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● WHAT ARE WE SEEKING?

The School District of Thorp is seeking an \$8.5 million capital referendum to address critical maintenance needs of our school.

● WHAT IS A CAPITAL REFERENDUM?

A capital referendum in Wisconsin public schools is a ballot question that asks voters for permission to issue debt (borrow money) to fund major facility repairs renovations, construction, or infrastructure upgrades. Referendums are used when a project cost cannot be covered by regular budgeting or typical savings.

● WHAT MAINTENANCE NEEDS WILL BE ADDRESSED?

The referendum would address the following issues:

- Leaking roof •Leaking plumbing •Electrical outages and surges
- Poor air quality, mold, & mildew •Broken lockers •Broken bleachers
- Broken/Cracked asphalt •Worn out fire doors •Aging windows

● HOW HAS THE DISTRICT PAID FOR MAINTENANCE IN THE PAST?

School districts do not receive extra funding for maintenance or facility repairs. The school reserves surpluses for maintenance when possible. With the growth of operational costs far exceeding the growth in state-imposed revenue limits, the school has been forced to use up most of its reserves. In the last year, alone we've had to replace 2 boilers, fix 30+ roof leaks, repair broken electrical switchboard components, replace plumbing, repair air handlers, and replace 2 minivans.

● WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED TAX IMPACT?

The estimated tax impact is + \$5.33/month or + \$64/year per \$100,000 of equalized property value.

● WHAT IS THE LONG-TERM TAX OUTLOOK?

The school district has saved taxpayers money by responsibly paying down existing debt early. Therefore, the increase in mill rate from this referendum would only be felt for 2 years, after which the mill rate would drop again when existing debt comes off the books early.

● WHAT HAPPENS IF THE REFERENDUM FAILS?

If the referendum does not pass, the District would face the following:

- Postponing critical maintenance needs until funds are available, which creates a less safe and healthy school environment.
- Cutting even more classes, programs, and staff in order to pay for maintenance needs.
- Class sizes will increase as staff positions are reduced.
- Deteriorating facility with more expensive repairs in the future.
- Long-term financial outlook will be jeopardized from covering expensive maintenance costs out of the general fund.

● WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

Join us at any of these community meetings to ask questions and learn more:

- Sept. 29 - 6:30pm-HS Flex Room
- Oct. 15 - 7:00pm-Withee Town Hall
- Oct. 26 - 6:30pm-HS Flex Room



<https://www.thorp.k12.wi.us/district/facility-planning.cfm>