

Oconto Falls School District
200 North Farm Road
Oconto Falls, WI 54154

Postage



Join us for an Informational Session & Tour!

Wednesday, October 5, 2022
6:00 PM | Washington Middle School

ELECTION DAY:
November 8, 2022

Learn more by scanning the QR code or visiting:

OcontoFalls.ReferendumFacts.org



Ballot Language

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the Oconto Falls Public School District, Oconto County, Wisconsin, that there shall be issued, pursuant to Chapter 67, Wisconsin Statutes, General Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$37,630,000 for the purpose of paying the cost of constructing a new middle school; removal of the existing middle school; improvements to the elementary and high school buildings and grounds including secure entrances and roof replacements/repairs; and equipment acquisition related to said projects.

Planning for the Future of Our School Facilities



On Tuesday, November 8, 2022, residents of the Oconto Falls School District will vote on a new referendum question. If approved, the referendum would allow the district to address its most pressing facility needs with the construction of a middle school, replacing roofing and establishing secure entrances at our buildings.

While our buildings have been well-maintained over the years, there are a number of deferred maintenance needs across our schools. These needs go beyond what the district is able to cover through its operational budget on a yearly basis.

The Proposed Plan

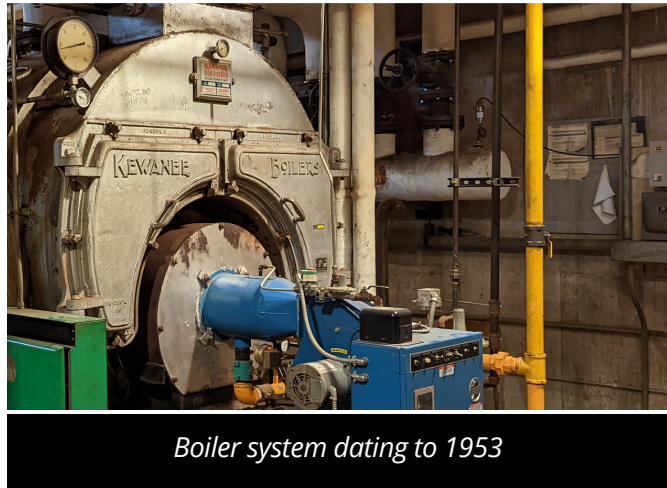
An approved referendum would allow OFSD to:

- Build a new middle school on a 90+ acre parcel of land adjacent to both Oconto Falls Elementary School and Oconto Falls High School. This site will provide our middle school with more space than is available with our current building, opening up greater learning opportunities for students.
- Provide new secured entrances for all of the district's schools, providing better controlled visitor access to each building.
- Repair roofs at each of our school buildings.

What are the district's facility needs?



Concrete crack under 2nd floor gym



Boiler system dating to 1953



Deteriorating flooring requires abatement procedures



Washington Middle School Playground



Exterior of WMS

Although our buildings have been well-maintained over the years, the Oconto Falls School District has pressing facility and deferred maintenance needs that we must address soon. These needs go beyond what the district is able to cover through its operational budget on a yearly basis.

- Most important is the current status of roofs across our school buildings.
- The safety of our students and staff is a top priority. As such, we believe that we need to immediately act to make our buildings' entrances more secure.
- The facility challenges at Washington Middle School are negatively affecting the quality of education provided to students.

By acting now, we believe we can address these needs in a way that will ensure a bright future for our students.

HOW WOULD REFERENDUM FUNDS BE ALLOCATED?

If the referendum is approved, it would provide the district with \$37,630,000 to address our facility needs. These funds would go toward the following:



\$35,547,000 | New middle school and demolition/clearing of Washington Middle School



\$1,459,000 | Oconto Falls Elementary roof replacement

\$298,500 | Oconto Falls High School roof repairs

\$190,500 | Abrams Elementary gym roof replacement



\$60,000 | Abrams Elementary secure entrance

\$45,000 | Oconto Falls High School secure entrance

\$30,000 | Oconto Falls Elementary secure entrance

PROPERTY TAX IMPACT

If approved, the referendum **would result in a reduced property tax impact** from the previous year of \$0.37 per every \$1,000 of assessed property value. This would translate to a reduction from the previous year of about \$37 on a home worth \$100,000 in our community.

If the referendum does not pass, taxpayers will realize a reduction of approximately \$2.62 per every \$1,000 of assessed property value, or a \$262 reduction on a home worth \$100,000 in our community.

HOW MUCH WOULD IT COST TO BRING WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL UP TO CODE?

To address the most critical needs of the middle school, we would need to invest more than 70% of the cost to build a new school. It is important to note that after those projects were finished, we would still have a building with structures ranging from 35 to 100 years old and located on a lot without any green space.

WHY WAS THIS SITE SELECTED FOR THE NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL?

The proposed site is located on a 90-acre parcel of land adjacent to both Oconto Falls Elementary School and Oconto Falls High School.

- The site will provide our middle school with more space than is available with our current building, opening up greater learning opportunities for students.
- The site features a field and wooded area with the potential to provide a wide variety of environmental and agricultural education opportunities.
- The new school will be in close proximity to both the elementary and the high school which will create a campus feel for three of our community's schools.

LEARN MORE AT OCONTOFALLS.REFERENDUMFACTS.ORG