



LINN J4 SCHOOL DISTRICT
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LAKE GENEVA, WI 53147
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Allyssa Andersen, District Administrator

February 2021

Dear Voters,

We are sending this letter and information to you to let you know that we, the Linn-Bloomfield Joint 4 School Board, have approved going to referendum. The referendum question will be included on your ballot for the April 6 spring elections.

We weighed out all the options and found that the state's funding formula would not provide sufficient revenue for the ever-rising costs of educating our young people. A referendum allows the district to ask our voters for added funding. Our referendum question pertains to operational costs, such as programming and building maintenance.

If you are not familiar with Traver School, please allow us to share a bit of our story. Our school was officially established as a one-room schoolhouse in 1844 (although there is evidence that a school existed as early as 1837!). Over the years, it has grown to be what you see when traveling by on Linton Road.

Our school has always ran with a close eye on the budget. We only have one teacher per grade level, from 4 year-old kindergarten through 4th grade. The teachers for 5th through 8th grade have multiple teaching responsibilities as do our "specials" classes like Music, Art, Library and P.E. We further maintain savings in the business of education; our District Administrator is also the superintendent, business manager, and principal. Our secretary is also the administrative assistant. We continuously strive to maintain quality services while also being responsible with taxpayer dollars. We have made cuts in the budget everywhere we can.

We have joined an increasing amount of districts who find themselves in this dilemma. School referenda have begun to pass at historically high percentages—now up to 90% as of last year. Taxpayers have shown their commitment to our schools and young people now more than ever.

On April 6, we will ask voters to mark "yes" to approve a recurring referendum of \$250,000 per year. This means our district tax base will increase.

You may be asking what this means for you as a taxpayer. There is a one-time projected mill rate increase of \$0.35 on the 2022 tax bill. The average monthly cost breaks down like this:

Property Value	Monthly Impact in 2022
\$200,000	\$5.84
\$300,000	\$8.76
\$400,000	\$11.68

Recent Mill Rates:

2018	\$3.97	2021	\$3.07
2019	\$3.62	2022	\$3.42 <i>(projected with a successful referendum)</i>
2020	\$3.59	2023	\$3.09 <i>(projected with a successful referendum)</i>

Even with the referendum increase in 2022, the amount is still less than in 2020. The mill rate is projected to go back down in 2023 to nearly the same amount as this year, 2021, and is projected to continue to decrease.

We invite you to Traver on March 9 at 6:00 PM or on March 18 at 6:30 PM for an informational meeting. Both the Board and the District Administrator, Allyssa Andersen, will be present to help answer questions you may have. Both meetings will be held in the gymnasium. Please enter through Door 3 on the side of the building. We ask that people mask and physically distance themselves for everyone’s health and safety.

Please find further information in the included Fact Sheet. Our school is a special place with a long history. Perhaps you or someone you know even attended Traver. Traver is a wonderful place to grow and learn. Our students are the best!

Sincerely,

The Linn-Bloomfield Joint 4 School District Board

Dan Kundert, Bill Leedle, Dick Kronwall, Amanda Geils, Laura Leedle