



COMMUNITY CONNECTS Winter 2024

### Dear Community,

Happy New Year! This is an important time for our community. On April 2, 2024 you have the opportunity to make your voice heard and help determine the future of the Hamilton School District.

Tremendous area growth and state funding obstacles beyond our control have resulted in challenges that require the attention of our entire community.

On January 10, the School Board voted to place two referendum questions on the spring ballot. The first addresses funding needs. The second addresses capacity concerns.

Results from the November 2023 Community Survey show that you recognize and value the exceptional academic experience our schools provide. Your input was used to consider many options to address current and future needs.

I invite you to attend our referendum meetings, visit our website, reach out with questions and learn how we are working to keep our district a source of community pride and carry on the tradition of being high-achieving and fiscally responsible.

Sincerely,



Dr. Paul Mielke  
Superintendent  
mielpa@hamilton.k12.wi.us

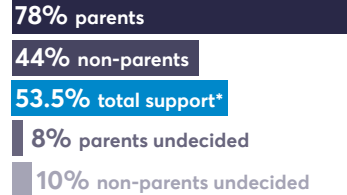
We are dedicated to giving you as many opportunities as possible to understand the rationale behind putting two referendums on the April 2, 2024 ballot and the ways in which it will impact you.

### SURVEY RESULTS

Here are the results from the 2023 Community Survey that helped to shape the School Board's decision.

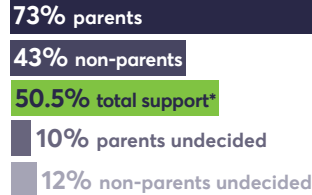
#### OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM

for additional operational funding.



#### FACILITY REFERENDUM

to address capitol improvement projects.



2,538 respondents

### COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE INCREDIBLY PLEASED

- ✓ Survey results place our District in the 98th percentile for delivering a high-quality education.
- ✓ Survey results place our District in the 99th percentile for keeping the public informed.

This means, according to the scores our community gave us on the 2023 Community Survey, we are performing better than 98/99 percent of other comparable school districts in these areas.

\*Data results show that if the referendum were held today, 53.5/50.5% of the community would support it

60% of WI Districts Relied on Referendums in 2023

### DID YOU KNOW?

Hamilton is one of a record number of Wisconsin School Districts turning to the community. Out of WI's 421 districts, 258 used dollars approved through referendums to fund education last year.\*

Inadequate state funding has put us in the position to ask for your support in order to help maintain current class sizes, staffing levels and academic programs.

### PUBLIC EDUCATION TRADITION

- Quality schools lead to higher home values, stability in the community and a higher quality of life for all residents.
- Good schools stimulate the economy and, in turn, support older adults through income taxes.
- Public education relies on all households, both with and without school aged children, contributing to school funding.

\*Source: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Nov. 2023

LEARN MORE

### REFERENDUM INFO NIGHTS

Please join us at any of the following referendum information nights to learn about our needs, take a tour, and get questions answered.



FEB 1<sup>ST</sup> | 6:00 PM  
Templeton Middle School Cafeteria



FEB 22<sup>ND</sup> | 4:30 PM  
Lannon Elementary School Gym



MAR 19<sup>TH</sup> | 6:30 PM  
Hamilton High School Cafeteria

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hamiltongrows.com



# REFERENDUM FACTS

## Q1 - \$7.6M OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the Hamilton School District, Waukesha County, Wisconsin that the revenues included in the School District budget be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$7,600,000 beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, for recurring purposes consisting of operational and maintenance expenses, including to maintain current class sizes, staffing levels, academic programs, course offerings and services.

If the \$7.6 million dollar recurring operational referendum is approved by voters, funding would be used to:

- Help maintain current class sizes, staffing levels and academic programs
- Pay for increasing operational costs (heating schools, bussing, etc.)
- Replace aging building systems throughout the District (roofs, HVAC, fire alarms) and install AC at Willow Springs Learning Center



## Q2 - \$25M FACILITY REFERENDUM

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the Hamilton School District, Waukesha County, Wisconsin that there shall be issued pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$25,000,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school facility improvement project consisting of: district-wide safety and site improvements, building updates and capital maintenance; renovations, including for technical education, science and art classrooms at Hamilton High School and construction of an addition to the cafeteria/commons area; renovations at Templeton Middle School; renovations and construction of an addition at Lannon Elementary School; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment.

If the \$25 million dollar facilities referendum is approved by voters, funding would be used to:

- Build addition to expand Hamilton High School cafeteria, accommodating current enrollment and creating common space for students to use throughout the day
- Renovate Applied Engineering & Technology, science and art classrooms at high school
- Renovate to expand Templeton Middle School cafeteria, accommodating current enrollment and creating common spaces for students to use throughout the day
- Reconfigure bus and parent drop-off/pick-up areas at Marcy, Maple Avenue and Lannon Elementary Schools to enhance safety and improve efficiency
- Build addition at Lannon Elementary School, accommodating current and future enrollment

**! \$29.6M WAS SCALED BACK TO \$25M TO MINIMIZE TAX IMPACT**

## HOW A LARGER TAX BASE AFFECTS SCHOOL FUNDING

New housing developments provide tax relief to all residents as education expenses are covered by a larger tax base. However, this does not necessarily result in additional money for the district because schools are restricted by state revenue limits. When new homes are built, new homeowners pay taxes and some of that money goes to the district. In turn, the district receives less money from existing homes.

## TAXPAYER IMPACT PER QUESTION

PROPERTY VALUE	PER MONTH	PER YEAR
<b>Q1</b> \$100,000	\$1.83	\$22
<b>Q2</b> \$100,000	\$2.25	\$27
<b>TOTAL IMPACT</b>	<b>\$4.08</b>	<b>\$49</b>

Estimated Tax Impact based on Fair Market Property Value per \$100,000

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR TAX BILL

Tax bills are mailed annually in mid-December. Visiting the below webpage will help to understand the different sections of the tax statement.

qrc0.de/taxstatement

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