



IMPORTANT INFO ABOUT WESTERN DUBUQUE'S UPCOMING Revenue Purpose Statement Vote

DYERSVILLE ELEMENTARY CONSTRUCTION & ADDITION - PEOSTA ELEMENTARY CONSTRUCTION & ADDITIONS

WDHS VOCATIONAL BUILDING - DREXLER GYMNASIUM/MUSIC ROOMS/OFFICE ADDITION - SECURITY CAMERAS

REDUCTION OF DEBT SERVICE LEVY - EPWORTH ELEMENTARY ADDITION - CASCADE ELEMENTARY ADDITIONS

TRANSPORTATION/MAINTENANCE BLDG - DISTRICT ADMIN OFFICES - DISTRICT-WIDE TECH INFRASTRUCTURE

FAST FACTS:

- Vote to be held on November 2nd, 2021 – Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- This is NOT a property tax vote or increase in taxes but a distinction of how WDCCSD intends to spend the tax already collected through the state one-cent sales tax
- Approval of District use of funds, including but not limited to construction, infrastructure, technology, principal and interest payments
- Allows the District to borrow against future sales tax revenues if needed to meet the needs of our growing communities, just as we have done in the sampling of projects outlined above

BACKGROUND

The One-Cent Sales Tax was originally passed locally on a county-by-county basis, and by 2008, was approved in all 99 Iowa counties. The Legislature then approved the change from a local option sales tax to a state-wide basis in 2008 to benefit all students equally across the state. At that time, the voters of Western Dubuque Schools approved the District's Revenue Purpose Statement, which outlined the ways the sales tax dollars could be legally spent by the District until the initial program expiration date of 2029.

In 2019, the Legislature and Governor extended the One-Cent Sales Tax through 2051, providing districts with a revenue stream into the future that was predictable and sufficient for bonding purposes. As part of the extension, districts are required to renew their Revenue Purpose Statement (RPS) prior to 2031 in order to bond against the extended program. Renewing the Revenue Purpose Statement through 2051 will help the District plan for the future of our growing district and avoid reliance upon property taxes to fund future construction and expansion projects.

HOW MUCH SALES TAX DOES THE DISTRICT CURRENTLY RECEIVE AND HOW IS IT UTILIZED?

Western Dubuque Schools is projected to receive approx. \$3.5mil in sales tax revenue in 2021-2022. The funds are currently being utilized to retire previously issued sales tax bonds & to reduce the Debt Service Levy. Had the sales tax revenue not been utilized for the projects outlined above, the District's only other avenue for raising construction funds would have been to seek a drastic increase in property taxes via General Obligation Bonds.

The District also uses between \$400,000 and \$600,000 of its sales tax revenue annually to directly decrease the Debt Service Levy, which has allowed our total property tax levy to remain in the lowest 25% of all school districts in Iowa.

WILL THE PASSAGE OF THE REVENUE PURPOSE STATEMENT INCREASE MY TAXES?

Passage of the Revenue Purpose Statement (RPS) will not increase property taxes. The state-wide sales tax revenue will continue to flow to the District through 2051 even if the new Revenue Purpose Statement is not approved. However, passage of the RPS will allow the District Board of Education the continued flexibility to utilize the funds in the manner they best see fit for our growing district, just as they have done since 2008.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE REVENUE PURPOSE STATEMENT FAILS?

If a majority of eligible electors voting on the question fail to approve this Revenue Purpose Statement, then upon expiration of the current Revenue Purpose Statement, revenues received by the District from the Secure an Advanced Vision for Education Fund shall be expended in the following order:

- The payment of bonds which SAVE Revenue has been pledged;
- Reduction of bond levies under Iowa Code Sections 298.18 and 298.18A and all other debt levies;
- Reduction of the regular and voter-approved physical plant and equipment levy under Iowa Code Section 298.2;
- For any authorized infrastructure purpose of the school district as defined in Iowa Code Section 423F.3(6); and
- For the payment of principal and interest on bonds issued under Iowa Code Sections 423E.5 and 423F.4.

HOW WILL THE BALLOT BE WORDED FOR WESTERN DUBUQUE SCHOOL DISTRICT?

SHALL THE FOLLOWING MEASURE BE ADOPTED: YES / NO

PROPOSITION

Summary: To adopt a Revenue Purpose Statement specifying the use of revenues the Western Dubuque County Community School District will receive from the State of Iowa Secure an Advanced Vision for Education Fund.

In the Western Dubuque County Community School District, the following Revenue Purpose Statement which specifies the use of revenues the Western Dubuque County Community School District will receive from the State of Iowa Secure an Advanced Vision for Education Fund shall be adopted.

To provide funds to acquire or install information technology infrastructure (including improving buildings or sites for the purpose of accessing broadband digital telecommunications) and school safety and security infrastructure.

To provide funds to build and furnish a new school building or buildings; to build and furnish addition(s) to school buildings in the District; to remodel, reconstruct, repair, expand, and improve the school buildings in the District; to purchase and improve grounds; for demolition work; to furnish and equip District facilities.

To provide funds for the purchase, lease or lease-purchase of buildings, equipment (including transportation and recreation equipment), or technology and to repair transportation equipment for transporting students as authorized by law, to implement energy conservation measures, sharing or rental of facilities including a joint infrastructure project for the purpose of offering classes under a district-to-community college as authorized in Iowa Code Section 423F.3(3)(c), procuring or acquisition of libraries, or opening roads to schoolhouses or buildings.

To provide funds to purchase land as part of start-up costs for new student construction program or if the sale of the previous student construction was insufficient to purchase land, and to purchase construction materials and supplies for a student-constructed building or shed intended to be retained by and used by the District.

To provide funds to make payments to a municipality or other entity as required under Iowa Code Section 403.19(2).

To provide funds for demolition, cleanup, and other costs if such costs are necessitated by, and incurred within two years of, a disaster.

To provide funds to establish and maintain public recreation places and playgrounds; provide for supervision and instruction for recreational activities; or for community education purposes.

To provide funds for the payment of principal and interest or retirement of general obligation bonds issued for school infrastructure purposes, energy improvement loans, loan agreements authorized by Iowa Code Section 297.36, sales, service and use tax revenue bonds issued under Iowa Code Section 423E.5 or Iowa Code Section 423F.4.

To provide funds for property tax relief; and

To provide funds for other authorized expenditures and purposes as now or hereafter permitted by law and designated by the Western Dubuque County Community School District.

It being understood that if this proposition should fail to be approved by the voters, such failure shall not be construed to terminate or restrict authority previously granted by the voters to expend receipts from the Secure an Advanced Vision for Education Fund.

If approved, this Revenue Purpose Statement shall remain in effect until replaced or amended by the Western Dubuque County Community School District.

[END OF BALLOT LANGUAGE]