

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BENTON



2018 REFERENDUM QUESTION

- Ballot Language -

Shall the School District of Benton, Lafayette and Grant Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$300,000 beginning with the 2018-2019 school year for recurring purposes, and by an additional \$150,000 for the 2018-2019 school year, \$225,000 for the 2019-20 school year, and \$370,000 for the 2020-21 through 2021-2022 school years for non-recurring purposes, consisting of continuing and enhancing the programs approved in 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2015, which includes sustaining operating expenses with which to maintain the current level of operations?

Explanation

Legal Procedures

On January 10, 2018, the Benton School Board adopted resolutions for a referendum election on April 3, 2018, asking voter approval to exceed the “revenue limit,” a State law (Wisconsin Statute Section 121.91), which became effective in 1993 for all school districts. This law limits the amount of **revenue** a school district may have to pay its operating expenses. Permission to exceed this limit requires voter approval.

Permission Requested

The 2018 Referendum Question asks permission to exceed the revenue limit beginning with the 2018-19 budget year, (when the 2015 referendum amount of \$300,000 is expired), in the following manner:

1. **\$300,000 “Recurring”**

The \$300,000 is included once in the base of the revenue limit calculation beginning with the 2018-19 budget year and remains in the base (ongoing) – does not expire.

2. **An additional amount for each of the next four budget years (“non-recurring”) as follows:**

\$150,000 for the 2018-19 school year and expires

\$225,000 for the 2019-20 school year and expires

\$370,000 for the 2020-21 through 2021-22 school year and expires

Each budget year, only the specified amount can be added to the revenue limit, and then expires before the next budget year. The dollar amounts are not allowed to be added in a cumulative manner.

“Recurring” means “ongoing” - “Nonrecurring” means the referendum amount will expire in a specific budget year.

Purpose of Referendum

To continue and enhance programs approved in the last four operational referendums and pay operating expenses to maintain the current level of operations.