

School District of River Falls



Referendum Details

February 20, 2024

Updated 01/03/24

Wisconsin Dept. Ed. (DPI)

Four of Five Star Rating

Academic Performance

“Report Card”

Plus: Musical, Community Ed., Character Ed.,
Marching Band, Athletics, Co-curricular Clubs,
Leadership Opportunities, Community Service Projects,
Arts, Kids Club, Summer School, Ag/FFA, Vocational
Training...

High quality staff - great kids - supportive community.



City RF Survey 2023

K-12 Education = 89% Excellent/Good



District Parents - Survey Reply September 2023 *High Quality Education 100%*

Delivering a high-quality education (n=816)

Poor (1)	0	0%	
Fair (2)	0	0%	
Good (3)	425	52.1%	100%
Great (4)	391	47.9%	
Not sure/no opinion (0)	0	0%	

AVG: 3.48 SD: 0.5

Challenges Facing the District



- *State funding* formula = Deficit begins 2024-25
- Attract and retain high quality staff.
- Students struggling with mental health.
- Removing student's demographic achievement barriers.
- Politics, soc-media misinformation, national trends.

↓ Funding Formula is the challenge creating the need for referendum.

State Funding Formula = Deficit Cause



80% Wisconsin Districts = Operational Referendum

- 1993 antiquated funding formula = revenue “cap”
- Inflation outpaces revenue increases (formula)

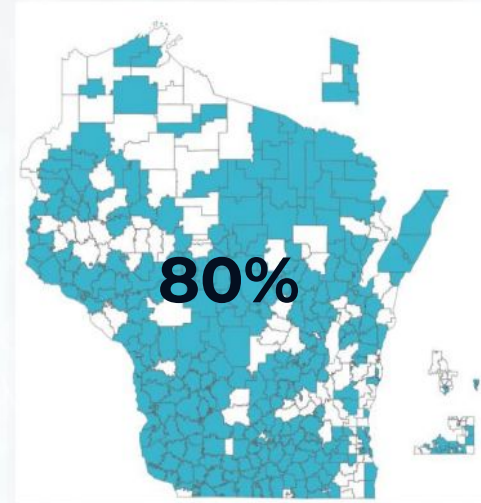
Operational Referendum Summary

Districts that have at least 10% of their base revenue limit supplemented by non-recurring operating referendum



Source: Department of Public Instruction

Source: DPI



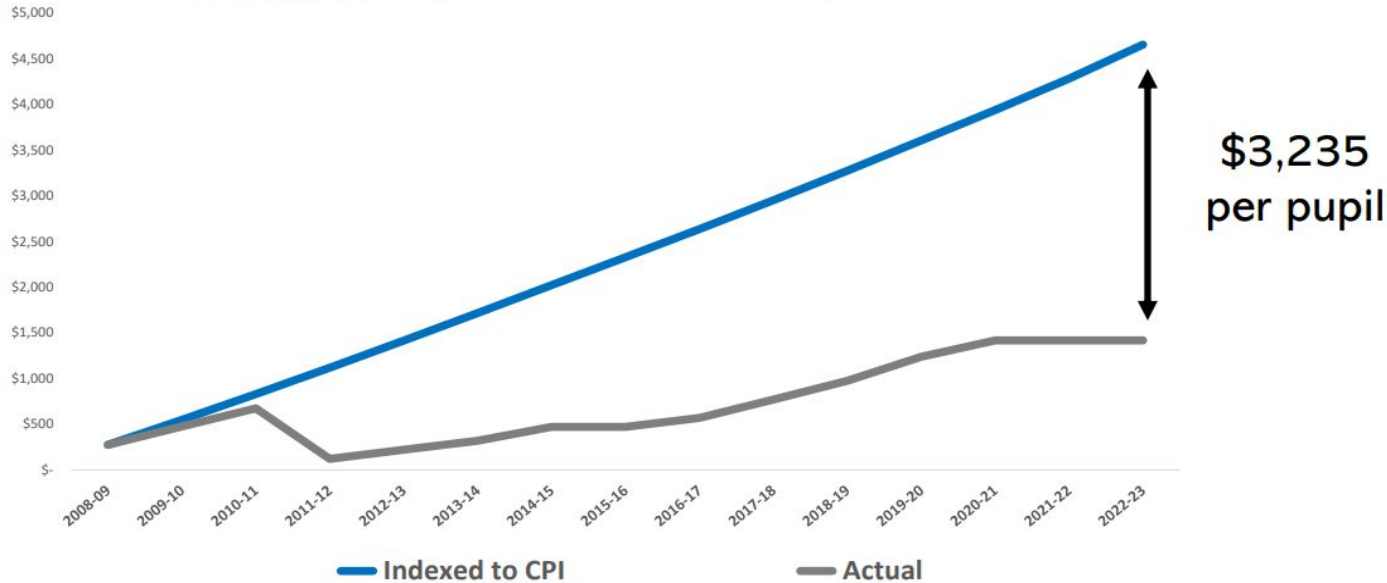
Districts who have passed an Operational Referendum Question since 1992



Inflation outpaces revenue cap limit



Cumulative view: Per pupil revenues lag inflation by more than \$3,200 since 2009



Revenue Cap Limit

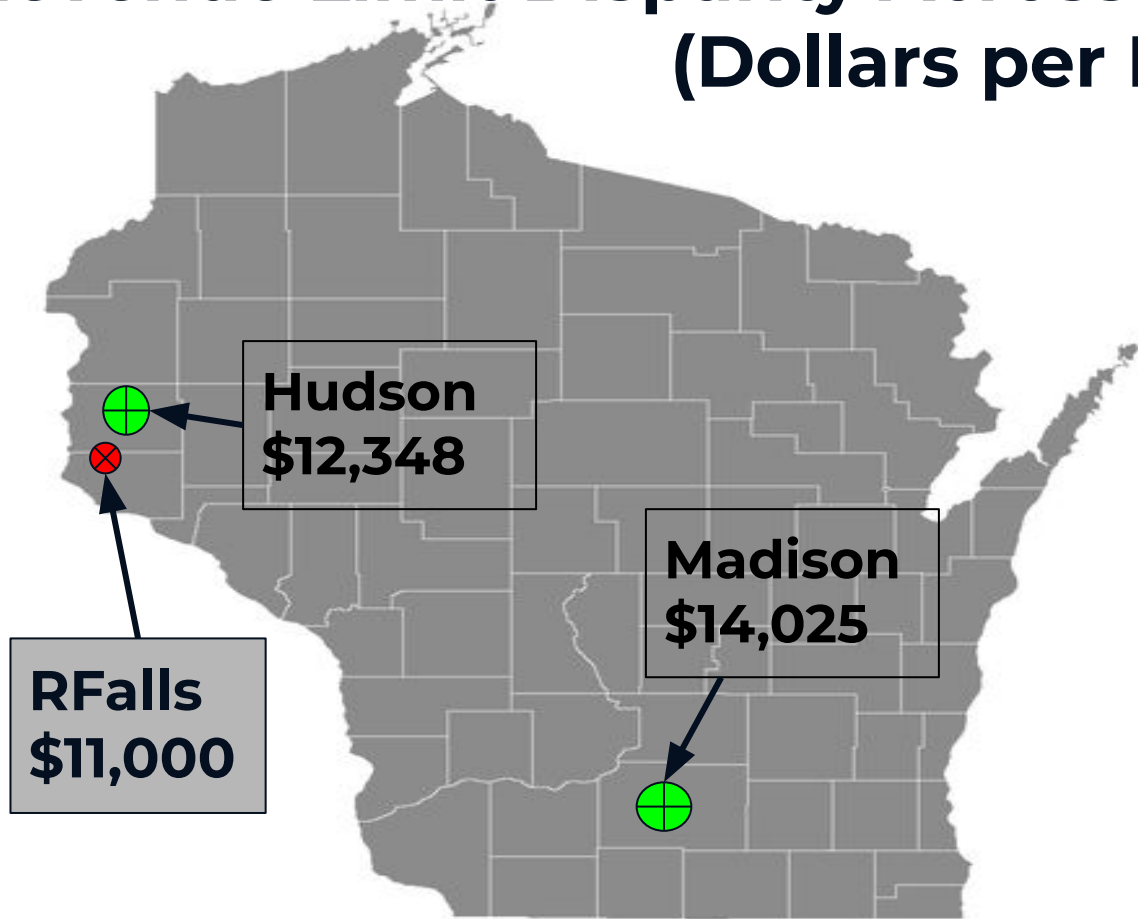


State revenue cap formula determines annual total funds. (Varies per district statewide)

2022 RF ranked **418 of 421**.

2023 Lowest \$11,000 revenue floor

Revenue Limit Disparity Across State (Dollars per Pupil)



Revenue cap (per pupil) 2023-24



River Falls
\$11,000

Lowest Allowable



Hudson
\$12,348

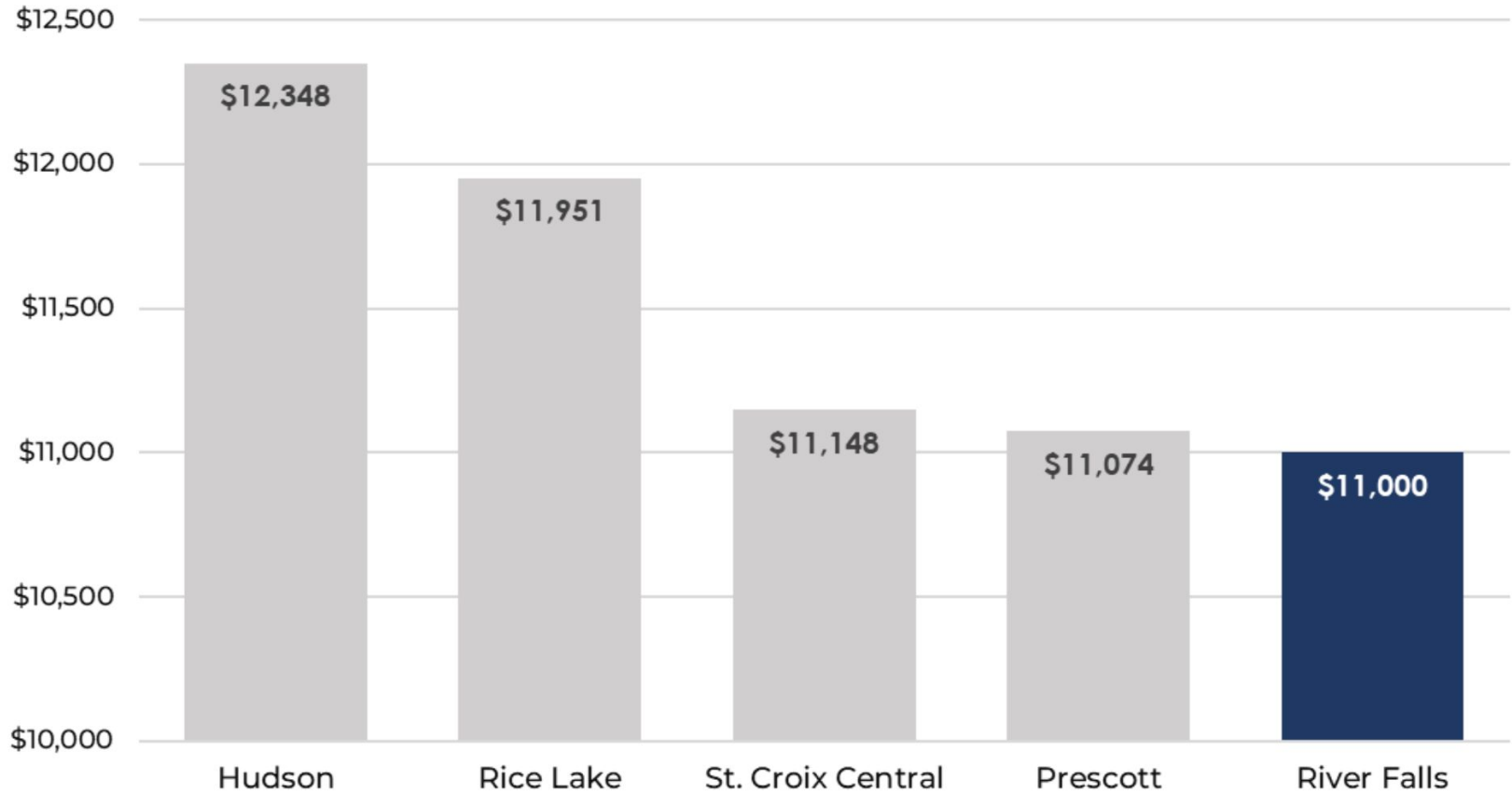
+\$1348 per pupil



Madison
\$14,025

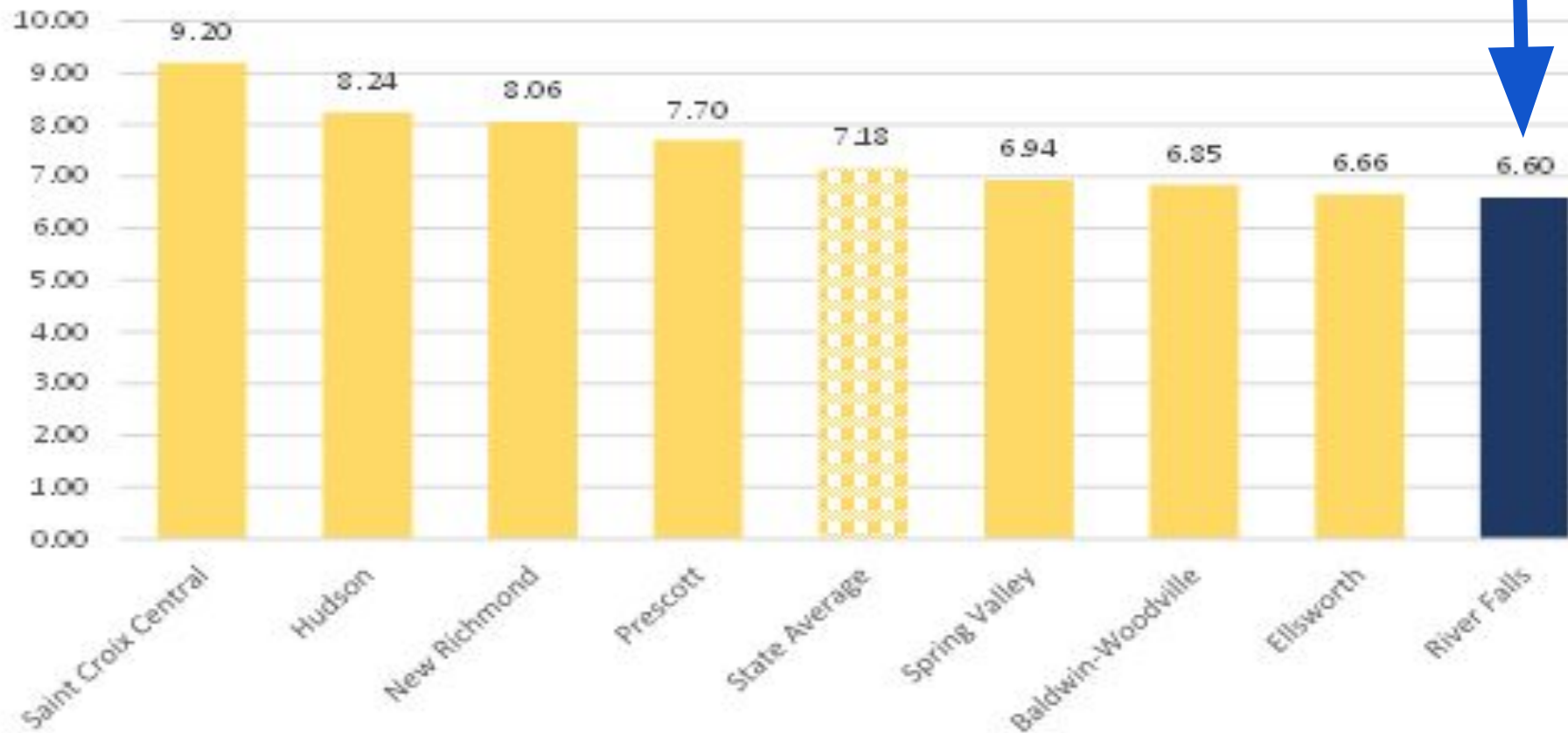
+\$3025 per pupil

2023-24 Revenue Limit per Student



Source: Wisconsin DPI 2023-24 Pre-populated Revenue Limit Worksheet

Area School District Mill Rates



Two referendum questions

Q#1: “Operational”

*Maintain day-to-day operations

Q#2: “Bond” (Facilities)

*Maintain + Improve facilities



Q#1 “Operational” Referendum



Authorization to exceed the state imposed revenue cap limit for day-to-day operational expenses.

Q#2 “Bond” (Facility) Referendum

Allows a district to issue a bond which loans us money (similar to a home mortgage) for facility improvements.

Operational - Deficit Projection



2024-25 -\$1M deficit

2025-26 -\$2M deficit

2026-27 -\$3M deficit

Regional Districts that Passed an **OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM**

2020-2023



Ellsworth	\$1.3M
St. Croix Central	\$1.3M
Osceola	\$1.5M
Plum City	\$1.1M
Onalaska	\$4.3M
La Crosse	\$6.2M
Wisconsin Rapids	\$1.2M
Turtle Lake	\$1.1M
Clear Lake	\$800K
Spooner	\$1.9M

Past 4-Years
2020-23

Q#1: Estimated Operational Tax Impact

Property Tax Impact of Operational Referendum Question #1

YEAR	Revenue Generated	Estimated Yearly Property Tax Impact <i>(per \$100,000 property value)</i>
2024-25	\$1M	\$5
2025-26	\$2M	\$11 <i>(previous \$5+\$6=\$11)</i>
2026-27	\$3M	\$19 <i>(previous \$11+\$8=\$19)</i>
2027-beyond	\$3M Recurring (Locked at \$3M)	<i>No additional increase tax (stabilizes at \$19)</i>



IF operational referendum Q#1 passes

\$1M / 3400 students = \$294 per pupil



River Falls

\$11,294

-\$1054



Hudson

\$12,348

Q#2 Bond (Facility) Referendum

- Several 50-year old buildings creates ongoing maintenance improvement needs that are not funded in our annual budget.
- Insufficient annual operating budget does not meet all facility needs.
- Some facility items were not financed in past referendums. Needs are prioritized.



Regional Districts that Passed a **BOND (FACILITIES) REFERENDUM** 2020-2023

Hudson	\$29M
St. Croix Central.....	\$30M
Prescott	\$15M
Eau Claire	\$98.6M
St. Croix Falls	\$14M
Amery.....	\$43.5M
Baldwin-Woodville.....	\$12.5M
Somerset	\$22.9M
Spoooner.....	\$16M
Barron	\$24.5M
Grantsburg	\$19.7M
Holmen	\$74.7M
Onalaska	\$75M
Wisconsin Rapids	\$34M
Black River Falls.....	\$23M

Past 4-Years
2020-23





Past Referendum

- *MMS Science labs + HS Vocational/shop
- *Additional Elementary Classrooms
- *Academy Bldg + Montessori
- *Flexible learning spaces, MMS LMC
- **Some* HVAC, electrical, maintenance, co-curricular

Now...continuing needs not included in the past referendum...Rotational needs...prioritized

Q#2 “Bond” (Facility) Referendum



Three Categories for Facility Improvements

- Security/ Bldg. Systems/Grounds (\$20M)
- Transportation Center (\$4M)
- HS Indoor multi-purpose space (\$4M)



Facility Improvements

Category 1: *Security/Building Systems/Grounds*

Electronic Door Security, Fire Protection, Security Cameras, PA notification system, Tennis Courts, Sidewalks, Emergency Generators, Boilers, Air Transfer, Dehumidification, Fan Coils, Restrooms, Ceiling Tiles, LED Lights, Kitchen Exhaust...

Building Systems are Aging in 50-year old buildings



Facility Improvements



Category 2: Transportation Center (Built 1966)

(New Building)

***Maintenance Shop; Office Area, Restrooms,
Lunch/Meeting Room**

***Storage at existing site; Improve emission
exhaust fans**

Proposed Transportation Center Site Plan



Transportation Center (Built 1966)



Facility Improvements



Category 3: Multipurpose Indoor Athletic Facility (Addition onto HS)

- *Physical Education Classes and Speed/Strength Program*
- *Community Youth/Adult Sports = district space flexibility*
- *Wrestling practice out of MMS basement*
- *Community Education (physically active classes)*
- *Dance, Yoga, Cheerleading, Summer Kids Club*



Weight Room flexibility will improve



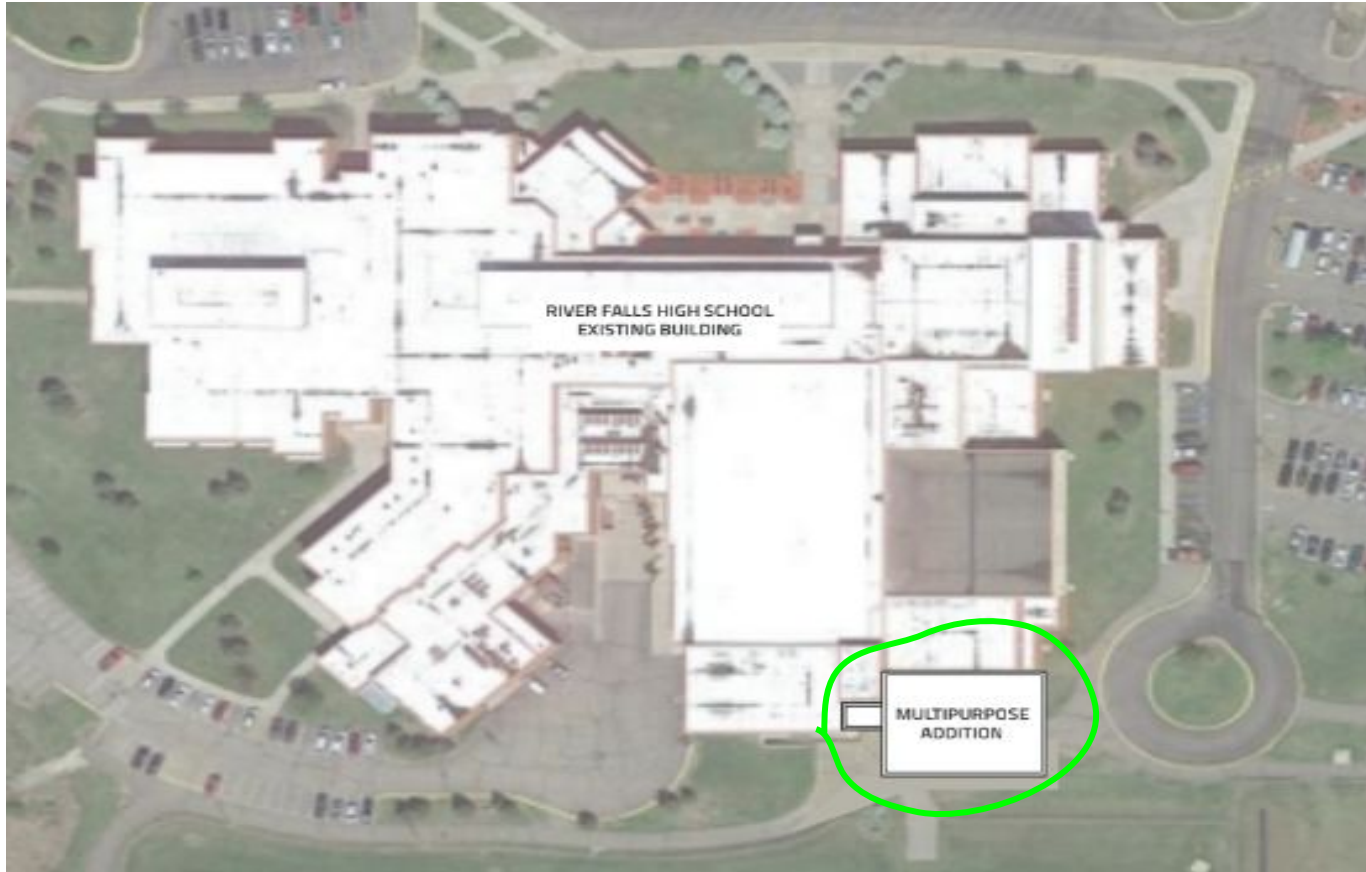
**Existing
Weight Room**



**Existing Small
"Green Room"**



Proposed Multipurpose Space Site Plan



Multi-Purpose Space at HS



Extreme

NO



Practical

YES





Q#2 Bond (Facility): Estimated Property Tax Impact

Estimated Property Tax Impact of Bond Referendum Question #2*

YEAR	Revenue Generated	Estimated Yearly Property Tax Impact <i>(per \$100,000 property value)</i>
2024-25	\$28M	\$58.50 <i>(per year)</i>

*Assumes borrowing repaid over 20 years at 5.25% interest rate

\$28M —→

- (\$20M) Security/Bldg. Systems/Grounds
- (\$4M) Transportation Center
- (\$4M) Multi-Purpose Space



Transparent Communication

Helping voters make an informed decision:

- >Public Forums
- >Mailer; Newspaper; Referendum Guide; e-News
- >Civic Groups; PTO's
- >Website; Social Media; Videos
- >Coffee + Lunch Meetings



High School Facility Improvements

Electronic door controls

Add Remaining Security Cameras

Improve crosswalk from student lot

Telecommunications Ground Conductor

Tennis Courts Replacement

Multipurpose Room (Phy ed, wrestling, athletics, clubs, community)

Meyer Middle School Improvements



Replace Old Building AHUs ductwork/board

New ceilings tiles

LED light fixtures

Fire Protection Sprinklers

Fire Alarm system connected to new Panel

Replace generator

Electronic door control

Security Cameras

Roof Hood serving basement ventilation units

Greenwood Elementary Facility Improvements



Generator

Electronic door controls

Add security cameras

Water capture internal drain

Art Storage Kiln vent

Kitchen Storage

Emergency Eyewash

Rocky Branch Facility Improvements



Replace air handlers #1 & 6

New return air ductwork in classrooms

New ceiling tiles

Lighting control

Restrooms

Sprinklers Fire Protection System

Replace AHU coils

Electronic door controls

Security Cameras

Entry Line of sight for receptionist

PA replacement

Westside Elementary Facility Improvements



Replace boiler; Air Handler #4; associated ductwork
LED and lighting controls

Kitchen exhaust

Restrooms

Fire Protection

Replace small generator & exhaust

Security Cameras

Electronic door controls

PA technology and Notification Strobe in Gym

Classrooms New sinks and casework

Brick repair

Montessori Elementary Facility Improvements

Remodel Storage conversion to SPED space

Add security cameras

Building Control Doors electronic controls



Transportation Center Facility Improvements

New Structure Replaces Maintenance and Occupied Space

Ventilation exhaust at bus storage

District Office Facility Improvements

Transformer Replacement

New security camera tech-server

Investing in Kids



Thanks to community for ongoing support.

Great staff - relationships with students; high quality professionals; dedicated servant leaders

Tradition - Great schools...great kids...
community trust+support matters



Q + A

*“Change happens at
the speed of trust”*