



Randolph School District

Community Talking Points

Statewide Context:

1. **Declining State Aid** – Wisconsin's school funding formula ties state aid to property values. As Randolph's property values rise, state aid decreases, shifting more of the funding responsibility to local taxpayers.
2. **Revenue Limits** – Since 1993, the state has imposed limits on how much revenue schools can raise through local property taxes and state aid. These limits have not kept up with inflation and rising costs, forcing districts to seek referendums. Please see Revenue Limits in WI.
3. **Inflation & Rising Costs** – Costs for essential school operations (salaries, utilities, transportation, technology, etc.) continue to rise, but the revenue districts can collect is capped without voter approval.
4. **Statewide Referendum Trend** – Many Wisconsin districts (over 85% in the last decade) have had to pass operational referendums to maintain programming, staffing, and student opportunities. We have operated under the Revenue limit the last 25 years, and now have to seek approval to exceed the revenue limit.

Randolph-Specific Reasons:

1. **Balancing the Budget** – Due to declining enrollment and reduced state aid, the district faces a funding gap. Even with the referendum, budget cuts will be necessary.
2. **Protecting Student Opportunities** – The referendum ensures that students continue to have access to academic programs, extracurricular activities, and support services. We are a district with a positive open enrollment for our services. A cut to these services could lead to more students leaving the district.
3. **Recruiting & Retaining Quality Staff** – Competitive wages and benefits are essential to keep great teachers and staff in the district.
4. **Maintaining Small Class Sizes & Support Services** – Without additional funding, larger class sizes and reduced student support may become necessary.
5. **Community Investment** – A strong school system benefits the entire community by increasing property values, attracting families, and preparing students for success in college, careers, and the workforce.

Why schools have declining enrollment:

Wisconsin public schools have experienced a notable decline in student enrollment in recent years due to several key factors:

1. Demographic Shifts –

Declining Birth Rate: The state has seen a decrease in birth rates since 2007, leading to fewer school-age children. wasbo.com

Aging Population: An increasing proportion of Wisconsin's residents are older adults, resulting in a smaller youth demographic

2. Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic –

The pandemic accelerated enrollment declines, with a significant 3% drop in the first year alone. cdn.apl.wisc.edu.

Factors such as health concerns, shifts to homeschooling, and temporary relocations contributed to this decrease.

3. Migration to Alternative Education Options –

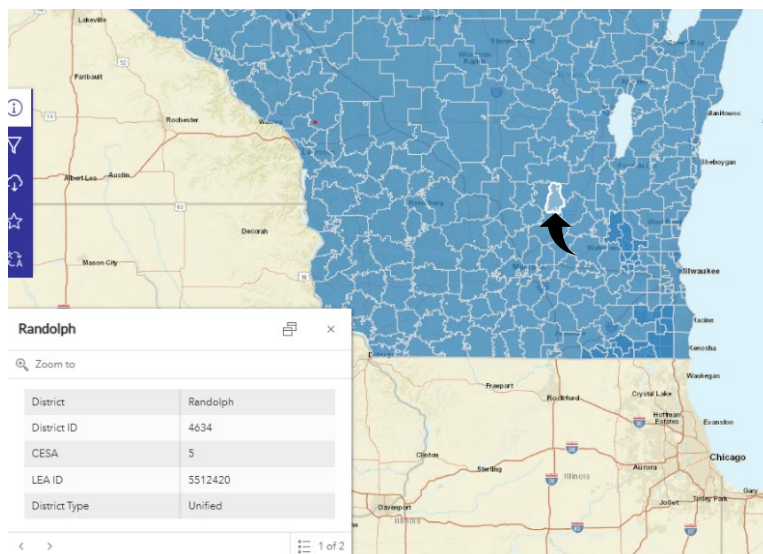
Private and Home Schooling: Some families have opted for private schools or homeschooling, seeking different educational environments. wpr.org.

Open Enrollment: Wisconsin's open enrollment policy allows students to attend schools outside their resident districts, affecting local enrollment numbers.

4. Economic Considerations – Financial Constraints:

Economic challenges may lead families to relocate to areas with more affordable living costs, impacting school enrollments in certain districts.

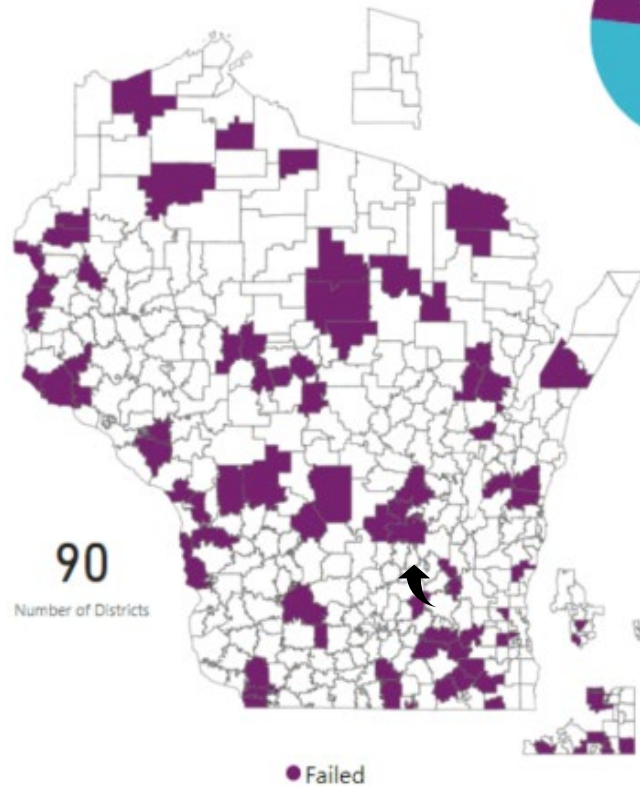
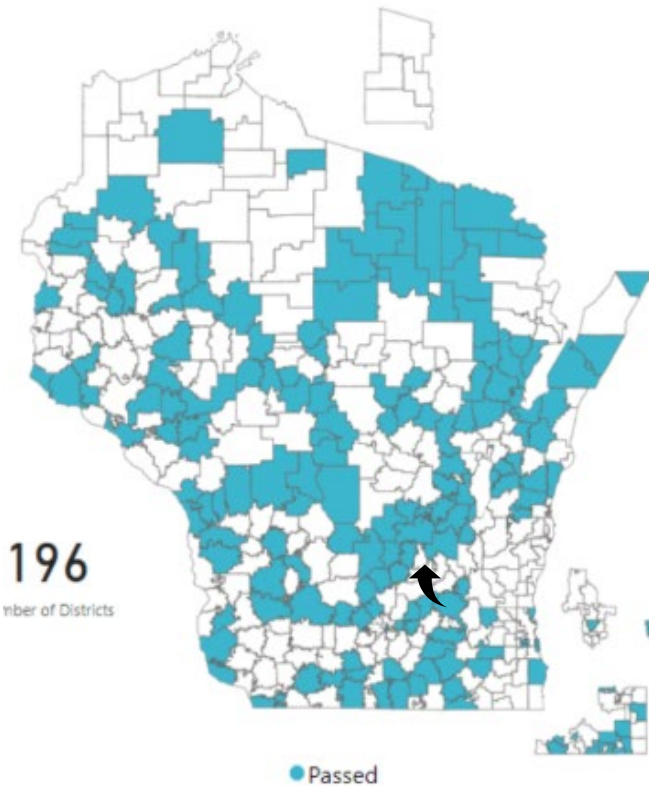
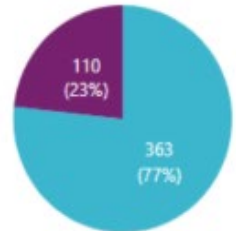
These combined factors have led to a significant decrease in public school enrollment across Wisconsin, presenting challenges for districts in terms of funding and resource allocation.



10 Year History - Non-Recurring Referenda



Questions Asked



Randolph Referendum History:

<i>Date of Referendum</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>% Status</i>
04/07/2015	\$17,570,000	Capital	Facilities new construction and renovation, addition of furnishings and equipment as needed, demolition	554	500	53% of vote Passed
11/02/2010	\$12,600,000	Capital	paying the cost of constructing a grade 6-8 Middle School and gym additions to the existing high school	143	825	85% of vote Failed
11/02/2010	\$20,800,000	Capital	paying the cost of constructing a grade K-8 and gym additions to the existing high school; and acquire	382	881	70% of vote Failed
09/03/1997	\$125,000	Recurring	exceed revenue cap, recurring, for teacher salaries	329	230	59% of vote Passed
09/03/1997	\$614,000	Capital	addition & remodeling to high school	286	273	51% of vote Passed
04/01/1997	\$985,000	Capital	addition & remodeling to high school	353	426	55% of vote Failed