



APRIL 2
VOTE

ONE COMMUNITY, ONE FUTURE

REFERENDUM

Q & A



PROPERTY TAX EDITION

WHY DID THE VALDERS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT'S PORTION OF MY PROPERTY TAX BILL INCREASE?

In April of 2023, the Valders Area School District asked voters to consider two referendum questions. One of these questions pertained to adding \$9,900,000 for facilities improvements. This question was passed by the public and therefore this increase was reflected on the 2023 property tax bill.

I THOUGHT THE DISTRICT SAID THE MILL RATE WOULD GO UP BY NO MORE THAN \$0.07/\$1,000 IF THE FACILITIES REFERENDUM QUESTION PASSED?

This is correct. In 2022, the Valders Area School District had an average mill rate of \$7.59/\$1,000 of property value. During several community forums to discuss the referendum questions, it was stated that if the facilities referendum was successful, it would increase the mill rate approximately \$0.07/\$1,000 over the 2022 rate - or \$7.66/\$1,000 of property value. The actual mill rate was \$7.27, or \$0.32 LOWER than what was guaranteed.



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WHAT IS THE MILL RATE AND HOW DOES IT AFFECT PROPERTY TAXES?

The mill rate is the amount of tax a property owner will pay per \$1,000 of property value. Each school district in Wisconsin has the authority to levy up to a specific dollar amount for public schools. This amount is different for every district and is set by the State of Wisconsin in what is known as the “Revenue Limit.” The mill rate is calculated by taking the Revenue Limit and then dividing this by the Total Equalized Value for all properties within the school district. This answer is then multiplied by 1,000, to get a mill rate, or rate of tax per \$1,000 of property value.

Example: In 2023, the Valders Area School District had a total levy in the amount of \$6,490,557. The total equalized value for the District was \$892,952,119. $\$6,490,557 \div \$892,952,119 \times 1000 = \7.27 .

WILL THE MILL RATE GO UP AS A RESULT OF A SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM OF \$1,300,000?

There was \$2,310,694 paid on debt service for 2023. In 2024, we are expected to pay \$950,000, which provides room to levy \$1,300,000 without it directly affecting taxes.

WHAT HAPPENS IF PART OF THE \$1,300,000 IS NOT NEEDED IN A GIVEN YEAR?

The School Board can choose to not levy the full amount. They can choose to levy the exact amount needed to balance the budget for a particular school year.

HOW CAN THE COMMUNITY FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION?

The operational referendum working group, in collaboration with the school board, will have the following opportunities for community members to learn more.

- Frequently asked questions and more information will be listed on the Valders Schools website.
- Listening sessions will be scheduled in February and March for community members. Please watch for more information regarding dates, times, and locations for these sessions.
- Presentations will be given to the PTA, senior groups, town and village boards, and other local stakeholders.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE VISIT:**

valders.k12.wi.us/district/vasd-referendum-2024.cfm