

**BRUCE QUINTON**  
District Administrator

**Jill Riesgraf**  
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Lead Teacher 7 - 12

# PEPIN AREA SCHOOLS

*"Home of The Lakers and Eagles"*

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**BOARD OF EDUCATION:**  
**Tim Stajkowski**, President  
**Betty Glander**, Vice President  
**Debra Larson**, Clerk  
**Gordon Riesgraf**, Treasurer  
**Ardyce Johnson**, CESA Rep

## **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 school districts, referenda are the only way many districts can access additional needed resources for maintenance, capital improvements and operational needs.

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 Pepin Area School District provides equal opportunities in employment and programming.

Pepin Area School's vision is "Encouraging a community of learners in a positive atmosphere where learning is a life long process which develops responsible citizens who value knowledge."

The Pepin Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

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 region that makes up Pepin Area School District, 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 Pepin Area School District 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



Tim Stajkowski  
Board of Education President



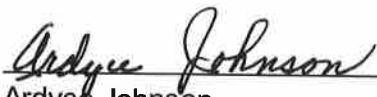
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