

## Official Ballot Language

*“Shall the Westby Area School District, Vernon, La Crosse and Monroe Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$275,000 for the 2018-2019 school year, by \$575,000 for the 2019-2020 school year and by \$875,000 for the 2020-2021 school year for non-recurring purposes to sustain educational programs and to operate the District?”*

## Where do I Vote?

The following polling place locations will be used for the April 3, 2018, spring election for municipalities and/or wards in the Westby Area School District. Polling places will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Voters should consult their municipal clerk or [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov) for more information.

<b>Electors Residing in</b>	<b>Vote at</b>
City of Westby . . . . .	Westby Community Center
Town of Bergen . . . . .	Bergen Town Hall
Town of Christiana . . . . .	Christiana Town Hall Garage
Town of Clinton . . . . .	Clinton Town Hall
Town of Coon . . . . .	Coon Town Hall
Town of Greenfield . . . . .	Greenfield Town Hall
Town of Hamburg . . . . .	Hamburg Town Hall
Town of Harmony . . . . .	Harmony Town Shop
Town of Jefferson . . . . .	Jefferson Town Hall
Town of Portland . . . . .	Portland Town Shop
Town of Viroqua . . . . .	Viroqua Town Shop
Town of Washington . . . . .	Washington Town Hall
Town of Webster . . . . .	Webster Town Hall
Village of Chaseburg . . . . .	Chaseburg Village Hall Office
Village of Coon Valley . . . . .	Coon Valley Village Hall

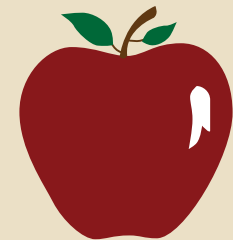
**WESTBY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
206 West Avenue South  
Westby, Wisconsin 54667



**APRIL 3, 2018**

## **OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM TO MAINTAIN CURRENT SCHOOL DISTRICT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

The Westby Area School District Board of Education has faced ongoing budget challenges in sustaining educational programs and operating the district. The Board voted to place a non-recurring, three-year operational referendum on the April 3, 2018 ballot. This information is sent to Westby Area School District residents to provide information on the ballot question.



**There's No Better  
Place to Learn!**

**WESTBY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
206 West Avenue South | Westby, Wisconsin 54667  
(608) 634-0101 | [www.westby-norse.org](http://www.westby-norse.org)



# NON-RECURRING THREE-YEAR OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM TO MAINTAIN CURRENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

## PLEASE VOTE APRIL 3, 2018

### About Westby Area School District

- ★ Exceeds Expectations on Department of Public Instruction 2016-2017 school district report cards
- ★ 2016-2017 high school graduation rate of 97.1%
- ★ 2017-2018 grades 4K-12 enrollment of 1,114
- ★ Strong community support and pride
- ★ High retention rate of dedicated staff
- ★ One-to-one technology initiative
- ★ High participation rate in co-curricular activities
- ★ Development of virtual learning option
- ★ Athletic and academic extra-curriculars, such as robotics, music, and drama are offered
- ★ Elementary school television production studios

### Why Now?

- ★ The District faced a shortfall of funds beginning this school year, 2017-2018, and current projections indicate that the shortfall will continue into the foreseeable future.
- ★ To prepare for this potential deficit, the Board asked the community for input on referendum scenarios. Sixty-five percent of respondents to a recent survey said they would definitely or probably support an operational referendum to maintain current programs in the District.
- ★ The Board voted to place an operational referendum on the April 3 ballot.

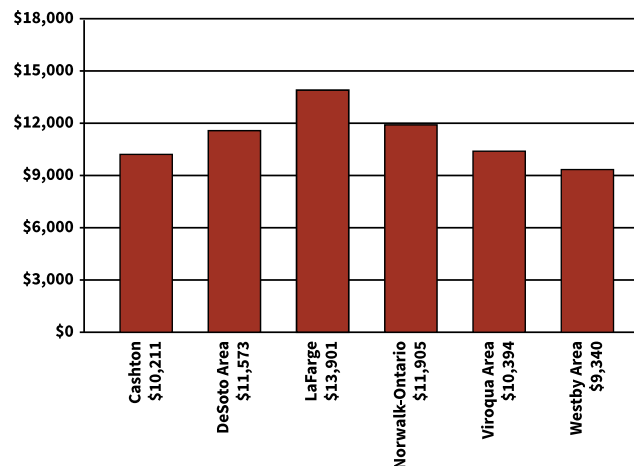
### Has the District Cut Costs?

Westby Area School District is one of the lowest spending districts in Wisconsin. The District has made significant reductions to balance the operating budget by:

- Decreasing employee health/retirement benefits.
- Reducing department and building budgets.
- Reducing staff positions.
- Reducing/eliminating student programs including class offerings.

The District spends the least amount per student overall compared to five closely surrounding school districts, according to data released by the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance.

2016-2017 BUDGETED PER STUDENT COMPARATIVE EXPENDITURES  
WHICH CAPTURE EDUCATION-RELATED SPENDING



### Why an Operational Referendum?

Over the past 10 years, the District has made significant reductions to balance the operating budget. Even with these cuts, the District is forecasting shortfalls of \$275,000 in 2018-2019; \$575,000 in 2019-2020; and \$875,000 in 2020-2021. In 1993, State law changed requiring school districts to gain permission from citizens to increase the school tax levy. Since that time, many school districts throughout the state have found it necessary to hold operating referendums to address budget challenges. In fact, in the past 10 years, 352 referendums to fund school operations have successfully passed in Wisconsin.

### What will the Referendum Support?

The funds secured through an operational referendum will be used to sustain educational programs and to operate the District.

### What is the Tax Impact if Approved?

School Year	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Funds Needed	\$275,000	\$575,000	\$875,000
Projected tax increase over the previous year for each \$100,000 of property value.	\$0/year	\$78/year	\$40/year