



THREE LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT

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PRESS RELEASE

Three Lakes Board of Education Approves Two-Part Capital Referendum for April 1 Election

Three Lakes, Wisconsin, Sept. 25, 2024 — On Jan. 15, 2025, the Three Lakes School District Board of Education unanimously voted to place a two-question capital referendum on the April 1, 2025, ballot. If approved by district voters, the referendum will address significant facility improvement needs in the Three Lakes School District.

The first referendum question asks voters to authorize general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$18.9 million for the purpose of school building and facility improvement projects that include district-wide renovations, capital maintenance, building infrastructure, safety and security, site improvements and the construction of additions at Sugar Camp Elementary. The Sugar Camp additions would include classrooms and a cafeteria/multipurpose room.

The second referendum question asks voters to authorize general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$2.7 million for the purpose of a facility improvement project that consists of athletic facility and site improvements. This project would include track replacement, field improvements, a concessions/bathroom building and a parking lot expansion, as well as other updates.

"Our focus lies on students and their journey to becoming productive citizens while always respecting cost to our citizens and property owners," said Board President Elisha Williams. "We have the best students and staff here in Three Lakes, and we want to ensure they have the facilities and tools necessary for continued learning and lifelong success."

In early 2023, the district began the process of assessing facilities. At that time, the district hired Nexus Solutions to complete a detailed facility audit and create a maintenance schedule. Since then, the district has reviewed those findings, surveyed the community about facility needs and formed a community-led planning committee. This referendum is a result of this work and information.

"The process in arriving at this point was lengthy and deliberate," said District Administrator Teri Maney. "Our community has been historically supportive of the school district through passage of operational referendums. It is with utmost respect and gratitude that I keep this foremost in my mind. It is my intention to keep the community informed as we go forward with this capital improvement referendum."

The Three Lakes School District last passed a capital referendum in 1992. At that time, the large gym, auditorium, commons and district offices were added and other major building improvements were made.

In 2022, district voters passed an operational referendum, which allows the district to exceed the annual revenue limit. Operational referendums are used for day-to-day expenses that help maintain things such as class size, programs and students services. The district is on a five-year cycle for operational referendums and will again seek voter approval for one in 2027.

About TLSD - Three Lakes School District is located in Oneida County, Wisconsin, in the heart of the Northwoods. Our district includes Sugar Camp Elementary, Three Lakes Elementary and Three Lakes Jr./Sr. High schools and the communities of Hiles, Monico, Piehl, Stella, Sugar Camp and Three Lakes.