

**NOTICE OF REFERENDUM
VILLAGE OF WEST SALEM
APRIL 4, 2023**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at an election to be held in the Village of West Salem on April 4, 2023, the following proposed Resolution of the Village Board of West Salem will be submitted to a vote of the people:

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has imposed limits on town, village, city, and county property tax levies under Wis. Stat. Sec. 66.0602; and **WHEREAS**, Wis. Stat. Sec. 66.0602 limits the increase in 2024 to the local property tax levy to no more than the greater of (a) 0% of last year's actual levy or (b) a percentage equal to the percentage change in equalized value due to net construction less improvements removed, which, for the Village of West Salem is 1.345%; and **WHEREAS**, the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of West Salem, La Crosse County, Wisconsin, believes it is in the best interest of the residents of the Village of West Salem to exceed the State levy limit as described above by a greater percentage than 1.345% for the purpose of enhancing public safety within the community through hiring and equipping more police officers and support staff; and **WHEREAS**, the Village of West Salem adjusted actual levy in 2022 (collected in 2023) was \$1,607,084, and State law would limit the increase to \$17,310 for a total allowable 2023 (collected in 2024) Village tax levy of \$1,757,327 (less personal property aid of \$10,731 plus debt service adjustment of \$446,249 for 2023); **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of West Salem, La Crosse County, Wisconsin, does hereby resolve and order as follows:

- The Village Board of Trustees hereby supports an increase in the Village tax levy for 2023 (to be collected in 2024) to exceed the State levy limit. The Village Board intends that the levy increase be applied on an ongoing basis. The purpose for which the increased levy will be used is to enhance public safety within the community through hiring and equipping more police officers and support staff.
- The Village Board of Trustees directs that the question of increasing the Village's tax levy for 2023 (to be collected in 2024) by 28.452%, which would increase the Village levy by \$500,000 over the current year's levy, for a Village tax levy of \$2,257,327 (after adjustments), and an increase of the levy by \$500,000 on an ongoing basis for each fiscal year going forward, shall be submitted to the electors in a referendum during the Spring Election to be held on April 4, 2023.
- The actual wording of the ballot question to be submitted to exceed the levy limit shall be as follows:

"Under State law, the increase in the levy of the Village of West Salem for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year, 2024, is limited to 1.345%, which results in a levy of \$1,757,327. Shall the Village of West Salem be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2024, for the purpose of enhancing Public Safety within the community through hiring and equipping more Police Officers and support staff, by a total of 28.452%, which results in a levy of \$2,257,327 and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$500,000 for each fiscal year going forward?"

BALLOT TEXT

The question will appear on the ballot as follows:

"Under State law, the increase in the levy of the Village of West Salem for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year, 2024, is limited to 1.345%, which results in a levy of \$1,757,327. Shall the Village of West Salem be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2024, for the purpose of enhancing Public Safety within the community through hiring and equipping more Police Officers and support staff, by a total of 28.452%, which results in a levy of \$2,257,327 and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$500,000 for each fiscal year going forward?"

EXPLANATION

A "yes" vote will increase the Village tax levy for 2024 (to be collected in 2025), by 28.452% which would increase the Village levy by \$500,000, resulting in a levy of \$2,257,327 and on an ongoing basis, to include the increase of \$500,000 for each fiscal year going forward.

A "no" vote would limit the increase of the Village tax levy for 2024 (to be collected in 2025), to not exceed the State levy limit of 1.345%, which limits the increase to \$17,310 for a total allowable 2024 (collected in 2025) Village tax levy of \$1,757,327.

Persons with questions regarding the referendum election should contact Teresa DeLong, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer for the Village of West Salem.

DONE in the Village of West Salem on this 13th day of March, 2023.
Teresa L. DeLong Village Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer