

School District of HOLMEN

Educating all students to achieve global success

VOTE
APR 2

REFERENDUM
2019

Special Newsletter

WHAT IS ON THE APRIL 2ND BALLOT?

TECHNOLOGY FUNDING | \$450,000 PER YEAR FOR 5 YEARS

“Shall the School District of Holmen be allowed to exceed the revenue limit specified in §121.91, Wis. Stats., by up to \$450,000 per year commencing with the 2019-2020 school year and continuing through the 2023-2024 school year on a non-recurring basis for the purpose of modernizing and maintaining a capable technology infrastructure, and providing information technology services and devices across the District?”

WHAT DOES TECHNOLOGY DO FOR OUR STUDENTS?

Sustaining properly maintained and modernized technology infrastructure, services and devices across the District helps to provide opportunities for all students to enhance learning in the ways they learn best.



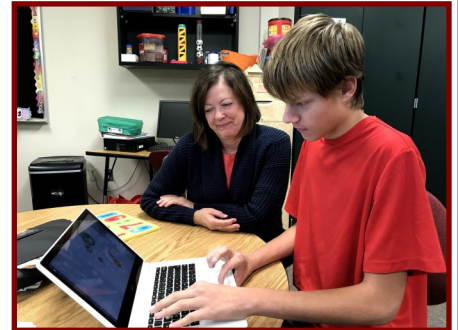
Access to Information

Technology provides students with access to vast amounts of digital content anytime and anywhere, stretching student learning beyond the classroom.



Transform Learning

Technology allows students to collaborate, create, and personalize their learning.



Equip Students to Excel

Technology engages our students through resources, skills, and knowledge to improve student learning in school. It enriches students to be prepared for college, career, and life experiences in a digital world.

WHERE DO I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Visit www.holmen.k12.wi.us to:

- View the referendum video
- Read Question & Answer documents
- Review additional information on the referendum

Email Your Questions and Feedback

- referendum@holmen.k12.wi.us

Visit the District's YouTube Channel

- [youtube.com/user/SDHolmen](https://www.youtube.com/user/SDHolmen)
- Watch the referendum video
- Review Board meetings discussing technology needs and the referendum video

Check out the District's Facebook page

- [@holmenschools](https://www.facebook.com/holmenschools)



WHERE DO I VOTE?

Village of Holmen

Village Hall, 421 S Main St, Holmen

Town of Farmington

Town Hall, N8309 County Rd C,
Mindoro

Town of Hamilton

Town Hall, N5105 N Leonard St, West Salem

Town of Holland

Town Hall, W7937 McHugh Rd, Holmen

City of Onalaska

Onalaska Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Rd, Onalaska

Town of Onalaska

Town Hall, N5589 Commerce Rd,
Onalaska

Visit www.myvote.wi.gov for details about your voting profile, polling place information, absentee ballots, and other important voting information.

Vote on April 2, 2019

WHAT IS THE NEED FOR THIS TECHNOLOGY REFERENDUM AND WHY ARE WE ASKING FOR TECHNOLOGY FUNDING?

The District's most recent referendum providing supplemental technology funding was passed in April 2015 and ceases to provide funding beyond this June.

The technology referendum of 2015 focused on implementation of a 1:1 mobile device program at the District's middle and high schools. As part of this program, the District purchased Chromebooks for each middle and high school student, expanded technology infrastructure and invested in technology training for staff.

The Information & Technology Department, in collaboration with the finance committee, technology committee and District leadership team, have worked to propose a path forward to sustain technology across the District.

In looking ahead, the District's goals reach further than the scope of the 2015 technology referendum. Into 2019-20 and beyond, the District plans to sustain the middle and high school's technology programs such that all students have an assigned device to use throughout the school day. We understand the importance of maintaining a learning environment where shortages of technology devices do not impede instruction and learning.

Beyond this goal, we wish to sustain robust technology and appropriate quantities of student devices across the entire District. The referendum question placed before voters this April will lay the framework for this to happen.

I HAVE A STUDENT AT ONE OF HOLMEN'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. WILL THIS REFERENDUM BENEFIT HIM OR HER?

Yes. The proposed referendum question encompasses technology across the entire District in its scope. The question does not limit use of voter-approved funding strictly to our middle and high schools as was the case in the 2015 referendum.

Sustaining robust networks and readily available access to modern technology devices is important for all learners across the District. Staff also leverage these technologies to keep the District operating efficiently. Teachers depend on technology to prepare and deliver relevant and meaningful instruction to students. For these reasons, we are seeking technology funding that can benefit our District as a whole.

HOW IS THE DISTRICT ABLE TO GET BY WITH LESS SUPPLEMENTAL TECHNOLOGY FUNDING GOING FORWARD THAN WHAT WAS MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE 2015 REFERENDUM?

The 2015 referendum funded many substantial costs associated with starting up the District's 1:1 program. This included major network expansion and extensive staff development. Now that this program is fully operational, we can continue to make sure each student at our middle and high school has access to technology while using less funding than was allocated in the expiring 2015 referendum.

WHY NOW?

The District's most recent referendum providing supplemental technology funding was passed in April of 2015. The referendum expires this June. The proposed 2019 referendum would renew a portion of the expiring funding.

WHAT IS THE TAX RATE IMPACT?

The tax rate will **NOT** increase if the referendum is approved. The Holmen Board of Education strives to maintain a level tax rate. In the event the referendum fails, the Board is more likely to maintain the current tax rate for the near future, rather than decrease the tax rate. The continued tax collection would be used to make payments due in the future on existing debt. In summary, if the referendum fails, your school taxes would be less in the future but not in the near future.

IS THIS QUESTION ASKING FOR MORE TECHNOLOGY FUNDING THAN THE DISTRICT CURRENTLY HAS AVAILABLE?

No. Presently, the District's technology funding consists of a base technology budget not tied to a referendum, supplemented by the 2015 referendum funding supporting our middle and high school's 1:1 program. Current supplemental referendum funding, expiring in June, is \$655,000 annually. The April referendum asks for \$450,000 annually beginning this July.