

SCHOOL FACILITY PLANNING COMMUNITY SURVEY



Dear Community Members:

The School District of West Salem is working on a plan to begin the next phase of projects in our Long-Range Facility Plan. There is a need to address large capital maintenance projects at the high school, update classrooms, expand and renovate the career and technical educational space, improve the music classrooms, and expand gym and fitness space.

Ultimately, the District's goal is to finalize a plan that reflects the priorities of our taxpayers and meets the needs of our students and the community. Therefore, we are asking you to take 10 minutes to complete this survey.

Sincerely,

Ryan Rieber

School District of West Salem Superintendent

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey in one of the following formats:



ONLINE

Scan the QR code to the left with your phone camera or visit bit.ly/WestSalem_CommunitySurvey to complete the survey online.



PAPER SURVEY

Download and print the survey at www.wsalem.k12.wi.us.
Once complete, drop off or mail to: School District of West Salem,
405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, WI 54669.



SENT TO YOU

Call **608.786.0700** to have a survey mailed to you.
Once complete, drop off or mail to: School District of West Salem,
405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, WI 54669.

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW
WITH YOUR SMART PHONE
CAMERA OR VISIT THE
WEBSITE LINK TO COMPLETE
THE SURVEY ONLINE



bit.ly/WestSalem_CommunitySurvey

SURVEYS MUST BE RETURNED BY JULY 27, 2024!



SCHOOL FACILITY PLANNING COMMUNITY SURVEY



ABOUT YOU

Please tell us a bit about yourself.

1 What is your age?

- ☐ 18–25 ☐ 26–35 ☐ 36–45 ☐ 46–55 ☐ 56–64 ☐ 65+

2 Do you live in the School District of West Salem?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

3 If yes, in which municipality do you reside?

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Village of West Salem | <input type="checkbox"/> Town of Bangor | <input type="checkbox"/> Town of Barre |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Town of Farmington | <input type="checkbox"/> Town of Greenfield | <input type="checkbox"/> Town of Hamilton |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Town of Medary | <input type="checkbox"/> Town of Shelby | <input type="checkbox"/> Town of Washington |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | | |

4 Are you an employee of the School District of West Salem?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

5 Do you have school aged children?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

6 Please **select all** that describe you:

- ☐ Own a home in the District
- ☐ Rent in the District
- ☐ Own a business in the District
- ☐ Own commercial property in the District
- ☐ Own agricultural land in the District
- ☐ None of the above





SCHOOL FACILITY PLANNING COMMUNITY SURVEY



OPERATIONAL VS CAPITAL REFERENDUM

There are two types of referendum funding school districts use: operational referendums and capital referendums.

Since 2019, the West Salem community has supported our District through an **operational referendum**. Funds secured through an operational referendum are used to support the day-to-day operations of the District. These operations include staffing, educational programming, student services, and maintenance of district buildings. Funds secured through an operational referendum are typically used within the year they are received. **Next year, the District's current operating referendum will expire.**

A **capital referendum** is the method a district uses to issue debt to pay for major facility projects, much like a home mortgage. A capital referendum is typically financed over an extended period of time, often 20 years.



FUNDING TO SUPPORT OPERATIONS

We are very grateful for the support our community continues to provide our schools. West Salem voters approved an operational referendum in 2019 and again in 2022 to provide needed funding to support daily operations, programs, services, and building maintenance. **The funding from the 2022 referendum will end next year.**

In order to maintain quality programs and services, the District will need to secure another operational referendum or make significant cuts to programs and daily expenses.

Would you support a recurring (ongoing) operational referendum in order to maintain quality programs and services?

Representing no tax increase over the current level.

- ☐ Definitely yes
- ☐ Probably yes
- ☐ Undecided
- ☐ Probably no
- ☐ Definitely no

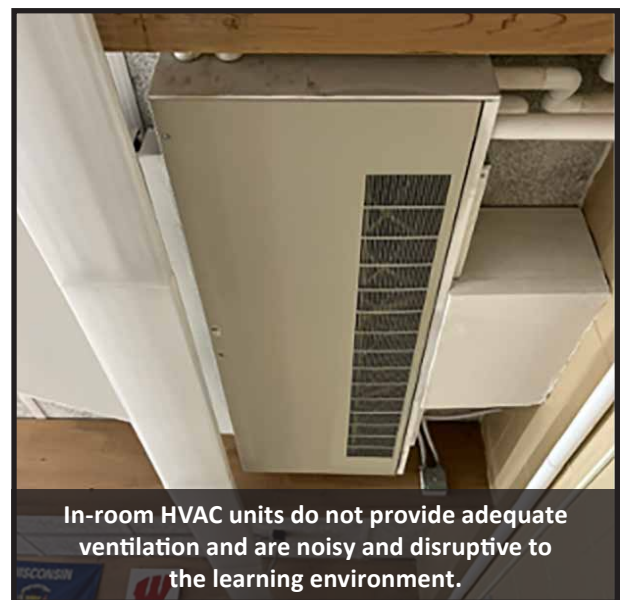
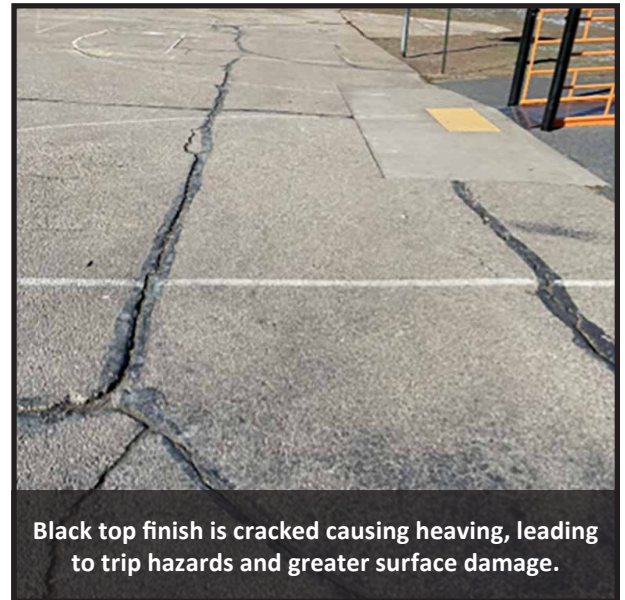
COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS/QUESTIONS:

FACILITY PLANNING BACKGROUND

The District recently completed a facility assessment to better understand the condition and needs of all District facilities. The study evaluated each school's building systems, envelope, and finishes. In addition, student capacity and the adequacy of educational spaces were analyzed.

The study identified the following needs throughout the District:

- Renovations to improve safety, security, and ADA accessibility
- Repair/replacement of heating, plumbing, and electrical systems or components that are failing and performing beyond their service life
- Replacement of aged and failing flooring, ceiling, casework, and doors
- Roof replacement at the high school
- Site improvements needed to improve traffic flow, drainage, and eliminate water infiltration
- Exterior caulking and tuckpointing
- Updates and expansion of Career and Technical Education (CTE) classrooms and labs where woods, metals, small engine and other shop classes are taught
- Relocation of classrooms to better share resources, team teach, and move classrooms out of the lower level of the high school
- Renovation of high school music classrooms to better support students' learning needs
- Additional gym, wrestling, locker rooms, gymnastics, and fitness space





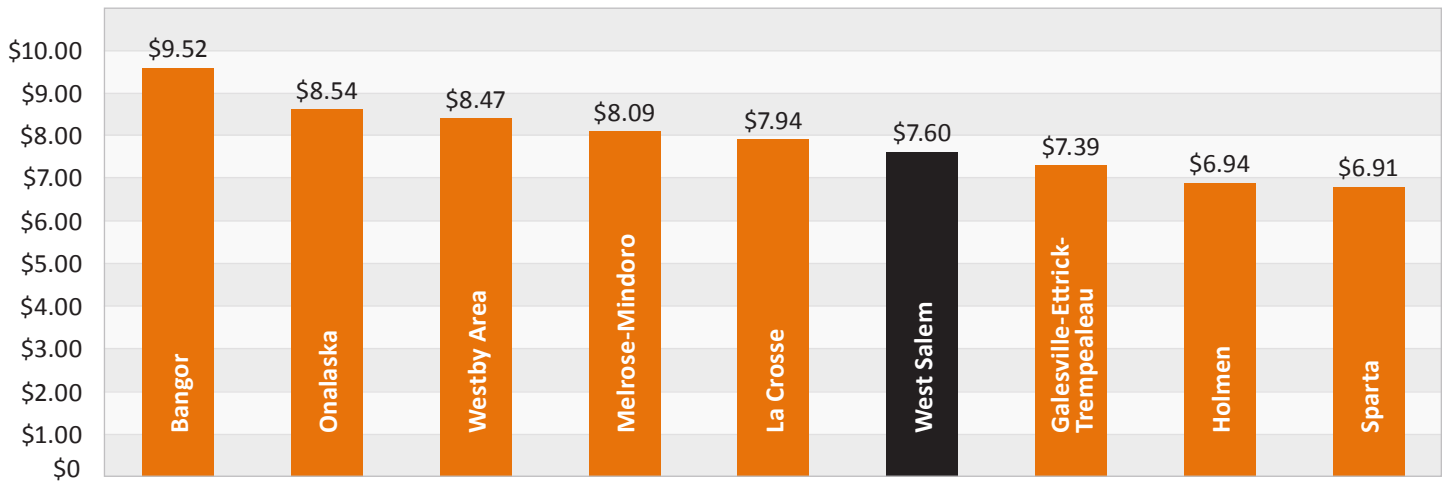
SCHOOL FACILITY PLANNING COMMUNITY SURVEY



FINANCIAL BACKGROUND

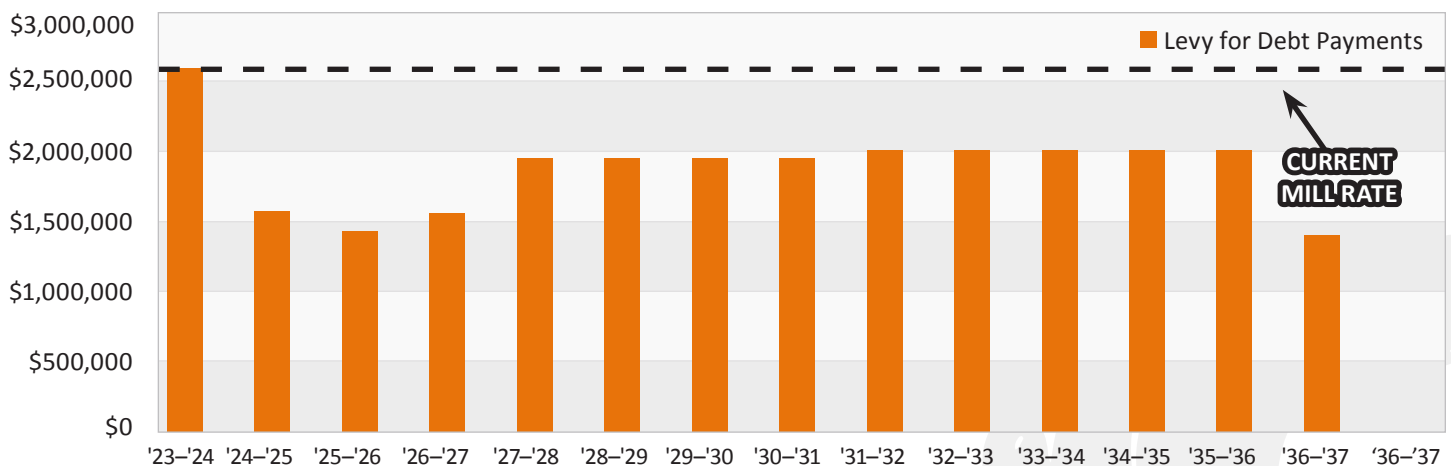
The District works hard to be good stewards of taxpayers' dollars. The West Salem School District mill rate is consistently close to or lower than the majority of school districts in the region.

2024 Mill Rate Comparison



The District believes this is a good time to consider the next phase of projects in our schools. The bond that funded the middle school renovation in 2016 will be paid off in the coming years. This reduction of bond payments gives the community an opportunity to invest in our facilities to better serve our students and community, while minimizing the property tax increase.

West Salem Debt Payment Schedule



If the public chooses to address the District's facility needs, the primary way to obtain funding is through a voter-approved capital referendum.

Would you support the District exploring a capital referendum at this time?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Undecided/Need more information



SCHOOL FACILITY PLANNING COMMUNITY SURVEY



PROPOSED PROJECTS

If the community supports exploring a capital referendum, one or more of the following projects could be included:

Update and Expand the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Classrooms and Labs (formerly known as “Shop”)

There is a growing demand for highly skilled employees in the trades. The current high school shop is outdated and too small. As a result, student course requests go unmet, class projects need to be moved and stored between classes, and equipment is scattered throughout the shared space.

The classrooms and labs to teach woods/construction, metals, small engine repair, agri-science, and robotics need to be expanded to allow for more students to enroll and to have the latest technology and equipment.

The proposed plan would:

- Build new labs and classrooms for metals, woods, and culinary courses
- Convert existing labs into large science labs, an art classroom, and classrooms with flexible project space
- Renovate existing art classrooms into classrooms to move classrooms out of the lower level of the school
- Install a new, larger greenhouse adjacent to the science classrooms

Estimated Cost: \$12.89 million

Would you like to see the update and expansion of Career and Technical Education (CTE) classrooms and labs as described above included in a referendum?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Undecided

Update Building Infrastructure and Systems

Although our schools have been well maintained, many of the building’s systems and components have reached the end of their service life and are in need of replacement. The following projects have been identified as the highest priority:

Elementary School:

- Repair/replacement of bullnose brick to stop water infiltration
- Replace failing emergency generator
- Upgrade HVAC controls

High School:

- Replace roof sections
- Upgrade building automation system
- Replace second floor HVAC system
- Repair and replace failing fan coils and duct work

Estimated Cost: \$5.3 million

Would you like to see the building infrastructure and system updates at the elementary and high schools included in a referendum?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Undecided



SCHOOL FACILITY PLANNING COMMUNITY SURVEY



Renovate the High School Music Suite

The current high school music suite has small rooms with limited storage. There is a need for larger rooms with better acoustics to support the growing program. The suite has multiple elevation changes, causing obstacles for people with mobility challenges.

The proposed plan would:

- Create a single level for the entire area
- Increase the size of the music classrooms with proper acoustics
- Build needed storage rooms for the music library and theater department
- Create a dressing and makeup room with changing rooms and storage

Estimated Cost: \$2.9 million

Would you like to see the high school music suite renovation included in a referendum?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Undecided

Create a Secure Entrance for the Heider Center Box Office

The safety of our students and staff remains a top priority. There is a need to redesign the Heider Center entrance to allow patrons to purchase tickets without having access to the rest of the school.

Estimated Cost: \$90,000

Would you like to see the Heider Center Box Office secure entrance included in a referendum?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Undecided



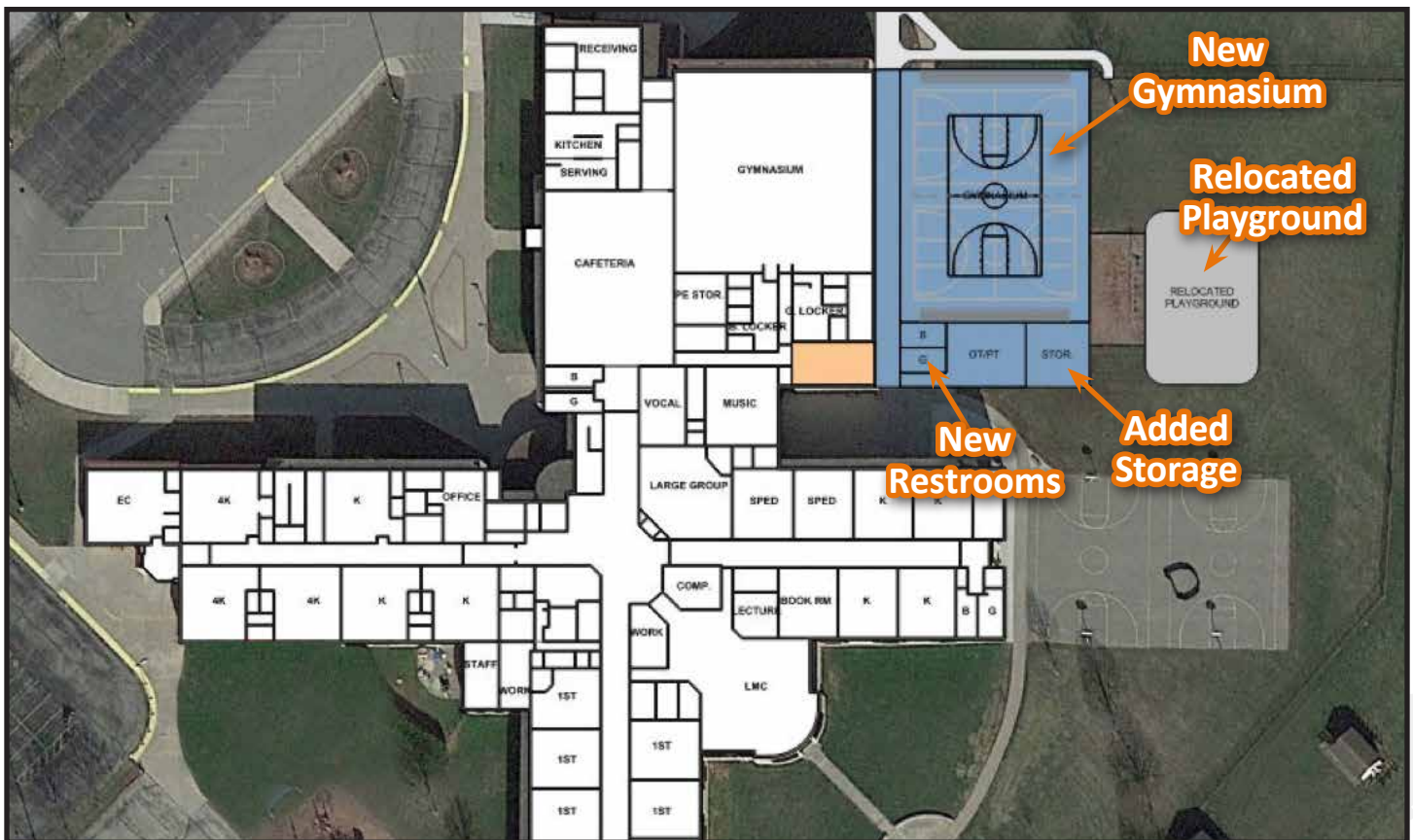
Build a Gym Addition at the Elementary School

There is not enough gym space at the elementary school. As a result, the cafeteria needs to be used for physical education classes, requiring tables to be set up and taken down daily. This also limits the scheduling of lunch periods, requiring multiple grade levels in the cafeteria together. The cafeteria is crowded and loud, which can be overstimulating for students.

A two-station gym can be built adjacent to the existing gym. This would provide the needed gym space for physical education class, improve the lunchroom experience, and allow the cafeteria to be used as a large group space throughout the day.

Additional gym space in the District would also:

- Provide needed practice space for school teams and youth programs
- Increase space for school and community use, especially in the winter months
- Provide sufficient space to host youth sporting events



Estimated Cost: \$7.85 million

Would you like to see the elementary school gym addition included in a referendum?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Undecided



SCHOOL FACILITY PLANNING COMMUNITY SURVEY



Expand and Update the Weight/Fitness Room and Multi-Purpose Room

The school's weight room is undersized, making it challenging for a full team or physical education class to utilize the space safely at one time. An updated and expanded facility would provide space for additional equipment as well as improve safety and increase access for the community when not in use by students.

The multi-purpose/wrestling room is also too small, limiting the size of groups that can use the room as well as number of wrestling mats that can fit. An expanded multi-purpose space will meet the needs of the growing wrestling program, as well as provide needed space for other large group activities.

Estimated Cost: \$6.69 million

Would you like to see the weight/fitness room and multi-purpose room expansion included in a referendum?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Undecided

Add Multi-Purpose/Gymnastics Space

If the community supports expanding the weight/fitness room, a 2nd story could be added to provide additional multi-purpose space to support the gymnastics program and other large group activities.

The gymnastics program is currently located in the Panther Den. There are space challenges given the amount of equipment and overhead clearance needed. The proposed plan would double the amount of space currently used for gymnastics and ensure all ceilings provide appropriate clearance.

Estimated Cost: \$3.6 million

Would you like to see the multi-purpose/gymnastics space addition included in a referendum?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Undecided

Add Locker Rooms and Storage

There is a need for additional locker rooms at the Panther Den to meet the needs of the District's female hockey team. An existing locker room can also be renovated and repurposed into a team locker room and needed storage.

If the community supports adding multi-purpose space at the high school that can support the gymnastics program, the current gymnastics space could be renovated into locker rooms. This would reduce the investment needed at the Panther Den.

Estimated Cost: \$500,000 - \$1.2 million
(depending on the decision for the gymnastics program)

Would you like to see the locker room and storage addition included in a referendum?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Undecided



SCHOOL FACILITY PLANNING COMMUNITY SURVEY



FUNDING SUPPORT

The cost to address all the needs identified in the survey is estimated at \$38 million.

The District may need to complete the proposed projects in phases, based on the community's support of the projects and willingness to support a property tax increase.

The following table shows the annual tax impact for various referendum amounts. **The District would like to know your level of support, should they consider a referendum.**

ESTIMATED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE				
Referendum Amount	\$25 million	\$32 million	\$34 million	\$38 million
Estimated increase per \$100,000 of property value	No tax increase over the current level	Tax increase of \$27 per year (\$2.25/month)	Tax increase of \$35 per year (\$2.92/month)	Tax increase of \$50 per year (\$4.17/month)
How much of a tax increase would you support through a referendum, assuming the projects included were acceptable to you?		<div><input type="checkbox"/> I would support a \$38 million referendum</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> I would support a \$34 million referendum</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> I would support a \$32 million referendum</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> I would support a \$25 million referendum</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> I would not support any referendum at this time</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> I will never vote yes on a school bond referendum</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> I'm not sure/need more information</div>		





ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

A faint, stylized illustration of a tiger in the bottom right corner, walking towards the left. The tiger is depicted in a simple, sketchy manner with light gray outlines and some darker gray shading to suggest its stripes. It is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page, partially overlapping the horizontal lines.