



### ADDRESS

501 S. Bird Street  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

### PHONE

608.834.6500

# SUN PRAIRIE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Futures depend on us...every child, every day.

## Information about Tax Statements for 2019

- The Sun Prairie Area School District is one of the fastest growing districts in the state. To understand current and future growth patterns across the 10 municipalities we serve, we developed two enrollment projections to predict **enrollment as it relates to municipally approved housing developments:**
  - [2017 UW-APL Enrollment Report of Enrollment Projections](#)
  - [2018 Community Growth and Enrollment Projections Report](#)
- School district taxes predictably increased because of the April 2019 Referendum to cope with enrollment growth.
- The Referendum of 2019 was the result of exhaustive community input that included:
  - 9 months of study by a community-based committee called the [Secondary School Space Planning Committee](#) (SSSPC).
  - The SSSPC completed a survey of the community, where 4,059 community members had input on project scope and tax tolerance thresholds. This survey informed an advisory recommendation from the SSSPC to the Sun Prairie Board of Education.
  - The Board of Education unanimously voted to put the SSSPC's recommendation of the April 2019 Ballot.
- Both [Sun Prairie Area School District Referendum](#) Questions on the April 2019 Referendum were approved.
  - Capitol Referendum (Construction): 57% Yes \$164M
  - Operational Referendum (Operating Expenses): 60% Yes \$5M
- Leading up to the Referendum of 2019, the school district held more than 70 separate informational events for the community to learn more and ask questions.
- Because of the competitive bidding process used to sell school district referendum bonds and because of the timing of the sale of our bonds relative to interest rates, we were able to avoid costs of financing our construction by approximately \$49M compared to our initial estimates.
- The 2018-2019 school year tax impact was the lowest (by mill rate) in the previous five years. The 2019-2020 mill rate has increased as a result of the 2019 Referendum; however, our current tax rates are consistent with and slightly under tax rates in 2014-15.



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- The 2019-20 levy includes the full effect of the \$5M exceed the revenue cap and the initial borrowing for the 2nd high school, implementing the operating referendum in year one, will reduce the total debt financing costs by \$10M over the life of the bonds.
- Many school districts are receiving [less state aid](#), which translates into higher local taxes, given that taxpayers are now funding two school systems both public and private (through the voucher/charter program). Sun Prairie's local taxes are increased roughly \$769,256 for the Milwaukee Charter School Program, and \$56,515 for the Private School Voucher Program.
- High quality schools and facilities such as Performing Arts Centers bring great value to a community. Some business owners will directly benefit from visitors coming to the community. Homeowner's property values increase with quality schools. This is especially valuable when the property is sold. For many property owners, their property is often their highest value and most stable value equity asset. Given that schools are funded primarily through taxes, the district works tirelessly to assure that citizens are provided the best value for their investment.
- We actively manage the debt-load of the school district by refinancing existing debt at lower interest rates (totaling \$10M avoided). We recently retired the debt associated with Patrick Marsh and Prairie View Middle Schools.
- In 2006, the community of the Sun Prairie Area School District voted no to a referendum to build a second high school on the east side of Sun Prairie.
  - Had this referendum passed, the costs of building a second high school would have been roughly half the costs, and in 2019, we would have been 14 years paid in a 20 year bond.

### *Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction Referendum Records*

SPAS D	04/04/20 06	\$516,565	Issu e Deb t	Y- 2,758	N- 5,426	Faile d	upgrade auditoriu m of new eastside high school to a performi ng arts
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							center facility
SPAS D	04/04/2006	\$59,973,301	Issue Debt	Y-3,053	N-5,197	Failed	construct and equip a new east side high school and related facilities