

For Immediate Release

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**Drummond Area School Board Provides Residents the Opportunity to
Vote on Two Questions in April**

School Board Unanimously Supports Placing Two Questions on the April 2, 2024 Ballot

Drummond, WI— On January 8, 2024, the Drummond Area School District Board of Education unanimously supported placing two referendum questions on the April 2 ballot. Residents of the Drummond Area School District will have the opportunity to vote on two referendum questions that are designed to address the significant challenges facing the District—maintaining current programs and services through additional funding, and funding the needed facility updates that are too expensive to pay for out of the annual budget.

The first question will ask voters to approve an operational referendum that would provide \$1.2 million each year for the next four years beginning with the 2024-2025 school year and ending with the 2027-2028 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of operational expenses, including to maintain current programs and services for students. The second question will ask voters to approve a \$29.98 million building referendum for paying the cost of a school building and facility improvement project at the school building and site consisting of: construction of additions for career and technical education and a safe and secure entrance area; renovations, capital maintenance, building infrastructure, systems and site improvements; classroom updates, including science lab upgrades; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment.

As a result of the District's responsible spending, Drummond's tax mill rate has been the lowest of any K12 school district in the state of Wisconsin. It is projected that taxpayers will see an increase in the school portion of their property taxes of \$0.67 if the operational referendum passes, and an additional \$1.11 if the building referendum passes; even with the rise in tax mill rate, the Drummond Area School District's tax mill rate will remain significantly below the state average of \$7.18. The District has been very fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars; the last capital referendum was 24 years ago (1999) and was paid off in 2020.

If the building referendum passes, the District will work with their partners to immediately kick-off the design process. Design and construction would likely take about two years from the passage of the referendum, wrapping up in September 2026.

Question 1 | Operational Referendum

Asks for authorization to exceed the revenue limit by \$1,200,000 per year for four years, beginning with the 2024-2025 school year for non-recurring purposes consisting of operational expenses.

The four-year operational referendum would be focused on maintaining the following:

- Current programs and services for students.
- 18 student:1 teacher ratio, especially at the elementary levels.
- Course offerings (such as career & tech ed, agriculture, fine arts, Spanish, and more).

Question 2 | Building Referendum

Asks voters for permission to borrow \$29,980,000 to pay the cost of a school building and facility improvement project at the school building and site consisting of:

- CTE/Tech Ed addition and remodel.
- HVAC and electrical system upgrade and replacement.
- Exterior building envelope repair and site repair to prevent flooding.
- Remodel areas throughout the building to update the educational spaces and comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) -- restrooms included.
- Creation of a secure entrance to control visitor access.
- Furniture, fixtures and equipment.

Learn More:

For additional information, please visit the District's website at <https://www.dasdk12.net>.

Questions can be directed to Melissa Altmann, District Administrator, at 715-739-6669, ext. 178 or email maltmann@dasd.k12.wi.us.