

West Lafayette

Community School Corporation

2023 Operating Levy Renewal

Building on Excellence

We have a lot to be proud of at West Lafayette Community School Corporation. Our kids are not just learning – they’re thriving! We’re among Indiana’s highest ranking districts – West Lafayette High School is in the state’s top 5 according to US News & World Report, and was the only Indiana district to be ranked by Niche in the top 50 in the country (number 28). It has been recognized with awards for music education and **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

The support we received from the community in 2010 and 2017 approving an operating levy greatly benefited our students! Now we’re asking voters to consider renewing the exact same levy.



We’re proposing a “Building on Excellence” operating levy renewal based on these themes:

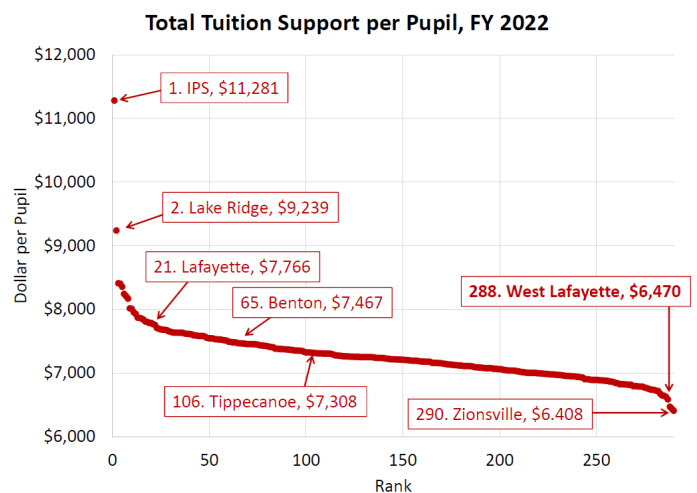
Support Learning

The Need

Of the 290 school districts in Indiana, the West Lafayette school corporation receives the third lowest amount of funding per pupil from the state. State assistance for WLCSC is low because of the district’s income and high property values.

The current voter approved operating levy is 37 cents per \$100 of property value, and expires in 2024. Expiring referendum funds constitute 18 percent of the district’s operating budget, or \$7 million – the equivalent of more than 70 staff positions.

Support Teaching



Need More Information?

Visit: www.wl.k12.in.us
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/wlcsrdp

Contact Superintendent Shawn Greiner
 765-746-1602 or greiners@wl.k12.in.us

The Plan

The West Lafayette School Board voted unanimously to approve a single-question ballot for a Nov. 7 referendum.

Question 1 is asking voters to consider renewing the existing operating levy of \$0.37 per \$100 of property value that was approved by 94% of voters in 2017. This levy would be used to retain and attract teachers and staff, fund academic programming, and provide needed operating expenditures.

What if the referendum is not approved?

If the referendum is not approved, then the school district would face uncertainty. The district could place the question on the November 2024 ballot, but only by successfully completing a petition drive. The district would develop a list of potential staff and program reductions in case it were to lose referendum revenue, which is roughly 18% of its budget.

How Will the Money be Spent?

Of the \$7 million of referendum revenue, West Lafayette schools would dedicate funds toward:



**\$4.5
Million**

Supporting Teaching

Teacher and staff compensation for managing class sizes and academic programming

**\$2.5
Million**

Supporting Learning

Operation Fund expenditures for maintenance personnel and student transportation

Question:

Does the quality of schools really affect property values?

Yes. According to a National Alliance of Business report, "The second most often cited reason for a business selecting a particular location is the quality of the schools." Good schools are also shown to attract and retain families. A community that attracts families and businesses tends to have a stronger tax base, higher home values, and a tax burden that is spread more widely.

What Will This Cost Me?

There is no additional cost for this renewal. You will continue to pay the 37 cents per \$100 of property value – the same tax rate you are currently paying for the school operating levy, and that you have been paying since 2010.

Ballot Language Explained

School referendum ballot questions are required by state law to be written a certain way. The question correctly describes the referendum as a renewal of the current rate, but also describes a tax increase. The rate will be the same. See our website FAQ for more information.

Where and When Do I Vote?

Vote on or before Tuesday, November 7.

Polls are open 6am – 6pm.

To find your polling place or information on early voting, visit www.wl.k12.in.us

BE AN INFORMED VOTER.

**ZERO TAX RATE INCREASE
BIG BENEFITS**