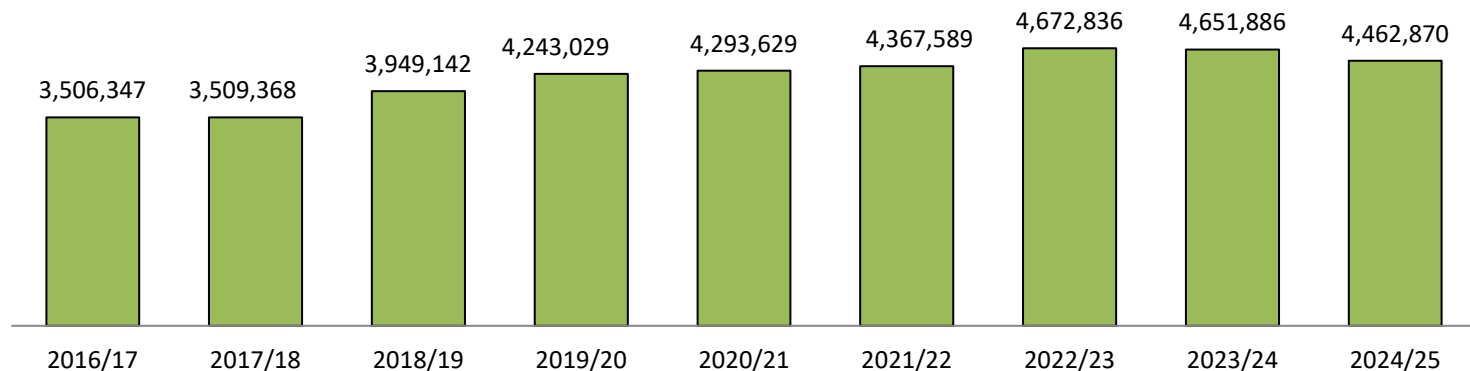
Line 12

- State Formula Established for Wisconsin School Districts in 1993
- Subject to Legislative Changes During State's Biennial Budget Process
- Provides Financial Assistance – Property Tax Relief – Based on District's Prior Year Operating and Debt Service Costs

Less Aid = More Tax Levy

More Aid = Less Tax Levy

- 2024-2025 Budget is Receiving \$189,016 Less Aid Than 2023-2024 Budget

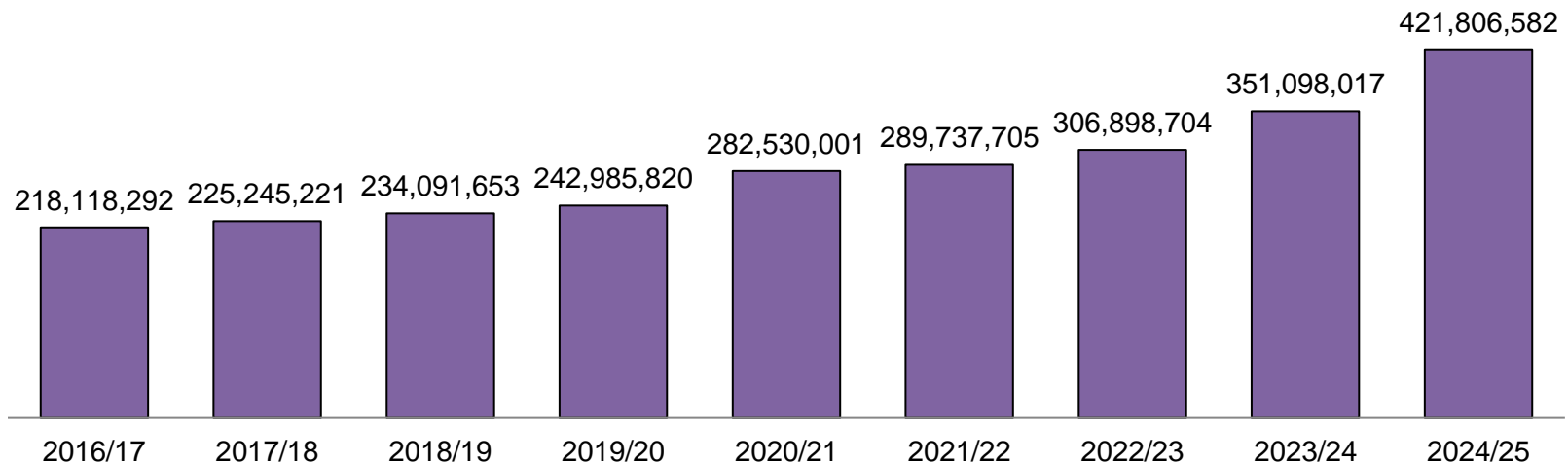


River Ridge's Historical Equalized “Fair Market” Values (Tax Base)

Equalized Values (“Fair Market”) – Determined by Wisconsin Dept. of Revenue Based on New Construction and Other Economic Changes (“Inflationary” Increases)

Assessed Values - Determined by the Local Assessor for Each Village and Town Under the Guidance of the Wisconsin Dept. of Revenue.

Equalized Values in the District Increased 74% Over Past Five Years, and 20% Over Last Year



Rising Property Values

WI Dept. of Revenue's 2024 Equalized ("Fair Market") Values for Properties in the River Ridge School District Reflect a 20.14% Increase over 2023 Values Mainly Due to Inflation.

Rising Property Values Change the **Tax Rate** Not the **Tax Impact**
Dollar Amount of **Taxes Levied** Change the **Tax Impact**

Example:

	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>Difference</u>
District Valuation	\$351,098,017	\$421,806,582	20.14%
District Tax Levy	\$ 2,644,191	\$ 2,941,900*	11.30%
Individual Property Value	\$100,000	\$120,140	20.14%
School District Tax Rate	<u>X .00753</u>	<u>X .00698*</u>	
Est. Individual Tax Impact	\$753	\$838	11.30%

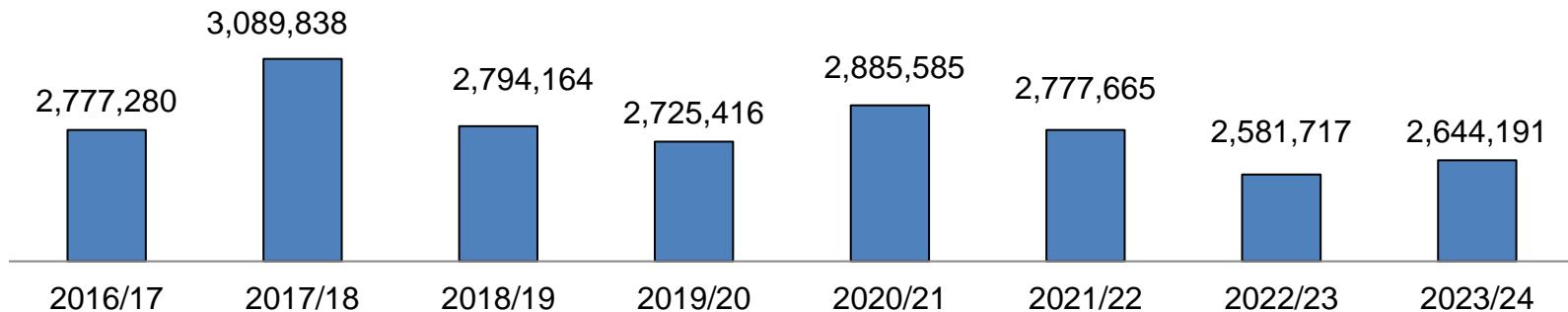
*Excluding Nov 2024 Referendum

River Ridge's Historical Tax Levies

Line 13

Tax Levy = Revenue for Operations + Referendum Approved Debt Less State Aid

2023-2024 Tax Levy Was Included in December 2023 Tax Bills

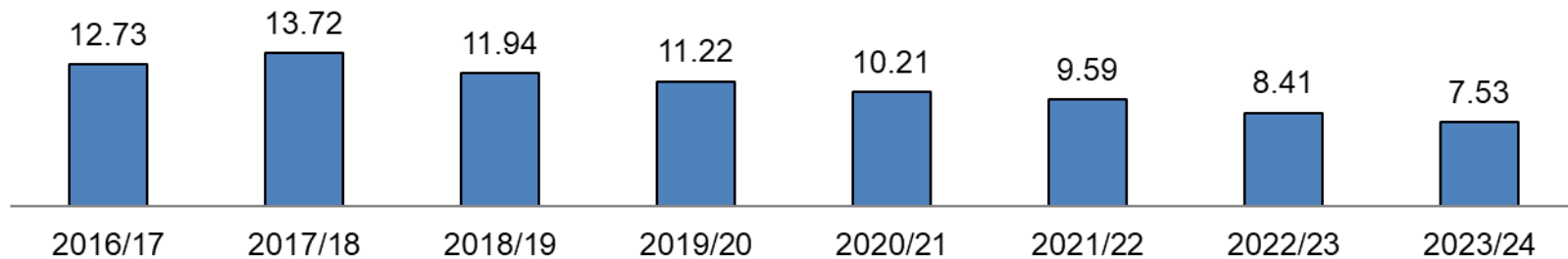


Referendum Approved Debt = 2008 Debt (Paid Off in 2022)

2016 and 2020 Facilities Referendums' Debt Repaid Annually Through 2037 and 2039, Respectively

River Ridge's Historical Tax Rates

Tax Levy Divided by Equalized ("Fair Market") Value = Tax Rate Per \$1,000



2023-2024 Tax Rate Was Used for December 2023 Tax Bills

2024-25 Tax Levy Breakdown

Taxes for the 2024-2025 Budget Year will be Included in December 2024 Tax Bills.

	Nov 2024 Ref <u>Approved</u>	Nov 2024 Ref <u>Not Approved</u>
1. Operations	\$2,104,755	\$2,104,755
2. Referendum Approved Debt	\$ 837,145	\$ 837,145
3. November 2024 Referendum	<u>\$1,100,000</u>	<u>-0-</u>
Total Levy	\$4,041,900	\$2,941,900
 Tax Rate Per \$1,000	 \$9.58	 \$6.98

April 2024 Referendum Result Impact on 2024-2025 Budget Reductions

The April 2024 Referendum Was Not Approved by District Voters.

District Made Reductions to Programs and Staff for the 2024-2025 School Year:

- After Hours Program \$ 50,000
- High School Science \$ 43,500
- Library / 4K / Tech Ed \$101,320
- Intra and Extra Curricular Budget / General Supplies \$150,000
- Technology Budget \$ 60,000
- No Staff Salary Increases \$160,000

Staff Retention and Recruitment Challenges

- No Contribution to Facilities Building/Maintenance Fund \$100,000

The November 2024 Referendum Could Restore Many of These Reductions.

November 2024 Referendum Maintains & Restores Operations

- Inflationary Impact on Operating Costs – Cost-of-Living Increases, Insurance, Transportation, Utilities, Food Service, Special Education
- Staffing: Retention and Recruitment
- Programs and Services – Meet Behavioral, Academic and Mental Health Needs
- 4K Program - All Day - Every Day and Early Childhood Programming
- District-Wide Course Offerings
- Student Options – Online/Specialty Courses, Dual Enrollment, Start College Now, Early College Credit Programming Opportunities
- All Current Intra/Extra-Curricular Options for Students
- Technology – Maintain Students' 1:1 Technology Platform; Replace Staff's Dated Technology Resources
- Contribute to Facilities Building and Maintenance Fund
- Maintain a Fiscally Responsible General Fund Budget

Rising Operational Costs

November 2024 Referendum to Address Inflationary Impact on School District's Operating Costs

- Utilities
- Transportation Costs
- Office Supplies
- Student Supplies and Curriculum Costs
- Equipment and Replacement Cycles
- Custodial Supplies and Facility Maintenance
- Insurance Costs
- Salaries and Benefits

After Hours Program

November 2024 Referendum May Restore After Hours Program

- Up to 40 Students Attended the Program Daily
- Provided Students with Academic Support
- Homework Help from Program - Reduces Homework Battles at Home
- Improves Student's Social Skills
- Students in a Safe and Supervised Building

4-Year-Old Kindergarten

November 2024 Referendum to Maintain 4K – All Day – Everyday Program

- The 4K Program - All Day- Everyday
- Best Prepares Child for Academic Success Throughout Elementary School
- Transportation for 4K Students - Not an Added Expense
- Keeps Students in the River Ridge School District
Parents May Seek Open Enrollment Opportunities in Neighboring School Districts That Offer 4K Program
- Impacts District's Student Enrollment Count on Revenue Limit Calculation

Maintaining Class Sizes

November 2024 Referendum Maintains Current Class Sizes:

- Elementary Class Sizes Below 24
- Middle School Class Sizes Remain Below 24
- High School Core Classes Remain Below 24

Maintain Current Teacher to Student Ratios - Vital to Student Academic Success

Course Offerings

November 2024 Referendum Maintains Course Offerings and/or Expands to Meet College/Industry Needs:

- Elementary class currently exceed Department of Public Instruction (“DPI”) requirements in some areas and have a very nice specials rotation
- Middle School students are fortunate to have specialty teachers in science, English, language, arts, reading, math, physical education and specials
- High School course offerings cover students of varying interest levels. Students take part in Advance Placement classes, Career Technical Education classes, transcribed credit classes and on-line courses.

Extra Curricular and Intra Curricular

November 2024 Referendum Maintains Funding for Many Opportunities the School District Offers for Students to Participate in:

Art Club

Volleyball

Basketball

Int. Club

Wrestling

Yearbook

Pep Bands

Student Council

Choirs

Football

Sources of Strength

Baseball

Coop for Soccer

Softball

FBLA

Track

FFA

Cross Country

NHS

A variety of Academic Competitions throughout the year.

Technology Devices

November 2024 Referendum Provides Funding for Technology Devices to Meet Student and Staff Needs:

- Each Student Currently has a Device to Use
- Middle School and High School Students Have Chromebooks for Daily Use
- All Teachers use Technology in Classrooms to Meet Student Needs

Growing Student Needs

November 2024 Referendum Provides Funding for Increasing Student Mental Health and Academic Support Needs.

- Student Services and Special Education Staff Members are Even More essential
- Maintaining Current Teacher to Student Ratios (Class Sizes) is Vital to Student Academic Success
- Student Curriculum Costs are Increasing

Facilities Building and Maintenance Fund

November 2024 Referendum Provides Funding for Contributions to Facilities Building and Maintenance Fund

- District Established Facilities Building and Maintenance Fund (Fund 46)
- Dollars in Fund 46 Can Only be Used for Facilities Building and Maintenance Projects
- Fund 46 Provides for Larger Projects Included in the District's Capital Improvement Plan
- On-going Contributions to Fund 46 Reduces Need for Future Facilities Referendum

What Happens if November 2024 Referendum Does Not Pass?

No Final Decisions Have Been Made at this Time. The District's Options Include:

- Prioritize Operating Budget Reductions – Programs and Staffing
- Reduce Class Offerings – Impacts Student Academic Opportunities
- Consider Larger Class Sizes
- Manage Extra-Curricular and Intra-Curricular Offerings
- Defer Technology Purchases and Maintenance Needs
- Hold Another Referendum in April 2025

What Happens if November 2024 Referendum Does Not Pass?

- Cannot Offer Competitive Compensation and Benefit Plans – Challenges District's Ability to Retain and Attract Staff
- Cannot Contribute to Facilities Building and Maintenance Fund – Increases Likelihood of Future Facilities Referendum
- Challenges District's Ability to Sustain Fiscally Responsible General Fund Budgeting – Creates Uncertainty in Day-to-Day Operations
- Combination of All of the Above

November 2024 Referendum Tax Impact

November 2024 Referendum Impacts Dec 2024 – Dec 2026 Tax Bills and Expires

The Tax Rate is Stated Per \$1,000 of Equalized “Fair Market” Property Value – Not “Assessed Value”

School District Receives State Aid (Approx 30%) of November 2024 Referendum Amount the Following Year, Which Reduces Tax Impact Beginning Dec 2025 Tax Bill

Calculating Nov 2024 Referendum Estimated Tax Impact

Assessed Value Land	Ass'd. Value Improvements	Total Assessed Value
Est. Fair Mkt. Land	Est. Fair Mkt. Improvements	Total Est. Fair Mkt. \$100,000



Steps

1. Dec 2024 Tax Bill – Total Est. Fair Mkt. property value \$100,000
2. Place a decimal point before last three digits \$100.
3. Multiply property value (\$100) by \$2.60 est. tax rate = \$260 tax increase
4. Dec 2025 Tax Bill – Total Est. Fair Mkt. property value
Multiply property value (\$100) by \$1.80* est. tax rate = \$180 tax increase

*Tax Rate Reduced by State Aid

Example

Calculating School District Taxes on Tax Bill

1. Refer to December 2023 Tax Bill – “Total Est Fair Market Value” or “Use Value Assessment” (Top of Tax Bill)
2. Place a Decimal Point Before Last Three Digits
3. Multiply Answer by School District’s 2023-2024 Tax Rate (\$7.53)
3. Subtract School Taxes Reduced by School Levy Credit Located at Top of Tax Bill – (This Amount is Set by State Each Year)

Answer = Dollar Amount of School Taxes

Tax Bill

Assessed Value Land	Ass'd. Value Improvements	Total Assessed Value	Ave. Assmt. Ratio	Net Assessed Value Rate (Does NOT reflect credits)
Est. Fair Mkt. Land See Reverse, Use Value Assessment	Est. Fair Mkt. Improvements	Total Est. Fair Mkt.	<input type="checkbox"/> A Star in this box means Unpaid Prior Year Taxes	School taxes reduced by school levy tax credit
Taxing Jurisdiction	Est. State Aids Allocated Tax Dist.	Est. State Aids Allocated Tax Dist.	Net Tax	Net Tax
Village / Town County School District Vocational District				% Tax Change
Total	First Dollar Credit Lottery & Gaming Credit Net Property Tax			
Make Check Payable to:	Full Payment Due On or Before January 31	Net Property Tax		
	\$			
	Or First Installment Due On or Before January 31			
	\$			
And Second Installment Payment Payable To:	And Second Installment Due On Or Before July 31			
	\$			

When and Where to Vote

On November 5, 2024, all polling places open at 7:00 A.M., and close at 8:00 P.M. All questions concerning your polling place should be directed to the municipal clerk in your Village or Town. You can register to vote, check your voter registration status, find your polling place, see your sample ballot and request an absentee ballot at the MY VOTE WISCONSIN WEBSITE – <http://myvote.wi.gov>.

For more information visit:

District Website: www.rrsd.k12.wi.us

