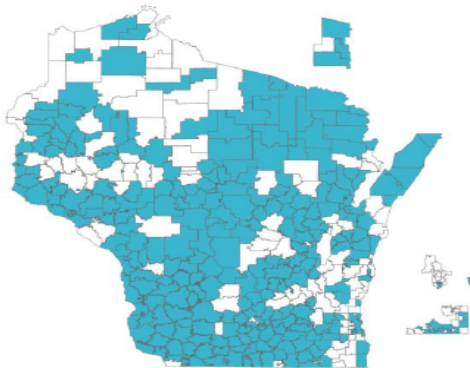


## FAQs Prentice School District Referendum

### 1. What will we see on the ballot November 5, 2024?

Question: Shall the School District of Prentice, Price, Oneida and Lincoln Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$1,200,000 per year for four years, beginning with the 2024-2025 school year and ending with the 2027-2028 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of operational and maintenance expenses, including student programming, facility maintenance and staff salaries and benefits?

### 2. Why does our district need an operational referendum?



Since the revenue cap in 1992-93 a majority of the 421 school districts in the state have gone for and passed an operational referendum simply because the state funding formula has limited schools' ability to receive revenue to match inflation. Additionally, twelve school districts within our region have asked for referendum funding in the last two years.

*Attached Image* - Wisconsin school districts in blue needing/receiving referendum funding.

### 3. Is the \$1.2 million the district needs an annual increase?

No, this does not increase year over year. The current state funding formula allows the Prentice School District to receive \$4.2 million in revenue; the referendum would increase the revenue to approximately \$5.4 million. If the formula stays the same the school district would anticipate approximately \$5.4 million in revenue each school year for the next four years.

### 4. Why is the referendum now \$1.2 million when you asked for \$1.8 in April?

When working off a forecast model the numbers reflect estimates that evolve with more information. Baird, our financial partners have since been able to get state funding formulas and enrollment estimates that more closely resemble the school districts status.

5. I see mill rates in other districts different from ours, why?

Mill rates are just a metric, meaning it is simply a way to assess the property tax within a district. Property values will fluctuate from one area to another. School funding has been the same while property values change which necessitates a change in the mill rate.

6. What is the state's responsibility for funding schools?

School districts are only allowed to collect revenue derived from what the state allows. This revenue cap has been in place since 1993. While at times the state may allocate more money that simply means the local taxes will be reduced that year as school districts are still restricted from exceeding the revenue cap.

7. Is the school district needing a referendum because they are building a new track?

No. Nearly 80% of the new track project is being funded by grants and donations from charitable organizations, local businesses, and private donors.

8. What can be done about the general school funding formula?

Currently, the state funding calculations are based off of a snapshot in time. While traditional fiscally responsible districts who have spent revenues conservatively have been locked in with the same per pupil funding rate average around \$11,589. Prentice receives one of the lowest amounts of \$11,325 per student. While the state average is slightly higher than what we receive, a few districts receive per pupil funding around \$15,000 or more. School districts across the state need to lobby for legislators to seriously consider revisiting the funding formula. With the surplus the state is projected to have, they could divide it equally for each district to receive an additional \$7,700,000. This is based off of the \$3.25 billion dollar surplus the state budget is projected to have.

9. How much does it cost to run a referendum?

The cost of running a referendum is around \$13,000.

10. Why are we in this situation today?

Simply put the inflation rate over thirty years needs to be accounted for within the states revenue limit which are imposed upon school districts. Costs for operating a school district such as power, heat, fuel, technology, maintenance, and staffing undergo a constant adjustment. When factored in, the cost-of-living increases from 1992 to the present it is equivalent to about \$3,300. If factored in the number of students Prentice serves multiplied by the cost-of-living increase, it comes out to \$1,277,100 or \$1.2 million.

11. What should I expect to pay? Approximately \$849 for a one hundred-thousand-dollar home/property value.

12. How does the school benefit the community/county?

- The school district is one of the larger employers in the community employing around 120 people.
- The district often partners with local businesses through Youth Apprenticeship, as well as bringing in local professionals to inform students about local career opportunities.
- Offer outreach classes and opportunities through welding, fabrication, and engineering training.
- Provide advertising platform through events and publications.
- Increase traffic flow for the area.
- Provide meeting places for non-profits such as scouts and 4-H.
- Provide fitness centers for community use including the gymnasium, weight room, track/walking path, and athletic fields.
- Beneficial connection with Lions Club, local churches, and Prentice Progress Days activities.
- Community Service Days in which students help our community and its members in a variety of ways including assistance at the Knox Heritage Center and Ogema Pioneer Park.

13. Who are my state legislators? <https://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/?version=2022>

For additional questions or concerns please contact:

Keith Crispell  
District Administrator  
715 428 2811 ext. 2003  
[criskei@prentice.k12.wi.us](mailto:criskei@prentice.k12.wi.us)

Or  
Wendy Sielaff  
School District Bookkeeper  
715 428 2811 ext. 1050  
[sielwen@prentice.k12.wi.us](mailto:sielwen@prentice.k12.wi.us)

