



West Lafayette Community School Corporation

November 2026 Referendum
Vote on or Before Nov. 3

**Maintaining
Excellence**

Addressing new financial challenges

In short: State legislation adopted in 2025 reduces public schools' access to existing revenue sources, including previously approved referendum funds. In response, West Lafayette schools are asking voters to approve an increased operating tax rate to maintain current funding levels.

1. Due to state legislation, school districts statewide will lose tax revenue for years into the future. Without the ability to increase its referendum tax rate, West Lafayette will experience a loss of revenue integral to its overall budget.
2. The district has placed a referendum question on the November 3, 2026 ballot that would replace funds lost due to state legislation. It does not increase revenue; it preserves current programming and staffing.



Why is school revenue declining?

Indiana Senate Enrolled Act 1 (SEA 1), passed in 2025, reduces public schools' revenue by reducing taxable assessed values. In essence, SEA 1 shrinks the tax base, so that an existing tax rate generates fewer dollars.



Responsible response

The school district is acting responsibly in response to this challenge by reducing costs and seeking community input and support.

West Lafayette is not alone

Virtually all Indiana public school districts project substantial revenue losses. The Indiana Legislative Services Agency projects \$744 million in revenue decreases to public schools over the next three years.

99%

of Indiana districts expect SEA 1 to negatively impact funding in future years.

Source: Survey by Indiana Coalition for Public Education.

Impact for West Lafayette?

SEA 1 reduces West Lafayette schools' tax levy every year, for at least six years. The district's current levy of \$0.37 per \$100 assessed value will net \$8.7 million in 2026. SEA 1 reduces West Lafayette schools' tax levy revenue beginning in 2027.

Operating referendum funds constitute almost 25% of the school district's budget, paying for 50+ teachers and for some custodial/maintenance and transportation operations, including wages, salaries, benefits and equipment.



Successful Referendum Means:

- Preserving previously projected revenue
- Tax rate flexibility for a shifting state financial landscape and possible additional tax reforms

Minimal Tax Impact

Your taxes may:

- Stay the same
- Increase slightly
- Decrease slightly

See the reasons why at our website.

WLVote26.com

A referendum to replace funds lost due to state legislation

Because of SEA 1, schools can maintain consistent funding primarily through referendum-approved annual adjustments to their tax rate. West Lafayette schools propose a rate of 57.06 cents per \$100 assessed valuation (AV). Unexpectedly favorable AV updates for 2026 may allow the school district to preserve revenue with the current 37-cent rate for 2027. In future years, as AV decreases due to SEA-1, a successful referendum gives West Lafayette schools flexibility to phase in a higher rate, only as needed to preserve previously projected revenue.

District cost-savings actions

We are watching every dollar and saving through staff attrition, contracted services and continual cost analysis.

The district has established \$448,000 in recurring savings through:

Aligning staffing with enrollment trends, implementing efficiencies in service and material contracts; and ongoing analysis of every expenditure, to maximize efficiency without cutting essential programs.



Confusing ballot language

State law requires certain language be used in school referendum ballot questions. Visit www.WLVote26.com to see the ballot and explanations of confusing language.

Make a plan to vote:

- Voter registration deadline: Oct. 5
- Check your status: indianavoters.in.gov
- Early voting starts Oct. 6
- Polls open Nov. 3: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Learn more about the referendum

Scan here to request link for sessions:

Virtual Information Sessions

- Wednesday, Oct. 14, Noon to 1 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 14, 6 to 7 p.m.



Contact Us

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