



**MINERAL POINT**  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OPERATING REFERENDUM

# NOV. 5 OPERATING REFERENDUM

## What will the referendum do?



**Maintain Academic Offerings, Class Sizes & Co-Curriculars**



**Retain & Attract High Quality Staff**



**Stay Current with Technology, Building Maintenance & Safety**



**Keep a Healthy Fund Balance for Emergencies**

### What is on the ballot?

“Shall the Mineral Point Unified School District, Iowa and Lafayette Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$1,300,000 for the 2025-2026 school year and thereafter, for recurring purposes consisting of ongoing operational expenses?”

When a district passes a recurring referendum, it means that the money is added to its base revenue and stays there. **It does not mean the district is asking for \$1,300,000 each year.**

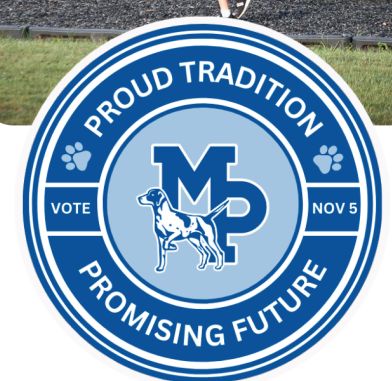
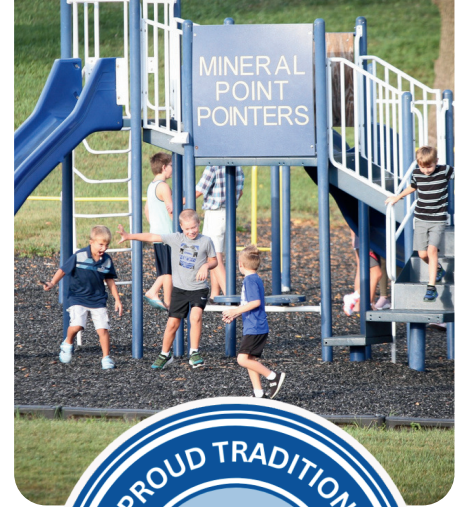
The intent is to levy up to an additional:

- \$700,000 for the 2025-26 school year;
- \$150,000 for the 2026-27 school year;
- \$175,000 for the 2027-28 school year;
- and \$200,000 for the 2028-29 school year, for a total of an additional \$1.3 million.

**Without a referendum, the District’s operational budget will not be able to maintain its current programs and services.**

## What is the estimated tax impact?

YEAR	ANNUAL IMPACT	MONTHLY IMPACT
	per every \$100,000 of valuation	per every \$100,000 of valuation
2025-26	\$62	\$5.17
2026-27	\$32	\$2.67
2027-28	\$33	\$2.75
2028-29	\$35	\$2.92



**MINERAL POINT**  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OPERATING REFERENDUM

## How did we get here?

### 1993 Revenue Limits

Schools are locked in to what they spent per student in 1993, unless they ask taxpayers for an operational referendum

### State Aid not Tied to Inflation

\$0 increase for 6 of the last 10 years causing funding to lag approx. \$3,000 per student

### ESSER Ending

ESSER funds were designed for one-time use items during the pandemic. Must be spent by 9/30/24.

### Increasing Cost of Operations

Within the last year: Water 18%, Food 10%, Electricity 9%, Gas & Fuel 7%, Property & Casualty Insurance 7%, Health Insurance 6.5%

**What if the referendum doesn't pass?**

- Cuts will not be enough
- Another referendum will still be needed
- Some possible reductions include:
  - Less Academic Offerings
  - Reduced Co-Curriculars
  - Staff Reductions, Larger Class Sizes
  - Less Competitive Wages & Benefits
  - Deferred maintenance, technology & safety updates
  - Longer Transportation
  - Depleted Fund Balance

**What have we done? Some things include:**

- Paid less than CPI for staff wage increases in several recent years
- Increased staff share of health insurance
- Used ESSER money to offset increases
- Cuts to the technology budget
- Cuts to the maintenance budget
- Moved technology expenses to ERate
- Brought back the food service program
- Analyze the true need for positions
- Competitively bid on large projects
- Reduced lease agreements (copiers/printers)
- Frozen or reduced classroom budgets
- Extended the life of curriculum and technology
- Took over Options In Education School
- Increased revenue in interest income
- Open Enrollment increase
- Advertising sales
- Fund 46 Capital Maintenance Fund
- Excellence In Education Endowment Fund provides grants to classroom projects through private donations
- Community Foundation gave large grant for before/after school program for first year
- Booster Group financial support
- Youth Apprenticeships – local businesses that provide work options
- Increase successful grant applications

**Cuts will affect the quality of education the community expects from our schools.**

**Are other local (CESA 3) school districts having an operating referendum in November? Yes:**

- Argyle
- Belmont
- Cuba City
- Darlington
- Dodgeville
- Iowa-Grant
- Ithaca
- Mineral Point
- Platteville
- Prairie du Chien
- River Ridge

**How can you learn more?**

- Scan the QR Code
- Contact Superintendent Mitch Wainwright to have your questions answered or set up a presentation for your community group.



608-987-0740  
mitch.wainwright@mp.k12.wi.us  
<https://mineralpointschools.org/2024-referendum/>