



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BARABOO

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RESOLUTION Opposing Anti-Local Control School Referendum Restriction Bills

WHEREAS, State Senators and members of the Assembly have introduced multiple pieces of legislation that will place restrictions and complicate the school district referendum process including;

SB-187 , AB274 **Referendum Revenue Information**

SB-191 , AB282 **Bonding Resolution Consideration**

SB-192 , AB279 **Capital Improvement Trust Fund**

SB-193 , AB285 **Referendum Revenue Limit Increase Penalty**

SB-194 , AB269 **Referendum Scheduling**

SB-195 , AB268 **School Referenda**

WHEREAS, these bills are anti-local control and do not show trust in locally-elected officials;
and

WHEREAS, because of state-imposed revenue limits on school districts referenda are the only way many districts can access additional needed resources. These proposals will significantly impact declining enrollment districts which comprise over 60 percent of Wisconsin school districts. Most seriously affected will be small, rural school districts which lack economies of scale and have few places to make cuts. Many of these districts have come to rely on periodic referenda to maintain programming and, in some cases, to continue to exist. Legislators should know that supporting these bills could have the effect of forcing districts to consider dissolving;
and

WHEREAS, also because of state-imposed revenue limits on low spending school districts, such as the Baraboo School District, referenda are the only way many districts can access additional needed resources for maintenance, capital improvements and operational needs. Baraboo School District currently spends \$9277 per student which is well below the state average of \$9800; and

WHEREAS, the bill will further exacerbate the trend of creating “Haves” who can pass referenda and “Have Nots” who cannot and opportunities for students will further be determined by their zip code; and

WHEREAS, voting is not a difficult process and voters in Wisconsin are intelligent. They do not need to be protected from themselves. If they do not support a referendum, they can vote no; and

WHEREAS, referenda can provide an opportunity for a community to have a very focused and robust conversation about what it wants its public schools to be. School boards propose referenda

because they believe doing so is in the best educational interests of the students and communities they represent; and

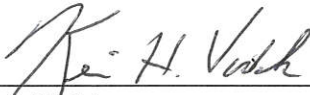
WHEREAS, investing in public education is an investment not only in our students' capacity for success beyond high school, but an investment in economic development and the future of the Baraboo School District area, Wisconsin and Nation"; and

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) has formally adopted a policy resolution (Resolution 1.25) stating that "The WASB opposes limits on scheduling referenda."; and

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) has formally adopted a policy resolution (Resolution 2.40a) stating that "The WASB opposes any additional limitations on school revenues that will force decreases in revenue to public school districts. This includes a moratorium on school district referenda."; and


THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School District of Baraboo Board of Education calls on Governor Walker, the Wisconsin State Senate and Wisconsin State Assembly to oppose this legislation and other bills/amendments that would further curtail the already very limited set of revenue options available to Wisconsin school boards.

Adopted, approved and recorded June 26, 2017

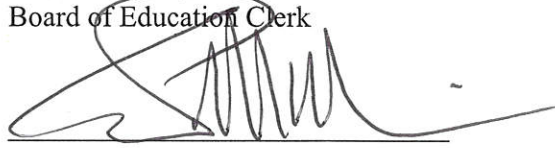


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