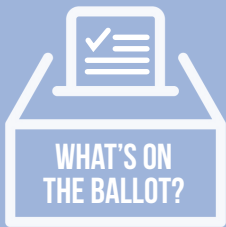




NICOLET HIGH SCHOOL OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM 2021

VOTE TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021

The Nicolet High School District's School Board unanimously approved placing a question on the April 6 General Election ballot asking taxpayers for permission to replace the 2016 Operational Referendum for the following six school years so that Nicolet can continue to provide educational opportunities that reflect the community's high expectations.



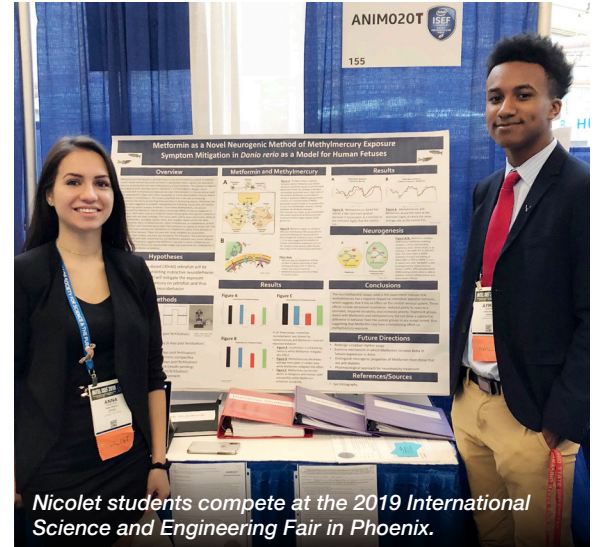
The formal resolution requesting permission to exceed the state revenue limit will appear as follows on the ballot:

Shall the Nicolet Unified High School District, Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$3,900,000 per year for six years, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year and ending with the 2027-2028 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of maintaining and supporting instructional programs, services, and class sizes?

WHY NOW? In 2011, and again in 2016, the Nicolet community passed operational referendums to ensure the Nicolet High School District could continue to maintain and support educational programs, retain critical teaching staff, and maintain small class sizes.

We are proud to offer diverse and unique educational programs, in part, due to the support from previous operational referenda. This referendum ensures we can continue to offer the same level of programming.

We are responding directly to community input provided last fall through a community-wide survey with more than 2,590 responses, with the majority favoring an operational referendum for \$3.9 million per year for six years.



Nicolet students compete at the 2019 International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix.

DID YOU KNOW?

1

The State of Wisconsin sets a limit on the amount of money, per student, that school districts can receive each year through property taxes. An operational referendum requests permission from voters to exceed this amount.

2

According to The Wisconsin Policy Forum, 280 out of 422 (66.4%) public school districts in the state now have passed at least one referendum (operational or capital) since 2016.

3

Like the current proposal, Nicolet's previous referenda in 2011 and 2016 were also "non-recurring," which means they end after a set number of years.

4

If approved, the referendum funds will be used to maintain current course offerings, programs, and class sizes.

HOW WILL THE REFERENDUM **IMPACT TAXPAYERS?**

If the referendum is approved, property taxpayers would pay an additional \$17 for every \$100,000 of their property value for the next six years. This impact is demonstrated in the chart to the right. Based on current assumptions for debt structure, enrollment, and forecasted revenues, the District projects that the mill rate will decline in future years as shown in the graph below.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE REFERENDUM FAILS?

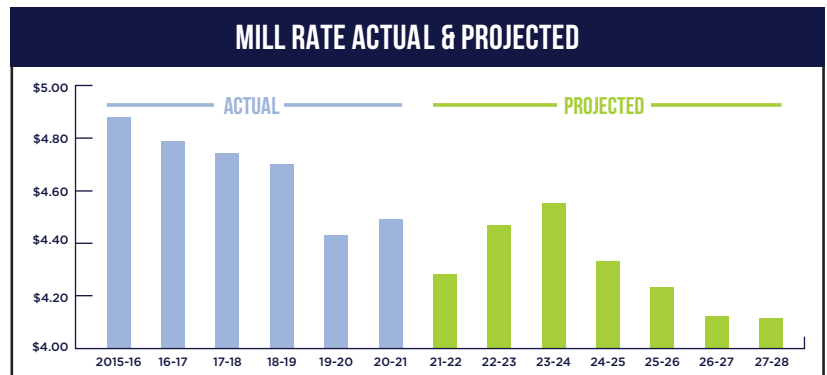
Without a replacement referendum, Nicolet is facing an average budget shortfall of approximately \$3.9 million per year (or approximately 17.9% of the forecasted 2022-23 general operations budget) over the next six years. To achieve a balanced budget in 2022-23, Nicolet would need to implement an immediate reduction of \$3.4 million in expenses. Future years would require additional budget modifications.

The District would close the budget gap by making potential cuts such as:

- Elimination of some co-curricular and extracurricular programming for students
- Reducing the number of teachers and support staff, resulting in increased class sizes
- Reducing the variety and frequency of courses taught at Nicolet
- Reduced funding for instructional technology

PROPERTY TAX IMPACT CHART		
PROPERTY VALUE	AVERAGE ANNUAL IMPACT	AVERAGE MONTHLY IMPACT
\$100,000	\$17.00	\$1.42
\$250,000	\$42.50	\$3.54
\$500,000	\$85.00	\$7.08

All financial data is based on assumptions made at the January 2021 Board Workshop.



Mill Rate: Property tax dollars levied per \$1,000 of equalized (fair market) value.

All mill rate projections assume a 1.0% increase in property valuation across communities.



In February 2020, Mock Trial took first place at the Kenosha Regionals and qualified for the state competition.



ELECTION DAY IS APRIL 6, 2021

Visit myvote.wi.gov to register to vote, request an absentee ballot (available March 16!), find your polling location and more.

MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION & LEARN MORE

VISIT the operational referendum page at nicolet.us

ATTEND a Virtual Referendum Information Session

- February 24 from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. or 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- March 3 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. or 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

