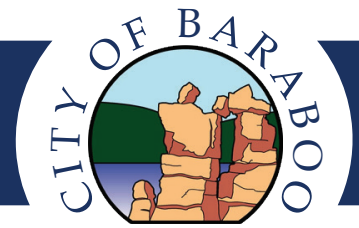


# OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM



## VOTE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

The City of Baraboo has identified a need for additional funding to maintain services in the community. The City will seek approval of a \$2 million increase in the property tax levy to **maintain its current level of service in the face of rising operational costs and to fund additional staff to meet growing community needs.**

### WHY REFERENDUM?

Current funding mechanisms are insufficient to maintain existing levels of service in the face of rising costs and increased community needs. Due to state-imposed levy limits, the City has determined the only way to secure required funding is to seek approval of an increase to the local property tax levy through a referendum. A question on the November 5, 2024 ballot will ask voters whether or not they support a \$2,000,000 annual increase in the property tax levy to maintain current services.

### RISING COSTS TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR A GROWING POPULATION

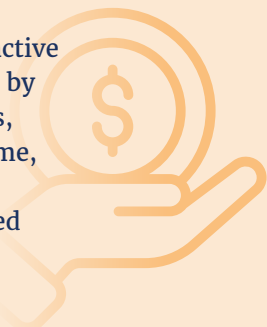
#### GROWING POPULATION:

Between 2013 and 2024, the City's population has **increased by 7.58%**, while the number of full-time employees has **decreased by 7%** due to budgetary constraints. A growing population increases demand for municipal services, including public works and other core services residents have come to expect and enjoy.

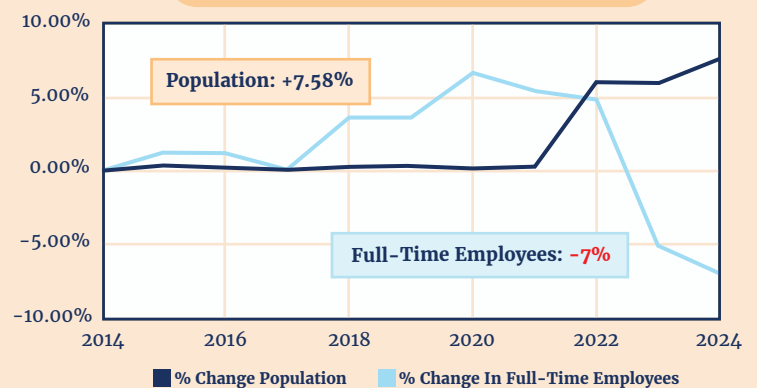


#### OVERALL FUNDING:

Over the years, the City has been proactive in pursuing budget-saving measures, by working smarter, creating efficiencies, and prioritizing core services. Over time, however, it has gotten increasingly difficult to provide services as expected given rising costs and a new funding solution is needed.

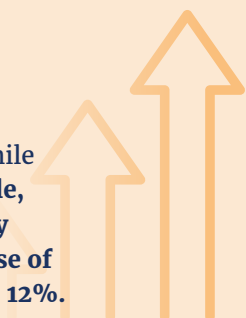


#### POPULATION VS. STAFFING



#### INFLATION PRESSURES:

The cost to provide the services City residents expect continues to rise, while the levy has been limited. **For example, since 2014, inflation has increased by 34%, while the City's tax levy, because of state-imposed limits, only increased 12%.**



## IF A MAJORITY VOTE

“YES”

If the referendum is approved by a majority of voters, the City of Baraboo will be able to maintain its current level of support to the community. This includes staffing key positions to keep up with the current and anticipated operational needs of our growing community.

### PROPERTY TAX IMPACT \$2 MILLION TOTAL INCREASE

ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE	ESTIMATED TAX IMPACT	
	PER YEAR	PER WEEK
\$100,000	\$206	\$3.96
\$200,000	\$412	\$7.92

*Taxpayers will see an estimated property tax increase of \$206 annually, or \$3.96 a week, per \$100,000 of assessed value, starting with bills issued in December 2024.*

## IF A MAJORITY VOTE

“NO”

The City strives to provide residents with high-quality services and foster a vibrant community. However, if the referendum is rejected by a majority of voters, the City will have to make difficult decisions about how to address rising costs to provide services with the needs of a growing population. A “no” vote would require the City to cut operational costs, therefore reducing the services and community programs Baraboo residents have come to rely on and enjoy.

# VOTE NOVEMBER 5

## EARLY VOTING

In-person early voting will take place at City Hall on the following dates:

- ▶ **October 22 – 25**  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- ▶ **October 28 – 31**  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- ▶ **November 1**  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



## ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail:

**WEDNESDAY,  
OCTOBER 31  
at 5 p.m.**



## ELECTION DAY

Your polling place, the Baraboo Civic Center, will be open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. Wisconsin voters are required to show an acceptable photo ID to vote.



For more information, please visit:  
[baraboowi.gov/referendum](https://baraboowi.gov/referendum)  
or email questions to  
[referendum@baraboowi.gov](mailto:referendum@baraboowi.gov)

