

Richland School District | 2024 Key Referendum Facts

STUDENTS. STAFF. SCHOOLS.



QUESTION #1: ZERO Tax Increase

Shall the Richland School District, Richland County, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$2,300,000 for the 2024-2025 school year, by \$2,400,000 for the 2025-2026 school year, by \$2,500,000 for the 2026-2027 school year and by \$2,600,000 for the 2027-2028 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of expenses related to ongoing educational programming, to pay compensation, and to sustain District operations?

QUESTION #2: \$14.76 Tax Increase

per month based on an average Richland School District property worth \$161,000

Shall the Richland School District, Richland County, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$27,160,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school facility improvement project consisting of: district-wide safety, security and site improvements and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance updates; remodeling and upgrades to District technical education space; roofing improvements at the High School; district-wide capital maintenance, infrastructure and HVAC improvements, including adding air conditioning to the school buildings where needed; auditorium upgrades; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment?

On April 2, 2024, Richland residents are being asked to approve an operational (learning) and a capital (buildings) referendum to fund the following priorities:



- Maintain day-to-day operations over the next four years.
- Attract and retain quality staff, and prevent the loss of 5.5 critical positions that will otherwise need to be reduced.



SAFETY, SECURITY, & ACCESSIBILITY

- Add emergency generators, security cameras, and door card access.
- Improve parking and parent/bus traffic flow.
- Update building interiors and exteriors to meet ADA requirements, including bathrooms, sidewalks, curbs, and parking lots.



LEARNING SPACES

- Upgrade technical education spaces and infrastructure (welding, construction, autos, agriculture).
- Update auditorium lighting, audio, video, and stage.
- Repair sinking foundation beneath kindergarten classroom.
- Improve support spaces (kitchen, loading dock, office spaces).
- Replace outdated classroom furniture.



REPAIRS & ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Upgrade heating systems, lighting, piping, and electrical infrastructure.
- Replace priority roofing (RCHS), flooring, ceilings, windows, doors, casework, and bathrooms.
- Add air conditioning (RCPS & RCIS).

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

The planning process included assessing our facilities, working with staff, and engaging the community to determine priorities, needs and potential solutions. Survey results from December 2023 guided the final plan proposed to voters.

82%

supported a tax increase to improve SAFETY & SECURITY

77%

supported a tax increase to improve ADA/ACCESSIBILITY

73%

or more supported a tax increase to update TECHNICAL EDUCATION, HVAC, and AIR CONDITIONING

59%

supported a tax increase to update the HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

RICHLAND.REFERENDUMFACTS.ORG

WHAT WILL IT COST?

We strive to manage taxpayer dollars wisely, and have been intentional and careful in our planning.

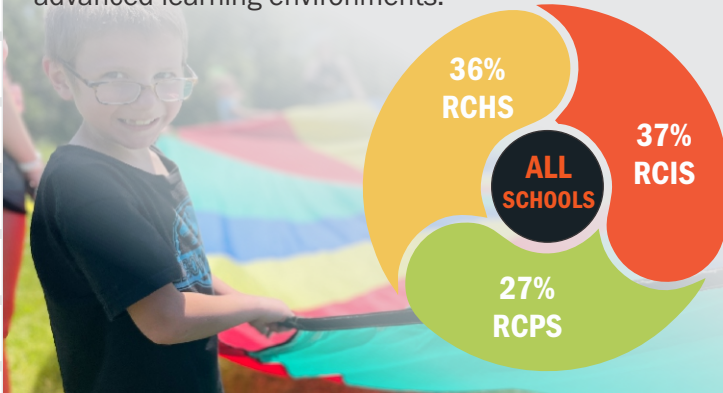
- Question 1 is for a non-recurring expense that would support operations over the next four years. If approved, it would result in **NO tax increase**.
- Question 2 is for a 20-year bond that would address priority facility needs. If approved, it would result in an estimated tax increase of **\$14.76 per month** based on an average Richland School District property worth \$161,000.



Question 2: Capital Referendum

WHICH SCHOOL BUILDINGS WILL BE IMPACTED?

If approved, the funding would be split between all three schools (as shown below) to create safer, more accessible, and technologically advanced learning environments.



WHY GO TO REFERENDUM NOW?

Like many school districts in Wisconsin, decreasing state aid and rising costs have limited Richland's ability to fully address facility and operational needs within its annual budget. These referendums would:

- **SUPPORT** staffing needs and prevent the loss of 5.5 critical positions.
- **ADDRESS** priority facility needs our maintenance budget cannot accommodate (replacement of outdated infrastructure, including mechanical and electrical systems, plumbing, and roofing).
- **SAVE** money by acting now. Currently, operational and construction costs continue to rise and waiting even one year to complete these facility projects could increase costs by 5% (or \$1,358,000) due to inflation.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? Attend an Upcoming Referendum Talk & Tour:

6 PM WEDNESDAY

FEB 21

Richland Center Primary School

6 PM WEDNESDAY

MAR 6

Richland Center Intermediate School

10 AM MONDAY

MAR 25

Richland Center High School

5 PM MONDAY

MAR 25

Richland Center High School



EARLY VOTING
Begins March 19

during regular office hours

TO LEARN MORE
SCAN THIS CODE

Richland.ReferendumFacts.org



ELECTION DAY
April 2, 2024

polls are open 7 am to 8pm

