

On April 1, members of the School District of West De Pere community will be asked to vote on a referendum question that will shape the future of education and career readiness for our students.

THIS REFERENDUM WILL...

- **Expand and renovate** Technical Education (Tech Ed) spaces to accommodate a **40% increase in class enrollment since 2018**, addressing growing student interest in hands-on, career-focused learning opportunities.
- **Strengthen partnerships** with local industrial and manufacturing businesses, helping to address local workforce demands while providing students with real-world, career-ready skills and pathways.
- **Invest** in our aging Tech Ed facilities, which have not seen significant improvements since they were originally built more than 50 years ago.
- Make these improvements **without increasing** the School District's mill rate, maintaining fiscal responsibility while investing in our students' future.

REFERENDUM QUESTION

Shall the School District of West De Pere, Brown and Outagamie Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$9,925,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school building and facility improvement project consisting of: construction of an addition for technical education space, renovations and site improvements at the High School; district-wide capital maintenance and building infrastructure improvements; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment? ☐ Yes ☐ No

VOTE APRIL 1, 2025

REFERENDUM INFORMATION



With limited indoor space, students take their carpentry and masonry skills outside to the parking lot. The current space constraints only allow this class to be held during the first and third trimesters.

WHAT'S THE PLAN?

The proposed plan will more than **double the existing Tech Ed space**, creating flexible, modern workspaces and providing students with firsthand learning opportunities directly connected to today's workforce demands.



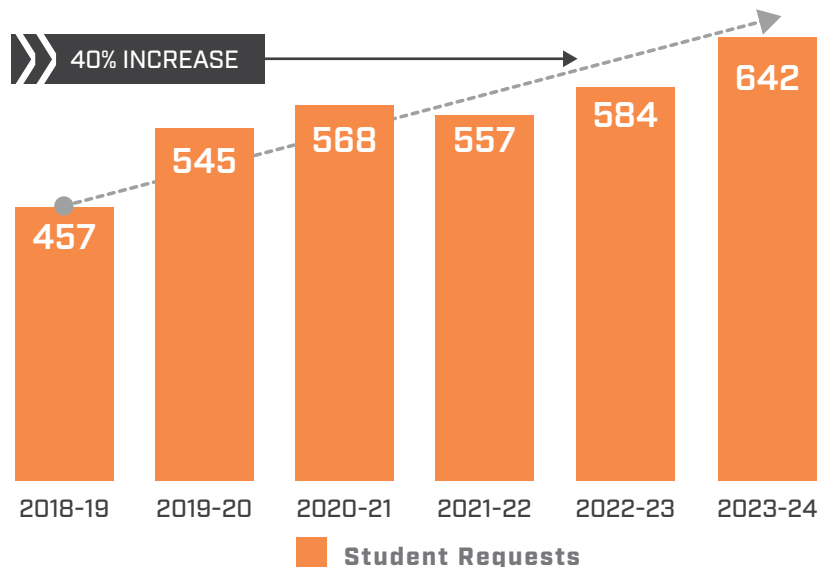
Ethan, a senior at West De Pere High School, is taking advantage of an excellent opportunity through the Youth Apprenticeship Program with Monroe Truck Equipment. Splitting his time between high school classes and working as a welder at Monroe, Ethan is gaining valuable experience and developing his skills. With a strong commitment to hands-on learning, he is preparing for a successful and rewarding career in the welding industry.

GROWING DEMAND

We are proud that our West De Pere students are taking advantage of hands-on learning opportunities to prepare for future careers. Tech Ed classes are fundamental in building the skills necessary to transition into apprenticeships that strengthen and support our local workforce. Our youth apprenticeship program has **grown by more than 60 students** in the last three years.

General enrollment in our Tech Ed courses has increased by 185 students since 2018. With increasing student interest in these courses, our current space no longer meets the demand.

TECH ED CLASS REQUESTS BY YEAR



WEST DE PERE High School Addition

- 1** Career and Technical Education (CTE) renovation including: updated Metals, Wood Shop, Works Labs, Design and Fabrication Lab.
- 2** Addition of an Auto Lab and classroom.
- 3** Repurposing of locker rooms to accommodate additional CTE space.
- 4** Reconfiguring of driveways and parking.



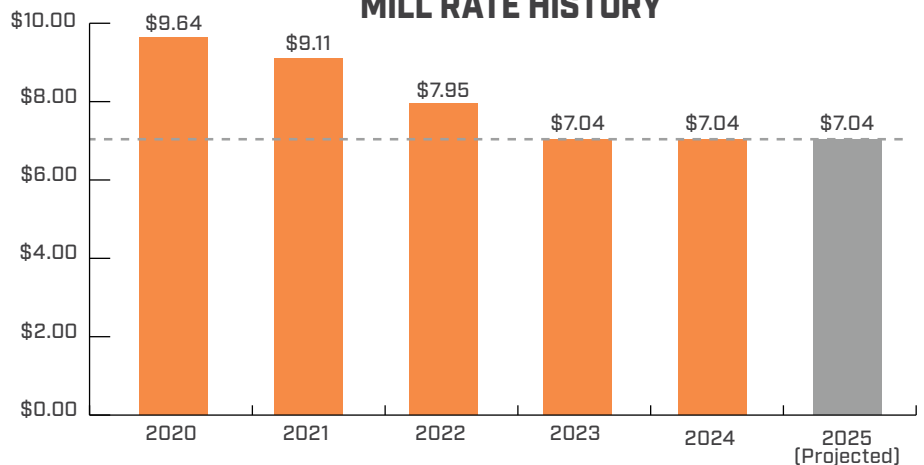
**ZERO
IMPACT**

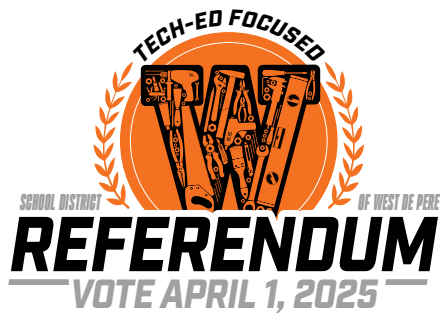
TO THE CURRENT MILL RATE.

HOW MUCH?

Maintaining the Mill Rate: The District will make the final payment on a portion of the 2018 referendum debt, creating an opportunity to invest \$9.925 million **without increasing the mill rate** above \$7.04, remaining consistent with the rate from the past two years.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WEST DE PERE
MILL RATE HISTORY





To discover more inspiring stories of students embracing opportunities to learn valuable skills and contribute to their local economy, visit the District website.



According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in skilled trades is expected to grow significantly, with **millions of job openings** projected each year due to industry growth and workforce retirements. This highlights a **strong demand for local skilled workers** across trades such as welding, plumbing, and construction.



Hunter, a senior at West De Pere High School, is gaining direct experience through the Youth Apprenticeship Program with Truck Equipment Inc. With a passion for building, he spends each day sharpening his skills alongside experienced professionals who support him every step of the way. Hunter values the opportunity to contribute to real projects and be part of a successful team. This apprenticeship allows him to turn his interest in hands-on work into a promising future in the trades.

HOW TO GET MORE INFORMATION

Call: Jason Lau, Superintendent, at 920-337-1393 x8028 or Russ Gerke, HS Principal, at 920-338-5200 x4205

Email: Jason Lau at jlau@wdpsd.com or Russ Gerke at rgerke@wdpsd.com

Visit: the District website at www.wdpsd.com

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ATTEND A REFERENDUM OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, March 12 and Thursday, March 20
5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

This is an Open House event, so feel free to stop by at your convenience. Parking is available in the back of the High School building, near the Tech Ed area. Attendees should enter through Door 16.

VOTE APRIL 1, 2025