

Addressing Needs in the Whitewater Unified School District

July 25, 2022



WHITEWATER
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Why a Referendum Now?

- In 2018, voters approved a four-year operational referendum to increase the district's revenue limit authority
- This referendum sunsets in June 2022
- We are seeking to renew the referendum in November 2022



Financial Challenges Tied to State Funding Formula

- Wisconsin schools operate under a state-imposed revenue limit that restricts the amount of money a district can receive.
- The 2021-23 state budget froze revenues for public schools.
- Wisconsin's per-pupil spending has grown at the third-slowest rate in the country since 2002.



Increasing Expenses



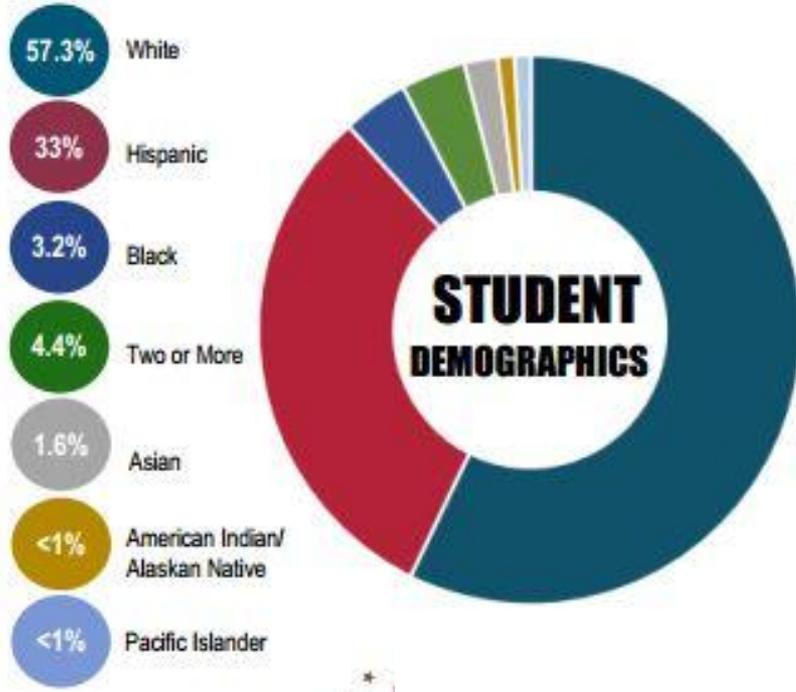
- Student needs have increased, especially in the areas of special education and mental health. WUSD receives inadequate funding for these state- and federally mandated services.
- Costs for things like running our buses and heating our schools continue to increase, as do other expenses that are out of the district's control.

Did You Know?

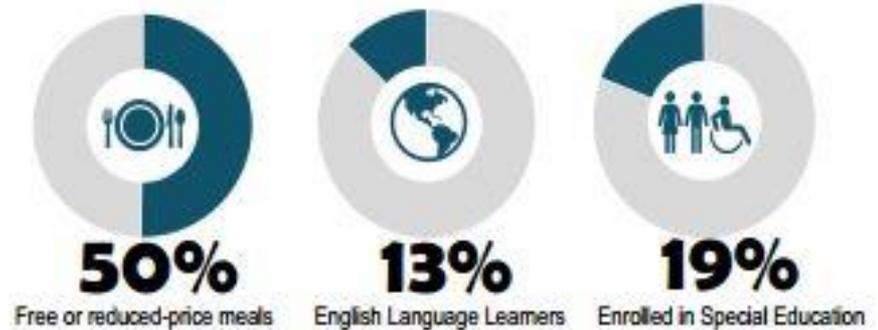
Over the past decade, ***more than 500 operational referendums*** have been brought forward in Wisconsin school districts, with an ***approval rate of about 82%***.

Unless Wisconsin changes its school funding formula, districts like WUSD will continue to need operational referendums to avoid significant cuts to programs and services.

2021-22 School Year



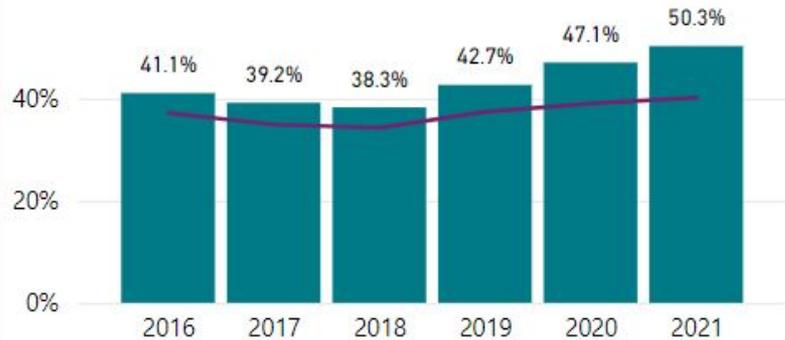
1,949 STUDENTS 



Challenges Unique to WUSD

% Economically Disadvantaged

● % Economically Disadvantaged ● % Econ Dis - State Ave

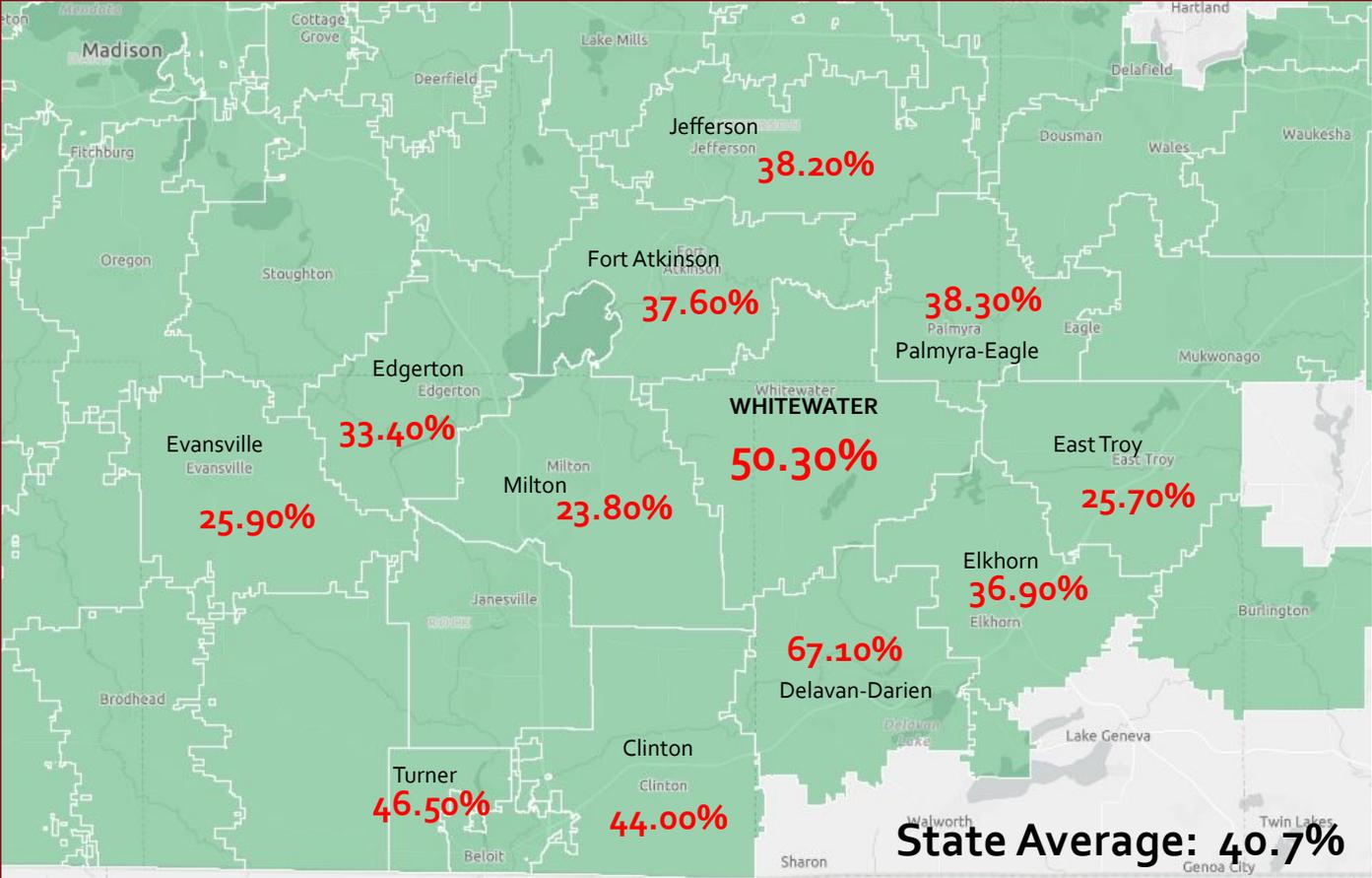


% Students with Disabilities

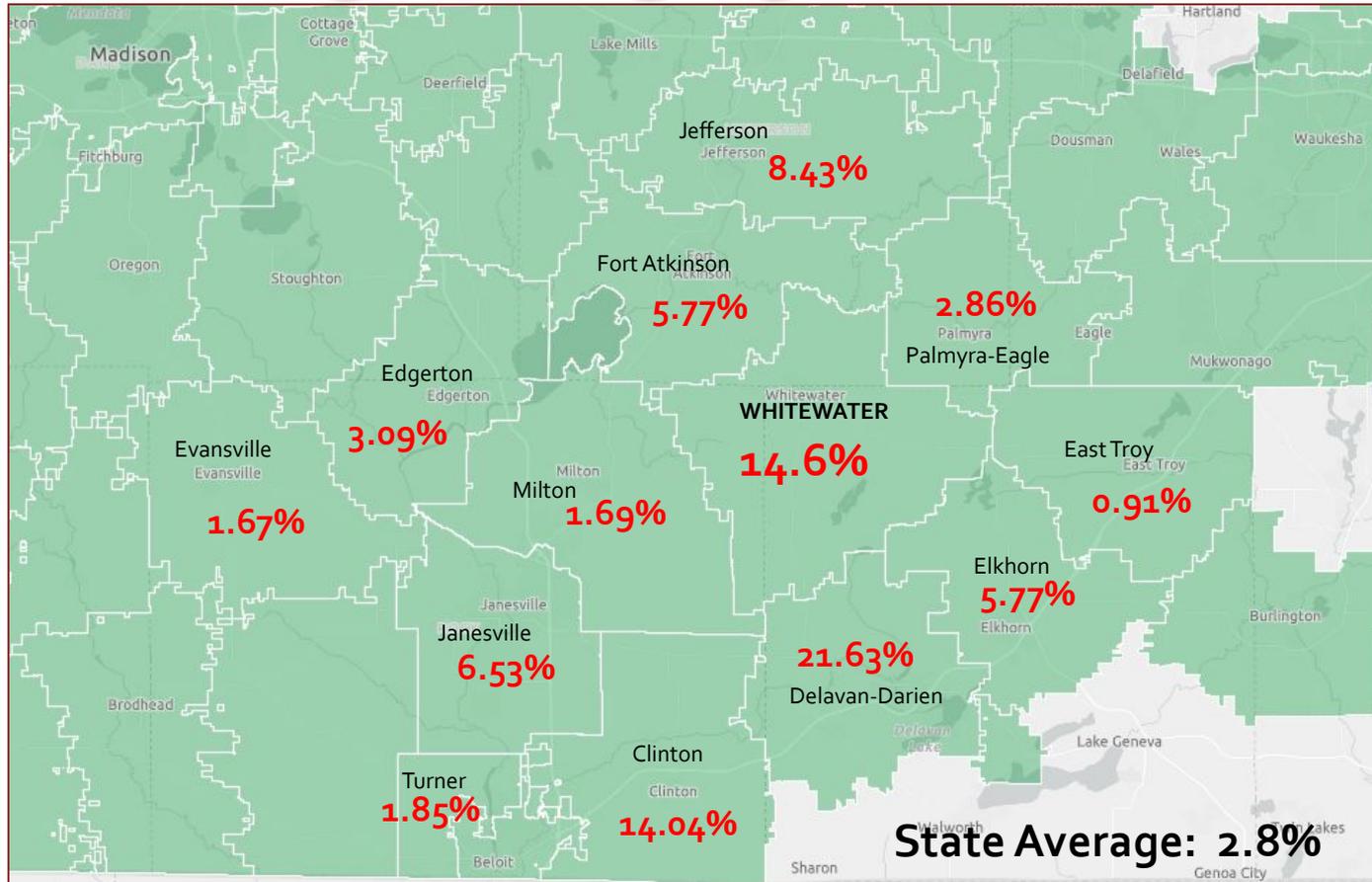
● % Students with Disabilities ● % SPED - State Ave



Economically Disadvantaged



English Language Learners



Significant Budget Assumptions

- 3rd Friday of September: Flat membership (no growth)
- Open enrollment ratio similar to 2020-21, which was a significant increase in net out compared to prior years
- Salary base increase of CPI
- Health premium increase of 4%

Budget Assumptions Continued

- State Biennial Budget Changes
 - Revenue Limit per-pupil increase of \$200 (2023-2025)
 - State per-pupil aid \$742 flat
- Equalization aid increase of over \$2 million (not additional authority)
- Fund 73: No contribution to OPEB liability in 2022-23
- Fund 38/39: Standard Levy
- Fund 41: \$500,000 for Capital Improvement
- Fund 46: \$100,000 long term capital projects

Staffing & Programming Investments

Special Education & Mental Health:

- MS Behavioral Interventionist
- Lincoln/Washington Social Worker (+1 FTE Lincoln)
- Lakeview Counselor (+0.5 FTE)
- HS Special Education (+0.5 FTE)
- Lincoln Special Education
- Expanded Early Childhood/4K
- Health Aide(s)

Class Sizes & Other Student Needs:

- HS Alternative Education Teacher
- HS Math Teacher
- Washington Math Interventionist (+0.5 FTE)
- MS/HS Reading Interventionists
- Lakeview English Learners Services
- English Language Learner Coordinator



Proposed Solution

In November 2022, we would like to ask community members of the Whitewater Unified School District to vote on a non-recurring operational referendum question. If the referendum is approved, it will provide a total of \$17.6 million over four years in revenue limit authority.

- 2022-23 = \$4.4 million
- 2023-24 = \$4.4 million
- 2024-25 = \$4.4 million
- 2025-26 = \$4.4 million

Proposed Outcomes



- If approved by voters, the referendum would not result in a property tax increase for taxpayers.
- The current levy is \$18,256,742 with a mill rate at \$11.00 per every \$1,000 of fair market property value.
- The projected levy with an approved referendum would be \$16,946,148 with a mill rate at \$9.91 per \$1,000 of fair market property value.
- These levy projections assume flat enrollment growth, equalized value growth of 2%, and standard debt levy. The district is in the process of defeasing Fund 39 debt which will reduce the debt levy moving forward.

Budget Model: Continued Amount Flat Referendum

Continued Operational Referendum \$4.4 Million

Scenario 1

Label Scenario Here	Historical	Current Year	Budget Year	Forecast			
	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022	2022 - 2023	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026	2026 - 2027
Sept Membership (FTE)	1,988	2,070	2,070	2,070	2,070	2,070	2,070
Per Pupil Increase	\$179	\$0	\$0	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
Per-Pupil Categorical Aid \$	\$742	\$742	\$742	\$742	\$742	\$742	\$742
TIF Out Equalized Valuation Growth	5.13%	7.65%	1.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
Fund 10 Revenues	\$28,376,165	\$28,116,250	\$29,765,332	\$30,834,199	\$30,834,692	\$31,260,392	\$31,696,582
Fund 10 Expenditures	\$28,295,298	\$28,116,250	\$29,521,324	\$30,591,059	\$31,009,425	\$31,853,291	\$32,723,575
Surplus (Deficit)	\$80,868	(\$0)	\$244,008	\$243,140	(\$174,733)	(\$592,899)	(\$1,026,993)
Fund Balance	\$5,300,000	\$5,300,000	\$5,544,008	\$5,787,148	\$5,612,415	\$5,019,515	\$3,992,523
Fund Balance as % of Expenditures	18.73%	18.85%	18.78%	18.92%	18.10%	15.76%	12.20%
Non-Recurring Referendum \$	\$2,800,000	\$3,600,000	\$4,400,000	\$4,400,000	\$4,400,000	\$4,400,000	\$4,400,000
Recurring Referendum \$	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Referendum Debt Levy	\$3,074,574	\$3,506,447	\$1,526,625	\$1,104,375	\$1,696,125	\$1,695,750	\$1,697,500
Energy Efficiency Exemption	\$465,222	\$465,449	\$465,449	\$470,449	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total School-Based Tax Levy	\$17,113,201	\$18,256,742	\$16,834,827	\$16,946,148	\$16,889,550	\$17,404,881	\$17,829,614
Mill Rate (per \$1,000 EQ Value)	\$11.10	\$11.00	\$10.04	\$9.91	\$9.68	\$9.78	\$9.83

4.7% wage increase, with Per Pupil \$200

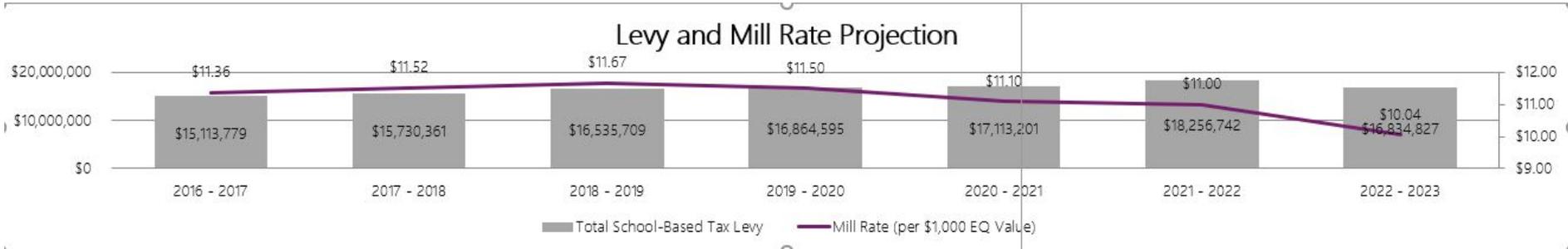
Tax Levy by Municipality

	Historical		Current Year		Budget Year	
	2020 - 2021	% of Dist	2021 - 2022	% of Dist	2022 - 2023	% of Dist
T. Cold Spring	\$783,021	4.58%	\$785,756	4.30%	\$724,558	4.30%
T. Koshkonong	\$132,652	0.78%	\$144,411	0.79%	\$133,163	0.79%
C. Whitewater	\$664,364	3.88%	\$748,933	4.10%	\$690,603	4.10%
T. Johnstown	\$227,750	1.33%	\$247,980	1.36%	\$228,666	1.36%
T. Lima	\$875,753	5.12%	\$883,357	4.84%	\$814,557	4.84%
T. La Grange	\$1,342,957	7.85%	\$1,475,983	8.08%	\$1,361,027	8.08%
T. Richmond	\$2,489,055	14.54%	\$2,717,268	14.88%	\$2,505,635	14.88%
T. Sugar Creek	\$240,448	1.41%	\$269,883	1.48%	\$248,863	1.48%
T. Whitewater	\$3,870,688	22.62%	\$3,973,653	21.77%	\$3,664,168	21.77%
C. Whitewater	\$6,486,513	37.90%	\$7,009,519	38.39%	\$6,463,587	38.39%
Total School Levy	\$17,113,201	100%	\$18,256,742	100%	\$16,834,827	100%

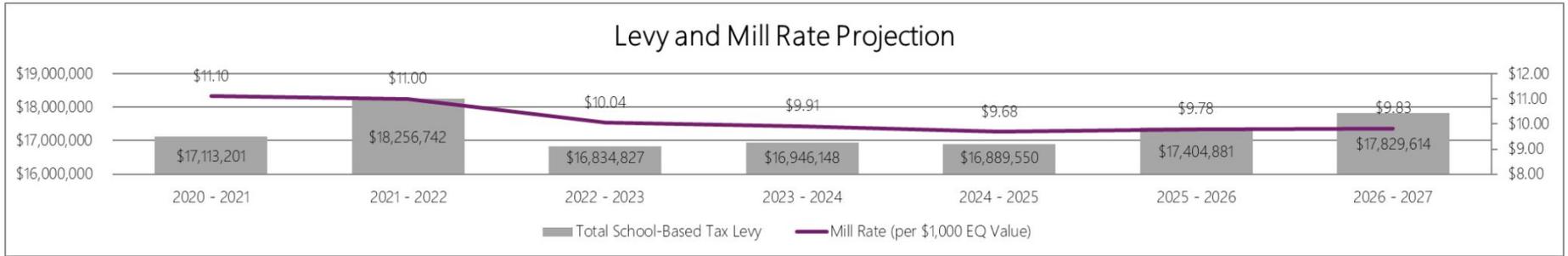
Taxpayer Estimated Analysis

Taxpayer <u>Equalized</u> Value	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022	% Δ	2022 - 2023	% Δ
\$100,000	\$1,110	\$1,100	-0.90%	\$1,004	-8.73%
If taxpayer value increased 98% of average		\$1,078	-2.88%	\$984	-10.55%
If taxpayer value increased 112% of average		\$1,232	10.99%	\$1,124	2.23%
\$200,000	\$2,220	\$2,200	-0.90%	\$2,008	-8.73%
If taxpayer value increased 98% of average		\$2,156	-2.88%	\$1,968	-10.55%
If taxpayer value increased 112% of average		\$2,464	10.99%	\$2,249	2.23%
\$400,000	\$4,440	\$4,400	-0.90%	\$4,016	-8.73%
If taxpayer value increased 98% of average		\$4,312	-2.88%	\$3,936	-10.55%
If taxpayer value increased 112% of average		\$4,928	10.99%	\$4,498	2.23%

Historical Tax Rate



Revenue Limit Comparison



- Mill rate decrease of 8.7%
- Overall levy reduction of \$1.4 million

Proposed Solution



- With this renewal, the district and board are not asking the community for additional funding—despite rising costs over the past several years. As a result, taxpayers are likely to realize a reduction on their property tax bills.
- The district and board are proposing a solution that allows us to maintain the programs and services available to our students now and in the years to come. We must do so while making the most efficient use possible of the money taxpayers have invested in our local schools.

Process Timeline

July 2022

Community & Staff Engagement

July 25, 2022

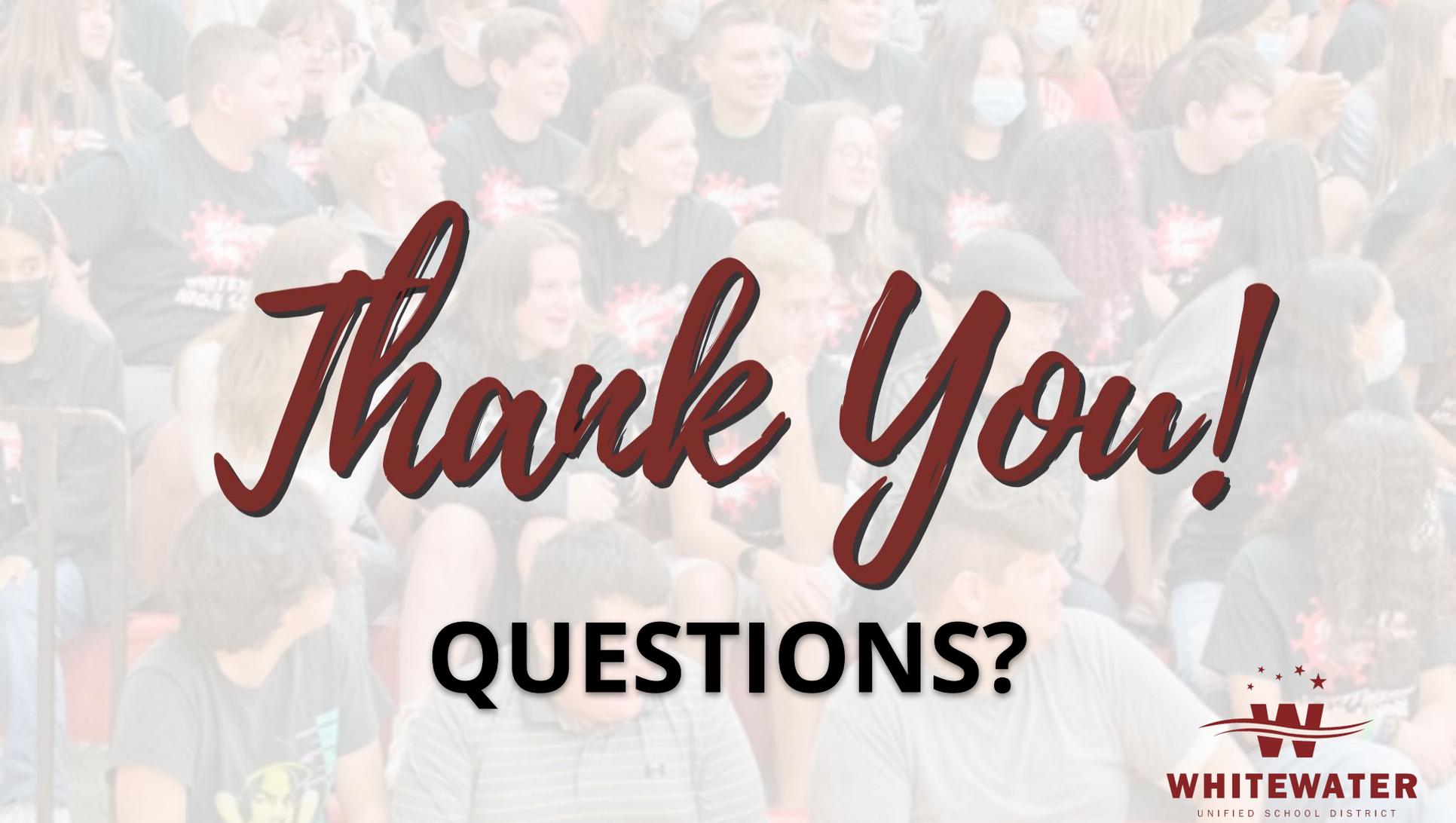
**School Board Action to Place Referendum
Question on the Ballot**

Aug - Nov 2022

Ongoing Community & Staff Engagement

Nov 8, 2022

Election Day



Thank You!

QUESTIONS?



WHITewater
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT