

**Dear Families and Community Members,**

We have a lot to be proud of in Northern Ozaukee!

- ✓ Our students **Exceed Expectations** on the District's most recent state report card.
- ✓ **Programs & Partnerships** with local businesses continue to grow and support technical education.
- ✓ We've been awarded more than **\$870,000 in grants** from the Bruce Krier Foundation.

These accomplishments would not be possible without the ongoing support we receive from our committed staff, dedicated parents, and the greater Northern Ozaukee community. **Thank you!**

There are challenges ahead. For the past two years, the State of Wisconsin has not provided any increase in funding on a per-student basis. At the same time, expenses for utilities, insurance, transportation, fuel, and technology continue to increase.

Over the past four years, the District cut more than \$1.75 million from the operating budget. We are concerned that additional cuts will negatively impact our students and ability to retain high-quality staff.

**We need your help! Our plans going forward must reflect the needs of our students and the priorities of taxpayers.**

## **Please take this survey before December 12th**

**Option 1: To reduce mailing expenses, please go online –**

Go to the survey website:

**[www.Feedback2000.com](http://www.Feedback2000.com)**

Enter your survey code:



**Option 2: By paper** – If you do not have internet access, please return the survey to any school office, or mail it to School Perceptions, PO Box 607, Slinger, WI 53086.

*Additional Surveys: The survey code can be used only once. To obtain additional surveys for other adults in your household, please call the District Office at 262.692.2489.*

*Para realizar la encuesta en español, vaya a [www.Feedback2000.com](http://www.Feedback2000.com), ingrese el código de arriba, luego haga clic en el enlace que se encuentra en la esquina superior derecha.*

Thank you for taking the time to read the information and complete this brief survey. To learn more about our budget, visit [www.nosd.edu/longrangebudgetplanning/](http://www.nosd.edu/longrangebudgetplanning/).

Sincerely,



David Karrels  
Superintendent

## Local Funding Sources

There are two types of referendums voters can approve to provide districts with additional funding:

1. A **capital referendum** asks voters to approve issuing debt (taking out a loan) to pay for major building projects, such as renovations or new construction. ***Northern Ozaukee School District voters supported this type of referendum in 2018 to update facilities.***
  2. An **operational referendum** asks voters to approve funding above the annual revenue limit to maintain class sizes, programs, and student services. In the last 20 years, more than 300 districts across the state (approximately 73%) have pursued this type of referendum. ***The Northern Ozaukee School District has never secured funding from this type of referendum.***
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## Budget Challenges

**The Northern Ozaukee School District faces several financial challenges:**

- Like many school districts across Wisconsin, our student enrollment has declined. Because state funding is tied to enrollment, the fewer students we have, the less money we receive.
- For the past two years, the state has not increased the amount of revenue school districts are allowed to receive on a per-student basis.
- Expenses for utilities, insurance, transportation, fuel, and technology have increased.
- It has become more difficult to attract, retain, and compensate high-quality staff.
- Federal ESSER funds helped us balance the budget. This funding will soon end, which puts the programs and staffing supported by these dollars in jeopardy.

**To balance the budget, the District cut more than \$1.75 million over the past four years by:**

- ✓ Reducing administrator, teacher, and support staff positions.
- ✓ Reducing employee benefits.
- ✓ Reducing bus routes.
- ✓ Increasing class sizes.

**Even with these cuts, the District is projecting significant budget deficits over the next five years.**

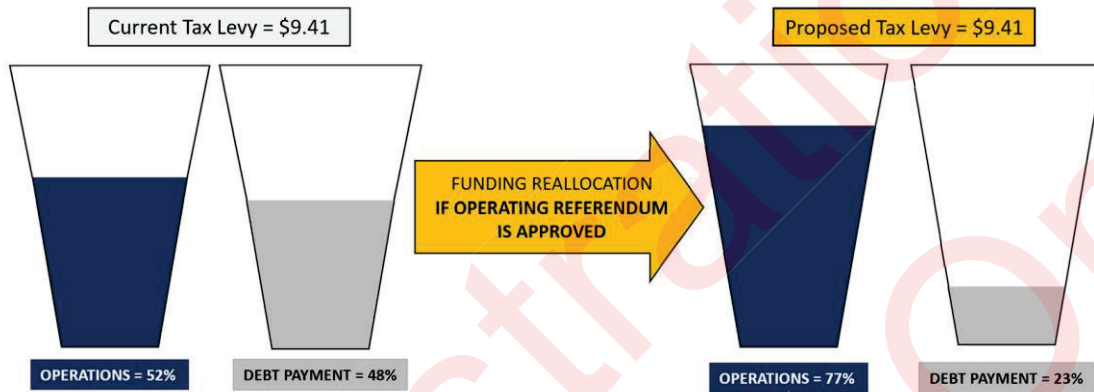
**Therefore, the District plans to explore a \$1.9 million annual operational referendum to:**

- Provide reasonable class sizes.
- Provide resources and help for struggling students.
- Maintain tech ed ("shop") courses to better prepare students for jobs and careers in our area.
- Address increasing costs for utilities, insurance, transportation, fuel, and technology.
- Provide salaries and benefits that are competitive with other schools and local businesses.
- Maintain the buildings and grounds.

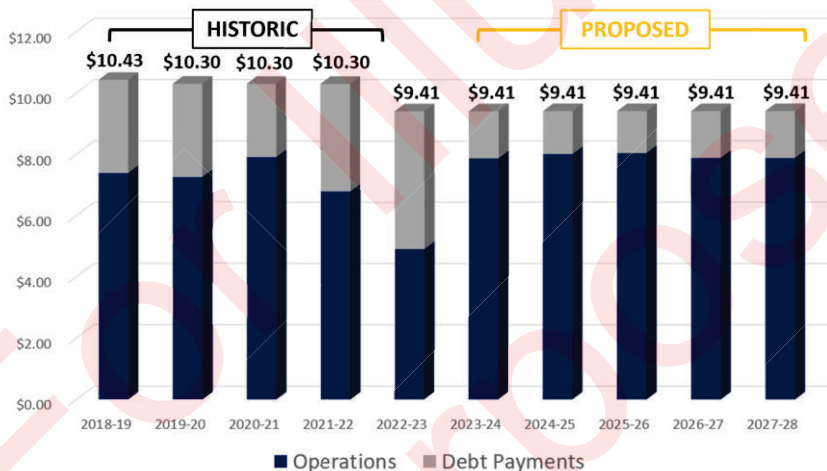
## Funding Support

The Northern Ozaukee School District has maintained a relatively consistent property tax mill rate over the past four years. This practice has allowed us to pay debt early, saving over \$2.5 million in interest expenses. This year, the tax mill rate has dropped to \$9.41.

The District's goal is to maintain a consistent mill rate to help our community members, families, and local businesses plan their budgets. **Approval of an operational referendum is required to reallocate funds previously used for prepaying debt → to operational funds that maintain most current programs and services.**



## Historical/Proposed Property Tax Mill Rates



The proposed operational referendum would not increase the school property tax mill rate over the current level.

**Would you support a \$1.9 million operational referendum to help maintain most programs and services for each of the next five years?**

*Approval would not increase the property tax mill rate over the current level.*

- ☐ Definitely yes
- ☐ Probably yes
- ☐ Undecided
- ☐ Probably no
- ☐ Definitely no

**Comments/questions/suggestions:**

## Cost-Cutting Options

If the referendum is not supported, further cuts will be needed. Community feedback will help determine the priority for potential cuts. The District and School Board do not endorse any of the following but must consider all options to reduce expenses and balance future budgets.

Should the District cut staff to increase class sizes and decrease student support services?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion
Should the District reduce course offerings (such as technical education, ability to earn college credits, and career preparation)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion
Should the District reduce athletics and extracurricular offerings?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion
Should the District delay technology upgrades and/or reduce student access to technology?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion
Should the District delay curriculum updates (textbooks, classroom materials, equipment, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion

## Respondent Information

What is your age? ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+

Is your primary residence in the Northern Ozaukee School District? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

In which municipality do you live?

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Town of Belgium             | <input type="checkbox"/> Town of Fredonia  | <input type="checkbox"/> Village of Fredonia  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Village of Newburg          | <input type="checkbox"/> Town of Saukville | <input type="checkbox"/> Village of Saukville |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do not live in the District | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure          |   |

Are you an employee of the Northern Ozaukee School District? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have children attending a school in the District? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How would you like to receive school/District information? (Mark all that apply)

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> School website     | <input type="checkbox"/> Automated phone notification | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/teacher organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District mailings  | <input type="checkbox"/> Meetings at school           | <input type="checkbox"/> School Board meetings        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School newsletters | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Ozaukee Press</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> Email                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cable/Local TV     | <input type="checkbox"/> Twitter                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook           | <input type="checkbox"/> Text messaging               | <input type="checkbox"/> Skyward Family Access        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____        |   |   |

On a scale of 0 – 10, how likely would you be to recommend the District to a friend or family member?

- |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 |
| Extremely Unlikely         |                            |                            | Neutral                    |                            |                            |                            | Extremely Likely           |                            |                            |                             |

***Thank you for your participation! We sincerely value your time and input.***