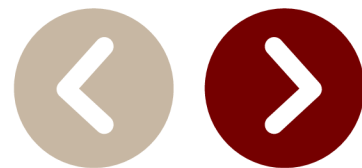




Riverdale School District: Empower, Engage, Evolve

RIVERDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT

APRIL 2025 REFERENDUM





Riverdale School District: Empower, Engage, Evolve

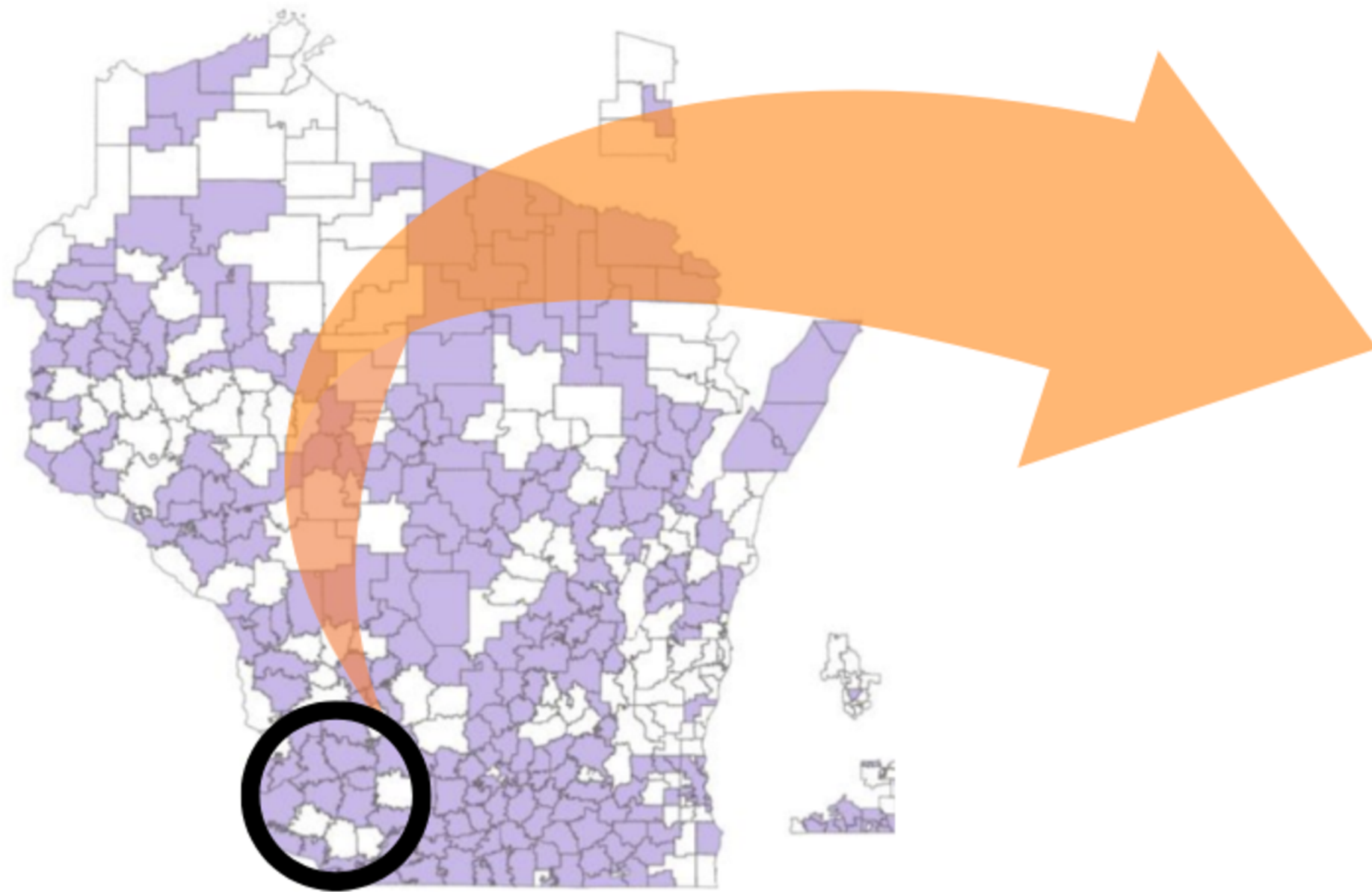
WHY RIVERDALE?

1	Top 20% high school in the nation according to World News Report	The logo for the US News Best High Schools National 2024 award, featuring the text 'BEST HIGH SCHOOLS', 'USNews', 'NATIONAL', and '2024'.
2	Silver level dual credit recognition by SWTC	The logo for the Silver level dual credit recognition by SWTC, featuring the text 'RIVERDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT', 'SILVER DUAL CREDIT PARTICIPANT', and the years '2023 2024'.
3	Top 10 Ag Program in the State of Wisconsin	The logo for the Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom award, featuring a collage of photos and the text 'Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom'.
4	DPI selected mentor school for college and career readiness	The logo for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, featuring a stylized figure and the text 'WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF Public Instruction'.
5	Top 10 CESA 3 elementary school in Math and top 12 in Reading achievement.	The logo for the Wisconsin Forward Exam, featuring a blue outline of the state of Wisconsin and the text 'Wisconsin Forward Exam'.

REFERENDUM BASICS

The Riverdale School District is placing an operational referendum on the ballot for the **Tuesday, April 1, 2025**. The referendum question asks voters permission to exceed the revenue limit. The revenue limit is a state law which caps the amount of revenue the school district receives to pay operating expenses. It is not uncommon for districts to go to referendum to raise more than their caps set by the state, which were created in the early 1990s.

➤ In Spring of 2024, 103 WI school districts went to referendum and in November 2024 137 went. This spring 90 school district are going to referendum.

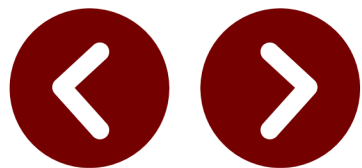


2024 AREA REFERENDUMS

- Richland
- Southwestern
- La Farge
- De Soto
- Viroqua
- Belmont
- Ithaca
- Prairie Du Chien
- Barneveld
- River Ridge
- Royall
- Highland
- Kickapoo
- Iowa Grant
- Platteville
- Mineral Point
- Dodgeville
- Argyle
- Cuba City
- Darlington
- Potosi
- River Ridge
- Fennimore
- River Valley

24/32 CESA 3 Schools went to referendum in 2024

Neighboring districts Highland, Ithaca and Richland Center have all passed operational referendums in the past year. Boscobel passed a capital referendum in 2023.



How did we arrive at this point?

April 2025
Referendum

Budget
Deficit



Private School
Voucher
Increase



ESSER
Funds End



Insufficient
Funds from
State



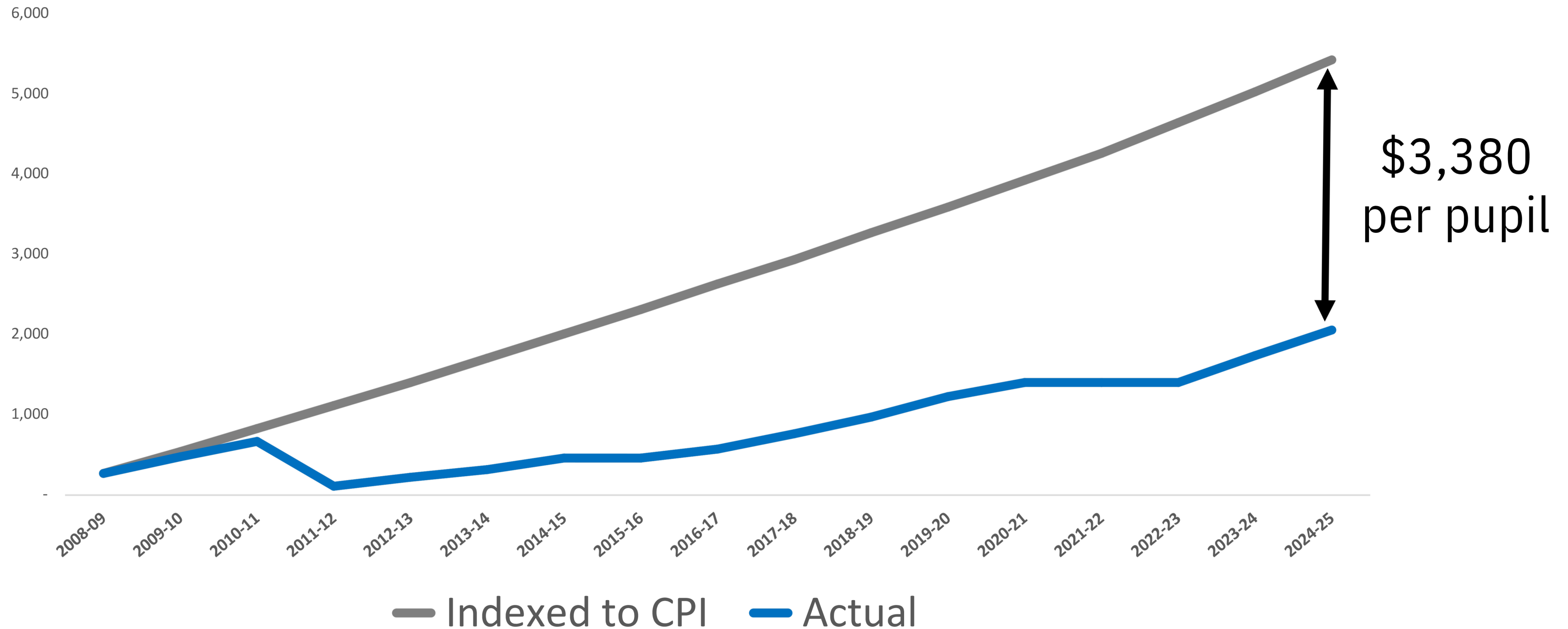
Record
Inflationary
Increase



**RIVERDALE
SCHOOL DISTRICT
REFERENDUM**



General school district revenues per pupil lag inflation by more than \$3,300 since 2009



REFERENDUM SPECIFICS



Fiscal Shortfall

- Estimated fiscal shortfall for the 2025-26 school year and beyond.



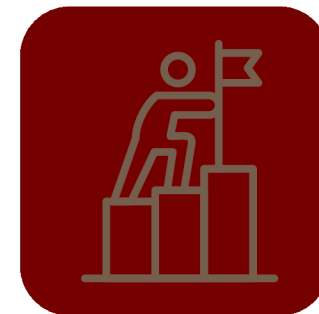
Timeline

- Five year operational referendum starting in 2025-2026 and ending in the 2029-2030 school year.



Opportunities

- Continue to provide excellent educational programming to meet the needs of our students and attain our mission: "To develop students with a strong academic foundation and compassion for others."

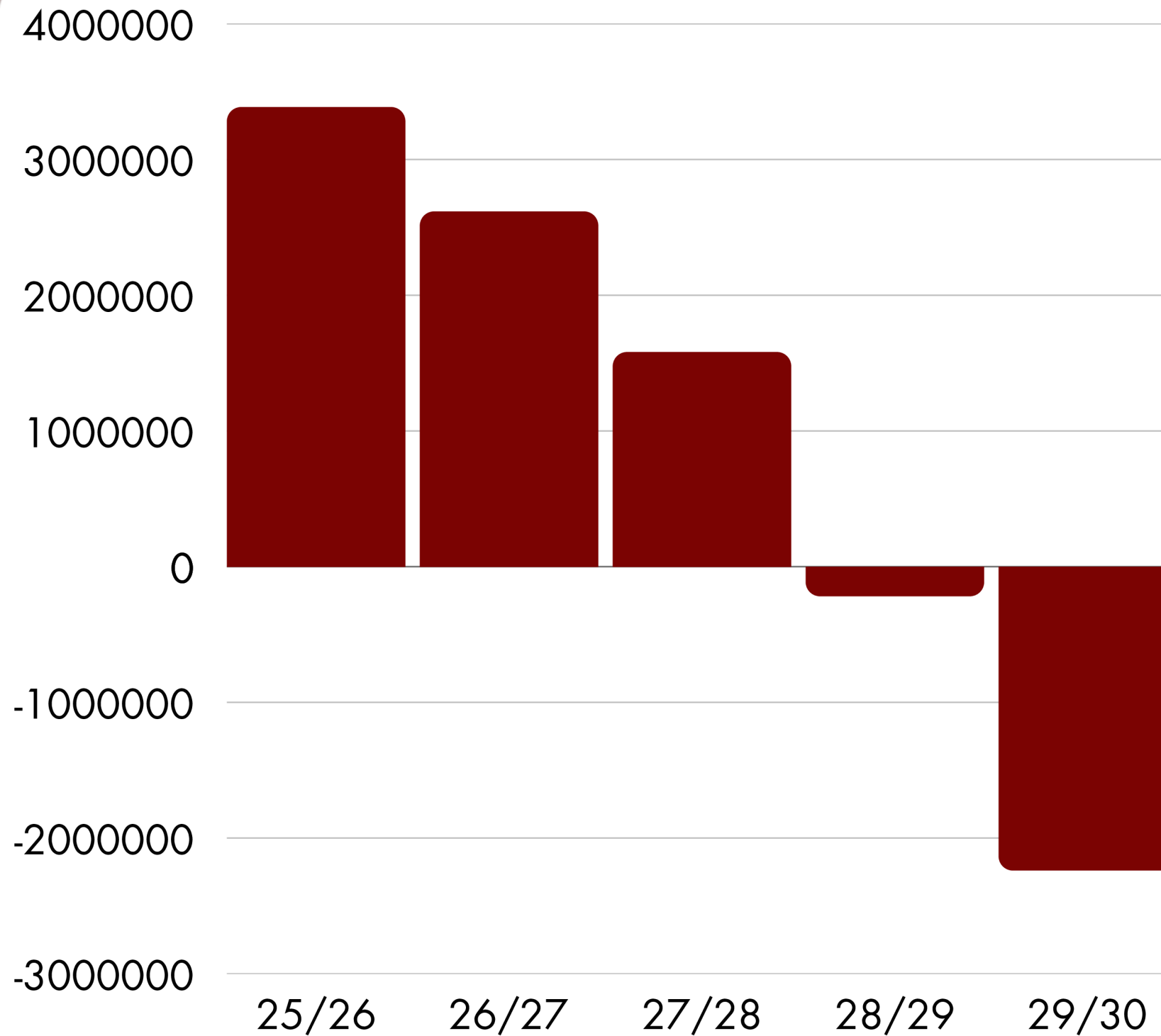


Purpose

- Nonrecurring purposes consisting of operational costs to maintain instructional programs, staffing, technology, transportation, and facilities management.



Riverdale School District: Empower, Engage, Evolve



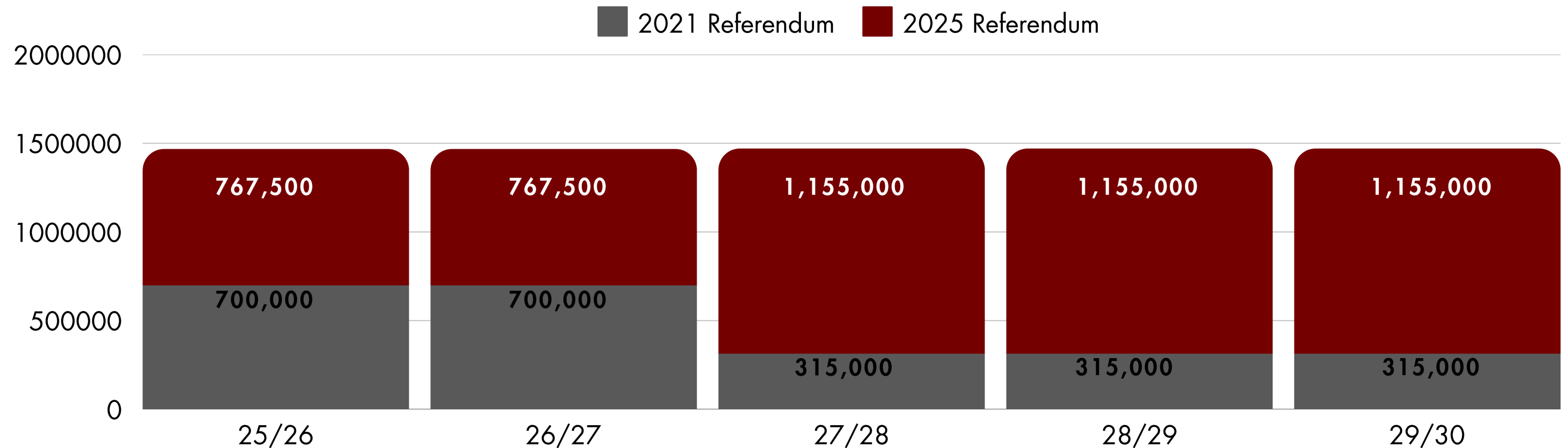
FUND BALANCE

As a district we take great pride in keeping our fund balance healthy. Our goal is 25-30% of our expenditures. We have been able to do that over the past five years, which helped us cover the projected budget deficit in the 2024-2025 school year. Our fund balance is projected to fall beneath that amount in 26-27 and continue to decline over the next three years until we are in a negative fund balance in 28/29.



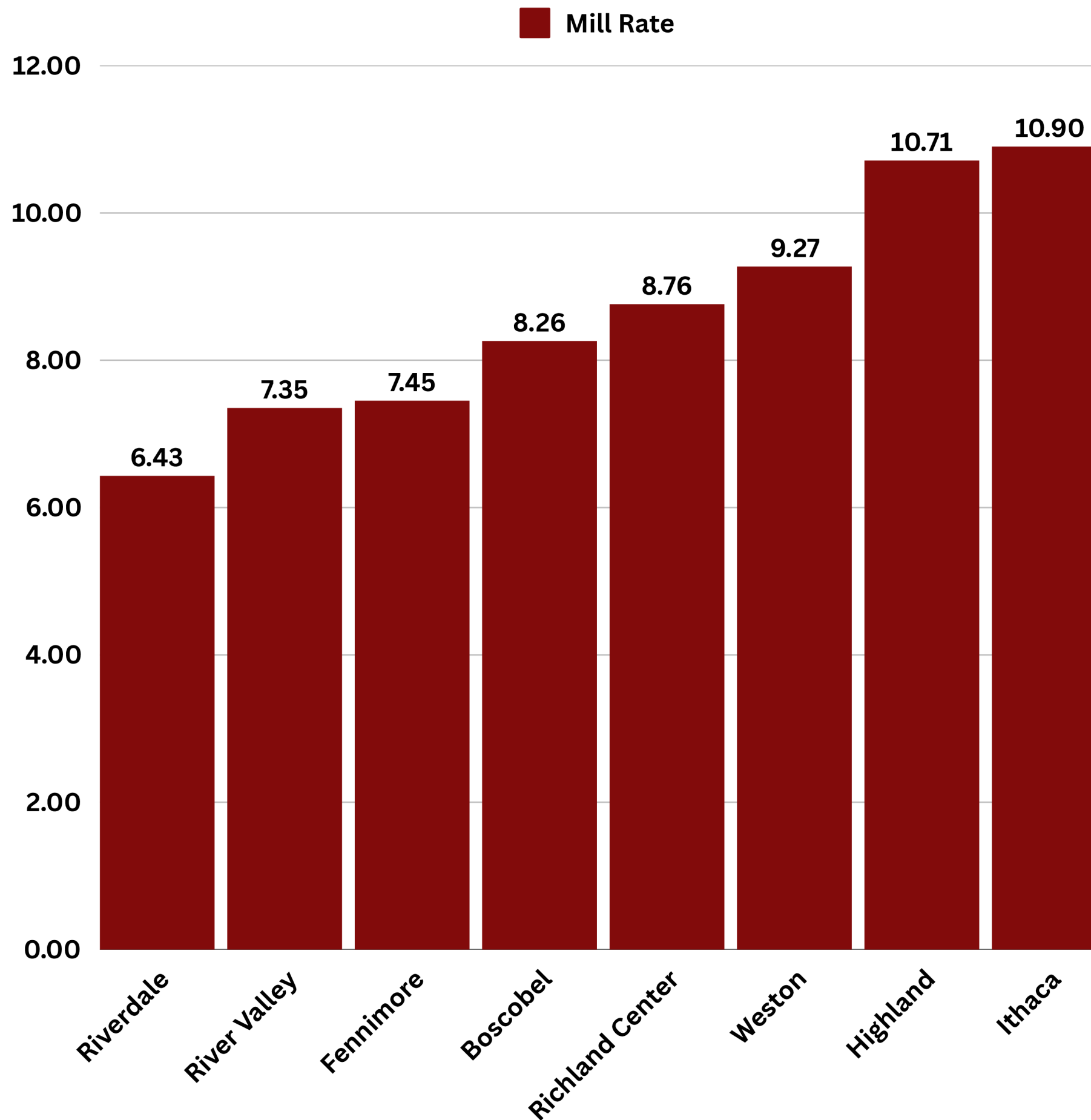
2021 AND 2025 REFERENDUM

The operational part (\$385,000) of the 2021 referendum will drop off after 26/27. The capital referendum portion will continue (\$315,000).





Riverdale School District: Empower, Engage, Evolve



The Riverdale Mill Rate is the lowest in the area among area schools. The Mill Rate is the amount of property tax paid per \$1,000 of a property's assessed value. Riverdale property is taxed at \$6.43 per \$1,000. With a passed referendum the mill rate would be estimated to be \$7.49 per \$1,000. This is an estimate as more information is needed to reach the final mill rate. That estimate would put Riverdale still near the lowest in the area.



Riverdale School District: Empower, Engage, Evolve

TAX IMPACT REFERENDUM APRIL 2025

PROPERTY VALUE	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$200,000
NET TAX INCREASE	\$106	\$159	\$212
MONTHLY TAX INCREASE	\$8.83	\$13.25	\$17.66



Riverdale School District: Empower, Engage, Evolve

ADJUSTMENTS MADE TO DISTRICT

Reduction of an elementary classroom teacher resulting in larger class sizes

Reduction of extra curricular opportunities for students
(Cheer, FBLA, one Forensics coach)

Elimination of two early interventionist positions

Elimination of early releases and moved to fewer professional days to save transportation and student service costs, including paraprofessional support staff wages.

Reduction of full time Library media specialist

Reduction of the number of full time support staff when part time positions could be filled

Reduction of one full time paraprofessional support for the 24-25 school year

Utilization of COPS Grant funding and other grant programs to supplement maintenance budget and health/student service programming



Riverdale School District: Empower, Engage, Evolve

WHAT WILL THE REVENUE BE USED FOR?

The Riverdale School District has a projected deficit of \$355,000 in 2024-2025, \$610,000 in 2025-2026, \$885,000 in 2026-2027. In order to maintain a healthy fund balance and staffing, we are asking the taxpayers to approve the proposed non-recurring operating referendum.

The funding will be used to:

- maintain programs such as full day 4K, current class sizes, JH and HS course offerings, high school AP and CAPP courses, college and career opportunities and extracurricular and sporting options.
- update current transportation fleet and recruit drivers
- maintain technology services - 1-1 devices, student education
- contribute to the facilities building and maintenance projects
- manage a fiscally responsible fund balance
- competitive in wages and benefits for all teaching, support, custodial, cook, office staff and bus drivers



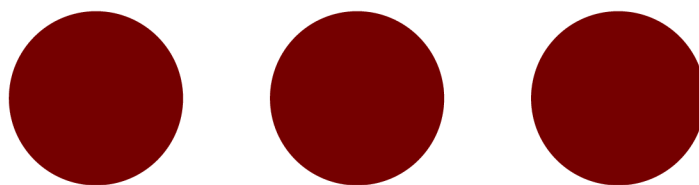
Failed Referendum Impact

Student Impact

1. Increase Class Sizes.
2. Reduce academic and extracurricular programming including sports, class trips and club opportunities.
3. Options for college and career readiness would be significantly reduced.
4. Students would be less supported.

Staff Impact

1. Wage and Benefit adjustments for staff.
2. Reduction in full time and part time staff.
3. Reduction in four teaching positions.
4. Ability to attract and retain quality staff in an already competitive market will become increasingly difficult.





Riverdale School District: Empower, Engage, Evolve



HOW WILL THE BALLOT READ?

Question:

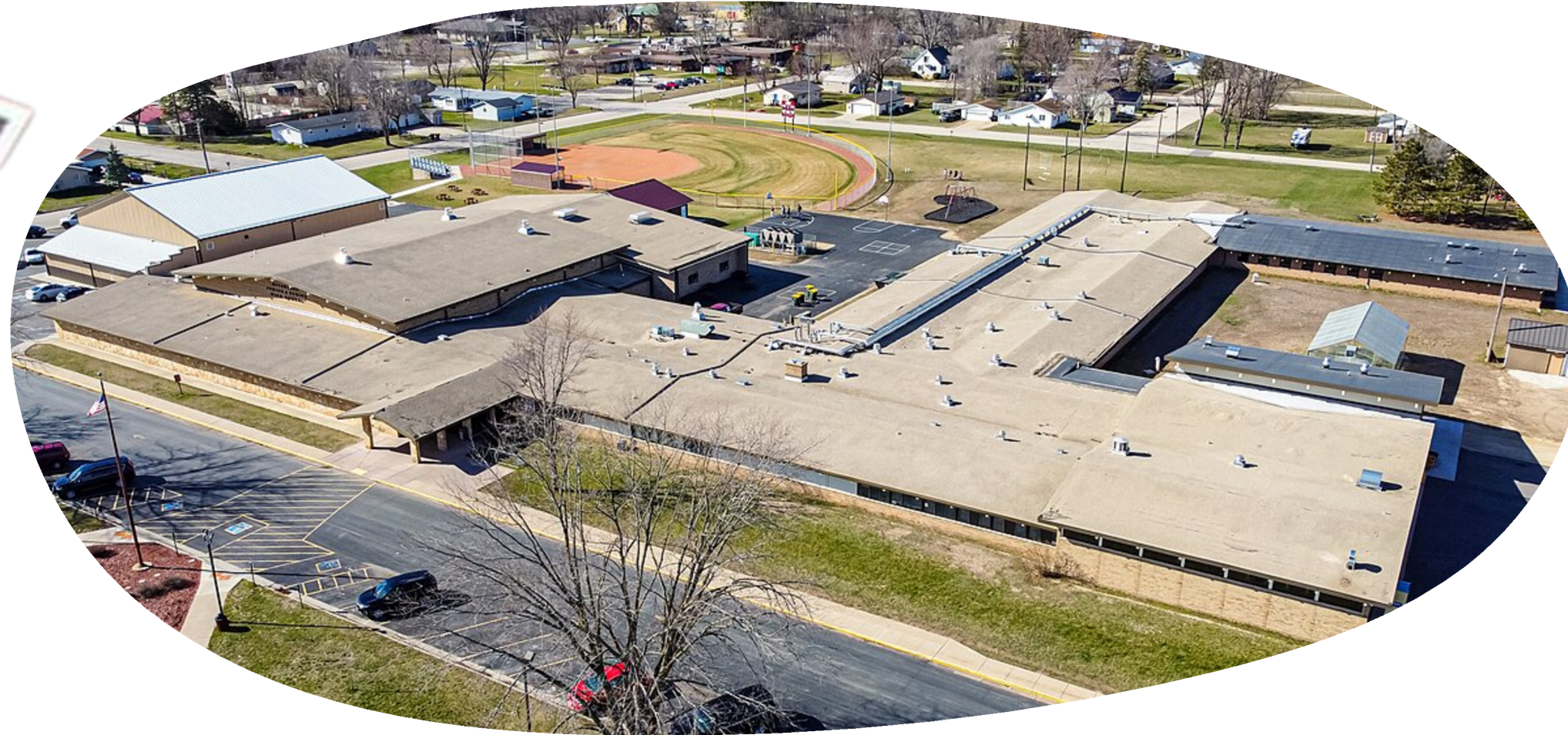
Shall the Riverdale School District, Grant, Richland, Iowa and Crawford Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$767,500 for the 2025-2026 school year, by \$767,500 for the 2026-2027 school year, and by \$1,155,000 per year beginning with the 2027-2028 school year and ending with the 2029-2030 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of operational costs to maintain instructional programs, staffing, technology, transportation and facilities management?



WHEN AND WHERE DO I VOTE?

- On April 1, 2025, all polling places open at 7:00 A.M. and close at 8:00 P.M.
- All questions concerning your polling place should be directed to the municipal clerk in your town or village.
- You can register to vote, check your voter registration status, find your polling place, see your sample ballot and request an absentee ballot at the MY VOTE WISCONSIN WEBSITE - <https://myvote.wi.gov/>





THANK YOU

RIVERDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT WEBPAGE

RIVERDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT: EMPOWER, ENGAGE, EVOLVE