

PARENT CARDINAL UPDATE – 01/10/25

Hello Cardinal Parents. I hope all of you had a wonderful and relaxing Holiday Break. It is great to get away and spend some time with family and friends over the holiday season, but it is also great to be back to school and following a routine again. I want to give all of you an update regarding our School Board's decision on Wednesday to run an operational Referendum, which will be on the ballot April 1, 2025.

The two most recent operating Referendums in Brodhead were in 2018 and 2022. The 2018 question was for 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21 and expired and ended. The 2022 referendum was for \$1,750,000 per year for three years from 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25 and is expiring. The current question for operating purposes is again for \$1,750,000 and would cover the school years of 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28. It simply would extend the same amount for another three years with no additional tax rate impact.

The Board felt it was important to make this Referendum essentially a \$0 impact on property tax rates by simply replacing an expiring Referendum with another one of the same amount and duration. 3-year non-recurring Referendums have become a standard Referendum for Brodhead, having run one every three years since 2013.

In order to make a \$1,750,000 Referendum workable, the Board really needed to take a look at our overall budget and make some fairly substantial cuts in order to make that Referendum amount possible. The Board has a very difficult decision to make enough budget cuts in order to make this Referendum amount workable, knowing a failed Referendum (like many of our neighbors have gone through recently) would mean devastating budget cuts.

Referendums were generally very successful across the State of Wisconsin during this past November election cycle, with 78% of all Referendums passing. Here is a [\[REFERENDUM FLYER\]](#) that summarizes those results. This Referendum vote across the State in November was before individual property tax bills went out, which was a different landscape than currently. Brodhead's property taxes went up nearly 9% again this school year, with the equalized property values of some municipalities increasing over 20%! There was a lot of discussion with our Board, two public informational meetings, and many work sessions with our financial services firm (Baird), to come up with the best solution for our District without major impact on our resident's property taxes.

The Brodhead community has always been very supportive of our District with the passage of our previous Referendums with our last 3-year non-recurring Referendum passing with 55% of the vote. I am confident that our Board will communicate our needs and help our community understand the ongoing need to pass Referendums in Wisconsin Public Schools. I will be providing regular updates as the date of the Referendum vote gets closer.

Thank you,

David Novy, District Administrator
Brodhead School District