

INFORMATION FLYER FOR TOWN OF MINOCQUA VOTERS

RE: AUGUST 13th REFERENDUM VOTE TO INCREASE THE LEVY*

Since 2006, the State of Wisconsin has mandated a zero percent increase in town tax levies from the previous year, with the exception of what's called "net new growth" (percentage equal to the percentage change in equalized value due to new construction less improvements removed, which for the Town of Minocqua is currently 1.353%).

Since the State-imposed caps took effect in 2006, the cost of materials, equipment, labor, construction, services, heat, fuel, electricity, property insurance and health care have increased at a much greater rate than what the Town's levy can cover. In the last several years, these increases have been more dramatic than ever.

One of the most glaring examples of skyrocketing costs is road construction. In 2006, the cost to blacktop one mile of road was approximately \$85,000. In 2024, the cost is approximately \$275,000, a 225% increase. Shared revenue and gas tax payments from the State of Wisconsin have nowhere near kept pace with these increases.

The Town Board has been aware that the cumulative effect of these State-mandated limits in the face of rising costs would eventually require the Town to pursue an increase to the levy or be forced to reduce or eliminate services currently provided by the Town.

One thing State law does allow for is a referendum vote where Town citizens can authorize exceeding the State-imposed levy limits to help municipalities meet current and future needs. The Minocqua Town Board unanimously adopted a Resolution to increase the Town levy, which will appear on the August 13, 2024 ballot as a referendum in the form of a **YES or NO question** on the reverse side of the ballot:

"Under state law, the increase in the levy of the Town of Minocqua for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year, 2025, is limited to 1.353%, which results in a levy of \$4,397,593. Shall the Town of Minocqua be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2025, for the purpose of retaining levels of service for police, fire, public works and library, as well as maintaining public infrastructure, equipment, and facilities by a total of 17.055%, which results in a levy of \$5,147,593, and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$750,000 for each fiscal year going forward?"

What a YES vote means: The Town will have the ability to retain levels of service for police, fire, public works and library, and maintain public infrastructure, equipment and facilities. The road construction budget will better meet current needs. **REFERENDUM FUNDS ARE NOT BEING USED TO PURCHASE PROPERTY.**

What a NO vote means: The Town will be forced to reduce & eliminate services in some of the areas described above and likely be forced to borrow to meet critical future budgetary needs.

NOTE: The Referendum language could be interpreted that the increase of \$750,000 would be added on top of the levy in each succeeding year. This is not the case; if passed, it would be a one-time increase of \$750,000 that remains as an ongoing part of the yearly tax levy going forward each year.

If the Referendum passes, what impact will it have on your real estate tax? **The increase on the Town portion of your tax bill will be about \$39 per \$100,000 in assessed value.** So, for example, on a home with an assessed value of \$300,000, the total change would be \$117 on your annual tax bill.

*The "levy" is the amount of property tax collected by a municipality in its annual budget.

(please see next page)

Minocqua is well-known for having modest real estate tax rates, especially considering the many services that the Town provides:

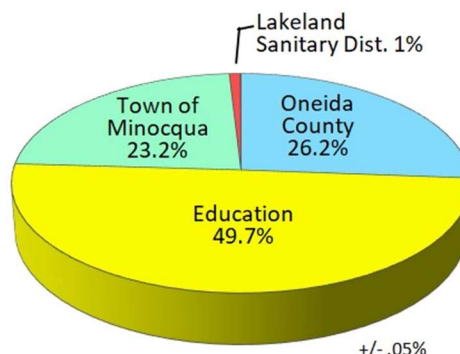
- Full-time police department and emergency dispatch center • Boat patrol
- Two fire stations • A large and well-used public library • Numerous popular park facilities
- Nearly 200 miles of Town roads • Brush disposal site • Eleven town-owned boat landings

The Town of Minocqua accounts for less than a quarter of your total tax bill!

Where Do Your 2023 Minocqua Tax Levy Dollars Go?

Oneida County	\$	4,981,576
Education (Schools)*	\$	9,467,109
Town of Minocqua	\$	4,408,591
Lakeland Sanitary Dist.	\$	164,286
Bear Lake Protection Dist.	\$	10,841
TOTAL:	\$	19,032,403

* MHLT: \$5,304,892 • LUHS: \$3,754,844 • Nicolet: \$407,373



After so many years of severe budget constraints, the Town is simply not able to operate beneath the State-mandated caps. This table illustrates how reasonable Minocqua's portion of real estate tax bills has been, and would continue to be -- even with passage of the Referendum:

MINOCQUA TAX RATES OVER THE LAST 17 YEARS

YEAR	TOTAL TAX PER \$1,000 VALUE		TOWN PORTION
	(Sanitary Dist)	(Non-sanitary Dist)	
2007	\$9.62	\$9.13	\$1.98
2008	\$9.57	\$9.09	\$1.97
2009	\$9.72	\$9.25	\$1.98
2010	\$9.82	\$9.36	\$2.04
2011	\$9.05	\$8.59	\$2.04
2012	\$10.85	\$10.32	\$2.50
2013	\$11.17	\$10.65	\$2.49
2014	\$10.31	\$9.79	\$2.54
2015	\$10.39	\$9.91	\$2.60
2016	\$10.57	\$10.07	\$2.59
2017	\$10.04	\$9.55	\$2.57
2018	\$10.27	\$9.78	\$2.59
2019	\$10.55	\$10.05	\$2.63
2020	\$8.89	\$8.47	\$2.13
2021	\$9.00	\$8.59	\$2.27
2022	\$8.98	\$8.57	\$2.25
2023	\$9.37	\$8.96	\$2.33
2024	If Referendum Is Passed		\$2.72

Tax amount per \$1,000 of assessed valuation is known as the "mil rate".

Total mil rate columns include all taxing authorities for Minocqua taxpayers, such as Oneida County, MHLT Elementary School, Lakeland Union High School and Nicolet College. The Town's portion is roughly 25 percent of the total tax bill.

Town of Minocqua electors can email Minocqua Town Board Members or Clerk with questions:

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The Minocqua Town Board of Supervisors unanimously supports passage of the August 13th Referendum to increase the levy.