



Randolph School District – Upcoming Operational Referendum

Dear Randolph Community,


The Randolph School District is committed to providing the best possible education for our students while maintaining fiscal responsibility. As we prepare for the upcoming operational referendum, we want to ensure that our community is well-informed about the challenges we face and the reasons why this referendum is necessary.

Opportunities to Learn More









We invite all community members to attend our upcoming information sessions and public meetings. These sessions will provide details about the referendum, allow you to ask questions, and offer an opportunity for discussion about the future of our schools.

Radio Appearances:

 February 18 – on WBEV Radio (Beaver Dam) at 9:00 AM

 March 25 – on WBEV Radio (Beaver Dam) at 11:10 AM

Public Meetings:

-  February 26 – Randolph MS/HS Library at 6:00 PM
-  February 27 – Village of Randolph Committee Meeting at 6:00 PM
-  March 3 – Township of Randolph at 6:00 PM
-  March 3 – Township of Westford at 7:00 PM
-  March 5 – During the school day at the Blood Drive
-  March 5 – Courtland Township Meeting at 6:00 PM
-  March 10 – Township of Fox Lake Meeting at 7:00 PM
-  March 12 – Randolph MS/HS Library at 6:00 PM



Your voice matters, and we encourage you to participate in these discussions. For more information, please contact me at (920) 326-2427 x1105 or email me at zachob@rsdwi.org.

Why is This Referendum Needed?

Statewide Challenges Impacting Randolph

- ◆ **Declining State Aid** – Wisconsin’s funding formula ties school aid to property values. As Randolph’s property values increase, our state aid decreases, shifting more of the funding burden onto local taxpayers.
- ◆ **Revenue Limits** – Since 1993, the state has capped the revenue schools can raise, and these limits have not kept up with inflation and rising costs. Many districts across Wisconsin have turned to referendums to maintain their educational programs.
- ◆ **Rising Costs** – Salaries, utilities, transportation, and technology expenses continue to rise, while school revenue remains capped without voter approval.
- ◆ **Statewide Referendum Trend** – Over 85% of Wisconsin school districts have gone to using operational referendums. Randolph has operated within the revenue limit for 25 years but now needs voter approval to exceed it to maintain our district’s programs and services.



Randolph-Specific Reasons for the Referendum

- ✔ **Balancing the Budget** – With declining enrollment and reduced state aid, our district is facing a funding gap. Even if the referendum passes, budget reductions will still be necessary.
- ✔ **Protecting Student Opportunities** – Without additional funding, academic programs, extracurricular activities, and support services may be cut, impacting student success and open enrollment interest in our district.
- ✔ **Recruiting & Retaining Quality Staff** – Competitive wages and benefits help us attract and keep the best educators for our students.
- ✔ **Maintaining Small Class Sizes & Support Services** – Without additional funding, larger class sizes and fewer student support services may become necessary.
- ✔ **Community Investment** – Strong schools enhance property values, attract families, and prepare students for success in college, careers, and the workforce.

Understanding Declining Enrollment

Randolph, like many Wisconsin districts, has seen a decrease in student enrollment due to several factors:

- 📊 **Demographic Shifts** – Fewer births since 2007 and an aging population mean fewer school-age children.
- 🏠 **Impact of COVID-19** – The pandemic led to a 3% enrollment drop, with some families opting for homeschooling or private schools.
- 📖 **Open Enrollment & Alternative Education** – Wisconsin’s open enrollment policy allows students to attend schools outside their home district, impacting local enrollment.
- 💰 **Economic Considerations** – Families moving to areas with lower living costs have also contributed to declining enrollment.

A Look at Randolph’s Referendum History

Randolph has a history of both successful and unsuccessful referendums. Most recently, in 2015, the district passed a \$17.57 million capital referendum for facility renovations and improvements (moving to one building). However, multiple attempts in 2010 for facility projects were unsuccessful. Now, we must ask for operational funding to maintain student programs and opportunities.

We appreciate the Randolph community’s continued support of our schools, and we hope you take the opportunity to attend an information session and learn more about the referendum. Your engagement is crucial in shaping the future of our district.



Sincerely,

Brian Zacho

District Administrator, Randolph School District