

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 13, 2021

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### Westosha Board of Education Adopts Question to be Placed on April Ballot

**SALEM, WI** – On January 12, 2021, the Central School District of Westosha’s Board of Education unanimously approved a referendum resolution, which is the official action taken to place a referendum question on the April 6, 2021 ballot.

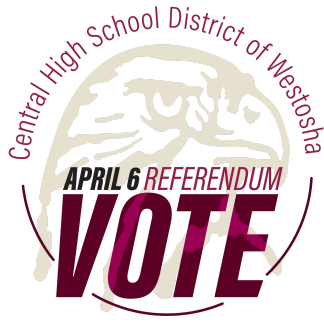
The question will ask voters to invest up to \$39,600,000 for a district-wide school building and facility improvement project, which if approved, will result in an estimated tax increase of \$59 per \$100,000 of equalized property value for a period of 20 years.

The proposed solution focuses on four key areas:

- **Enhance Safety & Security**
  - Modify the main entrance to better monitor and control visitor access; upgrade/add security cameras and exterior locks; and revise drop-off/pick-up traffic flow.
- **Upgrade Building Infrastructure**
  - Replace lighting, flooring, ceilings, and walls; remove asbestos; replace sections of roof; and update plumbing, heating/ventilation, and electrical systems that have exceeded their useful life.
- **Modernize Educational Spaces**
  - Create and renovate spaces to provide better access to technology, flexible furniture, small-group instruction spaces, and modern art, choir, and Family & Consumer Science areas.
- **Expand Activities & Arts Areas**
  - Add a new gymnasium and cafeteria/commons and renovate the existing cafeteria to become an auditorium to support physical education, art programs, and community events.

For over a year and half, the District has been assessing its facility, engaging the community in conversations about identified needs, and developing a master plan. In October 2020, the District conducted a community-wide survey to gather the public’s feedback on potential improvements.

Sixty-four percent of all resident respondents stated “definitely yes” or “probably yes” when asked if they would support a \$39.6 million referendum to fund the projects.



"We are very excited about this plan as it addresses the needs identified in the facility study and will have a positive impact on our students, staff, and community," said District Administrator John Gendron. "The Central High School learning community is second to none and the facility upgrades will promote continued growth, opportunities, and success for our students and community in the years to come."

The Board of Education's decision was guided by an extensive facility study and community engagement process, with the question appearing on the April 6 ballot reflecting such.

An informational flyer outlining the question and proposed solution will be mailed to all district residents in February. In addition, informational meetings will be held for interested parents and community members.

More information will soon be available on the District's website at [www.westosha.k12.wi.us/referendum](http://www.westosha.k12.wi.us/referendum). Questions can be directed to John Gendron, District Administrator, at 262.843.2321 ext. 222 or [gendronj@westosha.k12.wi.us](mailto:gendronj@westosha.k12.wi.us).

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