CLAYTON SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES RESOLUTION FOR A REFERENDUM ELECTION

At the January 15, 2018 meeting, the Clayton School Board unanimously approved a resolution providing for a referendum election authorizing the school district budget to exceed the revenue limit for four years for non-recurring purposes consisting of operational expenses.

In the following years, the Clayton District will experience significant deficits, which are a result of lowered revenue ceilings, less state aid and increased operational costs. The reality is that costs are going up and revenues are going down! According to the District's budget forecast model, budget deficits will be as follows:

2018-2019	($600,525)
2019-2020	($674,560)
2020-2021	($778,730)
2021-2022	($901,961)

Due to these projected deficits, the Clayton School District must seek support and approval from the taxpayers to exceed the revenue limit by $700,000 for the 2018-19 school year, by $750,000 per year for the 2019-2020 school year and the 2020-2021 school year, and by $800,000 for the 2021-2022 school year for non-recurring purposes consisting of operational expenses.

By passing this referendum, the District will be able to avoid the loss of significant school programs, activities, jobs and services. In addition, it will be able to address ongoing facility issues that can no longer be ignored, such as technology infrastructure, bathroom upgrades, heating/cooling systems and weight room remodeling.

During the meeting, the administration highlighted the actions that have already been taken throughout the past three years to avoid having to go to referendum. Actions taken include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Staffing reductions in the areas of both elementary and middle school education and transportation.
- Postponing maintenance projects.
- Adjusting District's Health Insurance benefits to reduce District costs.
- Grants
- WITC Partnership
- Established a Long-Term Capital Improvement Fund

Why a Referendum?
TO SUSTAIN THE FUTURE OF THE CLAYTON SCHOOL DISTRICT BOTH EDUCATIONALLY AND FISCALLY by:
- **Maintaining** a viable, independent, local school district that students want to attend (both resident and non-resident)

- **Offering** the necessary coursework to prepare our students for continuing their education and/or for the workplace
- **Providing** students and staff with the necessary technological advancements in order to prepare our learners for the 21st Century
- **Offering** a variety of extra curricular opportunities to develop well-rounded citizens
- **Maintaining** small class sizes in order to meet the individual needs of all learners
- **Maintaining** a safe and healthy facility.

When the referendum to exceed the revenue limit was passed in 2015, the Board informed all our stakeholders that unless our enrollment increased and the state aid formula changed dramatically, we would be back in 2018 for another non-recurring referendum for operational purposes. During the past three years, the Clayton School District has been frugal with their spending and carried out their promise of keeping to the approved levy. The Clayton School District Board and Administration have run an extremely "tight" ship, limiting spending to the minimum. Last year's mill rate was $11.62 per $1,000 equalized valuation and this year it is $10.72 due to building debt being paid off. If passed, the first year mill rate is projected to be $11.85, the second year estimated increase is $11.98, the third year estimated rate will be $11.86 and the fourth year estimated increase will be $11.93 per $1,000 equalized valuation. This amounts to a difference of a $31.00 increase in property tax for each $100,000 of property value (from $11.62-$11.93).

A referendum committee will be established within the next few weeks. If interested in assisting with this effort or if you have any further questions/concerns, please feel free to contact Cathy Shimon, District Administrator, at 715-948-2163, extension 201 or via email at shimonc@claytonsd.k12.wi.us