

Information about the April 4, 2017 Referendum

HOWARD-SUAMICO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Damian LaCroix, Superintendent

The Howard-Suamico School Board of Education approved a resolution to bring to the public on April 4, 2017 the following question:

Shall the Howard-Suamico School District, Brown County, Wisconsin for the 2017-18 school year and thereafter be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$4,000,000 a year, for recurring purposes consisting of added student support, employee compensation, and facility maintenance?

These priorities are based upon feedback provided by residents and strategic planning by the Howard-Suamico School District. This follows 17 months of discussion on how best to serve the students of the district and maintain the district's momentum while costs continue to rise, revenue from the State has been cut, and the marketplace to attract and retain talent continues to get more competitive.

We asked and you told us. “

Our vision is bold.
We seek to be
the *best*.

Don't just be *the best regionally*,
be the best in the **STATE**, the **NATION**
and some of you even said
the WORLD.

We hear you and we agree because Howard-Suamico School District is a special place. But we're not interested in letting our past success be enough. It's about being all that we can be for our students.

This is about offering the benchmark for education that others seek to achieve.

Investing in our future.

To maintain our position of strength, ongoing investment in our students, our employees and our facilities is required. The following outlines the details of what's included in the April 4 referendum.

STUDENT SUPPORT

We will continue enhancing the student support we offer every child.

To be the best, we must offer the best. That includes teachers and programming that helps every student reach their full potential. We seek to advance our offerings in the areas such as career and college decision making and disability services. We know every student has unique gifts and we need to continually advance how we reach each individual.

Specifically, we seek student support funding to:

- Add additional staff to **enhance capacity of student support**.
- Offer more **one-to-one opportunities** to meet each student where they are.
- Enhance **career and college decision-making**, and **disability services**.

EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

Quality teachers matter.

This is personal. For our students and for our staff. We know what a difference a teacher makes in the life of a child. To ensure that we retain and recruit high-quality teachers we must remain competitive in our compensation. Right now, we are not where we want to be and the marketplace is getting more and more competitive. With your help, we will be a district that teachers and staff say is the place to be.

Specifically, we seek staff compensation funding to:

- Have the ability to **keep up with the demands** of the marketplace.
- **Remain competitive** with other districts seeking the same talent.
- Avoid using resources earmarked for other things, such as maintenance.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

Well-maintained facilities are vital.

The more we do to properly maintain our facilities, the more we save in the long run. Our facilities funding requests will allow for proactive maintenance that keeps us on track so we don't have larger maintenance issues to solve later.

Our recent facilities study has identified \$7.2 million in immediate needs.

Specifically, we seek facility maintenance funding to:

- **Address the top priorities** identified in our facilities study.
- Respond to **HVAC, roofs, windows**, and site work issues.

Proven success, together.

You know our track record of wise fiscal management, of seeking alternative funding sources like donors and companies to improve our schools and our community. You know we struggle with being near the bottom in funding in the state. And you know despite that, our reputation is strong. We take fiscal management seriously, very seriously, and we're proud of what we have done together with what we have. **Now it's time to focus on our core—our academic programs and our teachers.** We ask you to join us in this effort so we can do more.

Community support is critical to advance our schools and villages.

This is about our future as a community. Advancing our schools improves our property values and our quality of life. You have been with us before, and for that we thank you. In 2014, you helped us have better infrastructure, safer buildings, more technology and better resources like the community pool. Now, we ask that you support our efforts to further advance our academic experience for students and competitively compensate our staff.

“Today, HSSD is below the
local regional average,
below the state average
and below the national average
in teacher salaries.

Our health care benefit costs
are also rising. The district seeks
funding to stay competitive
in our compensation
packages because our
students deserve
high-performing teachers.

Mark Ashley,
President, Board of Education

How much will it cost?

For an average home value of:

		ANNUAL IMPACT*	MONTHLY IMPACT*	DAILY IMPACT*
HOWARD	\$208,989	\$248.79	\$21	67 cents
SUAMICO	\$239,359	\$284.84	\$24	77 cents

* Ongoing tax impact will reduce year after year. Please join us at an open forum to learn more.

Howard-Suamico School District:

EVIDENCE OF MOMENTUM AND WISE FISCAL MANAGEMENT

- ✓ Proactively seek funding from alternative sources like business, partnerships and grants as evidenced by the Upward Together Campaign so to *keep taxpayer costs down*.
- ✓ HSSD ranks in the *bottom 10 percent in the state in per pupil spending* yet achieves much with current state funding realities.
- ✓ Recognized as *meeting or exceeding expectations* as defined by the Wisconsin Department of Instruction Accountability Report Cards.
- ✓ Superintendent Damian LaCroix named *Wisconsin Superintendent of the Year* by Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators.

Resources | For The Community

The district has created a **web site to keep you informed** of new information, presentations, media coverage, and events taking place related to the April 4 referendum. Please visit the site regularly at **www.hssd.k12.wi.us/referendum**.

The web site offers you the ability to submit any questions you may have for the Board of Education or district administration.

If you would rather talk with someone directly, or would like to arrange for a presentation with your community group, feel free to **contact Damian LaCroix, Superintendent, at (920) 662-7709**.



HOWARD-SUAMICO
SCHOOL DISTRICT
SERVING • LEARNING • ACHIEVING ~ TOGETHER