

# PĪTĀCEMOW

*"He or she who brings stories/news"*

## YOUR VOTE IS NEEDED JAN. 9

An important referendum goes before Menominee Tribal voters on Monday, Jan. 9. It will determine the future site of the new MISD High School.

### Why Vote Yes?

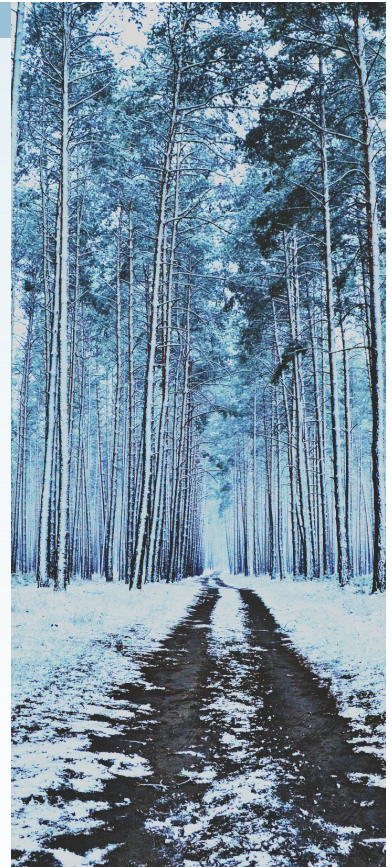
By voting yes, you'll be giving your support for a land exchange between MISD and the Menominee Tribe. This will allow MISD to move forward with plans to build a new high school; a school that will be focused on the environment, language and culture, while providing our students an education that prepares them for the next chapter in their lives.

When a new high school was approved by referendum this past spring, it was originally thought the school would be constructed on tribal forest land behind the Sav-A-Lot. However, after extensive discussions with students, teachers and community members, it was decided that the better choice would be to locate the new high school on the same campus area where the existing high school is located. This requires tribal voter approval to use 10 acres of tribal land, known as the Tucker property, which is directly adjacent to the current high school. It's important to note that the Menominee Tribe will retain ownership of the land.

### A Yes Vote Also Paves the Way for Tribal School Expansion

In exchange for the Tucker property, the Tribe will receive the existing Menominee Indian Middle School (MIMS) property and building. When the new high school opens, MIMS will move to the current high school facility. The Tribe can then use the MIMS site for Tribal School expansion. But, in order for all of this to happen, the land exchange must be approved by tribal members.

*More information on page 2*



### Inside this issue

Benefits of New MIHS Location .....	2
Referendum Question....	2
Where to Vote .....	2
Property Tax FAQ.....	2
FAQ (con't.) .....	3
January Calendar.....	4



### MISD VISION

Enriching the lives of  
our children through  
education

## Referendum Question

The following is the question you'll see on the Jan. 9 ballot:

### Who Can Vote

### Where to Vote



## Benefits of New MIHS Location

The proposed MIHS location makes sense for many reasons:

- **Safety first.** MIHS students will continue to have direct access to athletic and other facilities without having to cross a busy state highway.
- **Sharing resources.** When the new high school opens adjacent to the current campus, MIMS will be moved to the existing high school. With both schools in close proximity to one another, resources can be easily and quickly shared. Specialty classes and programs, athletics facilities and even the food program will benefit from a single campus. It will be advantageous for students and faculty and offers potential financial savings as well.
- **Saving and using natural resources.** Far fewer trees will need to be forested at the new site and students will have direct access to the Wolf River. Additionally, the new location is far preferable for solar power generation which will be incorporated into the school.

## Property Tax FAQ

MISD knows questions have been raised regarding recently issued Menominee County property tax bills and the school levy's impact on those bills. We have done our best to answer all questions and calls, and thought it would be helpful to provide the following information.

### **Q: What basis is being used for evaluation for the dollar amount?**

**A:** The district does not determine the basis used for equalized value of a property. That is a function of the County. Individual property taxes can and do vary depending upon the property, its assessed value, fair market value, tax credits, etc.

### **Q: What determines tax for evaluation? What levy rate? Fair market value or assessed value?**

**A:** The County determines the equalized value of a property, which is used to calculate the property tax rate. There are a number of factors that go into equalized value, including the fair market value and assessed market value.

Your assessed value on your tax bill may not have changed, but the fair market value most likely increased. This year, there was a county-wide property reassessment, conducted by Accurate Appraisal, for Menominee County. This resulted in, across the county, a 30% average increase in fair market value. That is double the state average and it certainly played a role in the property tax bills.

The final property tax bill received by a homeowner reflects the fiscal needs of the county, vocational/technical ed, municipal governments and the public school district. (*con't. page 3*)

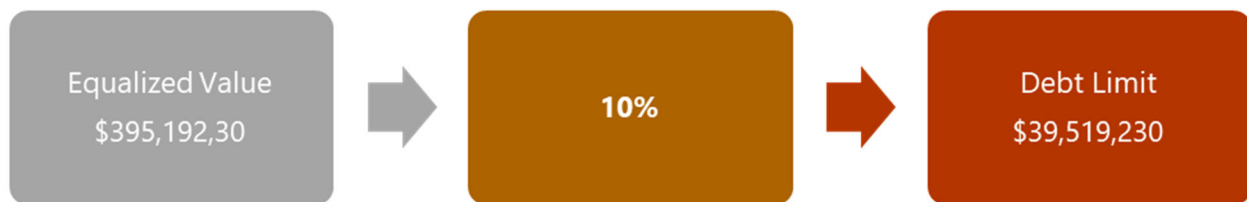
## Property Tax FAQ (con't.)

**Q: What is the limit ceiling for taxes? State law? How is the tax determined?**

**A:** There are several components to this answer:

**Revenue limits** are set by the State of Wisconsin. A district's revenue limit authority is the maximum amount of revenue that may be raised through state general aid and property tax. The only way to exceed the revenue limit is through a referendum, which is what MISD voters approved this year. This ensures adequate funding to meet the needs of our students.

**Debt limit.** A K-12 school district's total debt limit is based on 10% of equalized valuation. At the time of the MISD referendum, equalized value was just over \$395,000,000 for all property in the district. MISD received approval by voters to borrow \$35,000,000. This was approximately \$4.5 million under what could have been requested/voted on.



**Mill Rate.** The mill rate is the total levy/total property value per thousand. The 2021-22 Mill Rate was \$7.84. For the past 11+ years, MISD's mill rate did not increase because we didn't need the additional funding. That was the fiscally responsible thing to do, even though the rate has consistently been far below what we could have levied and what other nearby districts levied. We consistently communicated that at every annual meeting with taxpayers.

This year, due to the first year of referendum funding and other school improvements, the rate increased by \$2.99 per thousand of equalized value. During all of our public meetings, we – along with our bond counsel Baird – stated that there would be an increase in the mill rate of \$2.99 per thousand. MISD's current mill rate is \$10.81 per thousand dollars of equalized value. It is what we said it would be.

**Q: Why did the operating budget increase from \$3.1million to \$4.3 million?**

**A:** After several years of planning, this year MISD embarked on a number of improvements; all designed to provide expanded educational opportunities and better learning environments for our students:

- Much-needed remodeling at Keshena Primary School, including language revitalization
- Adding an immersion charter school, housed in what was our district office
- Adding staff positions to address mental health and trauma at the Student Health Center
- Providing funding for students taking college-level classes at CMN & NWTC. This is an investment in their future as well as the future of the community and our workforce
- Bus garage addition to ensure buses will be available no matter what the weather
- A 4.9% salary increase for teachers and staff
- Receiving voter approval of a \$35 million referendum to build a new high school that will meet student needs for decades to come; providing a culturally relevant education. It should be noted that our current high school is 40 years old. The last time MISD held a referendum was in 2007.

Additionally, MISD received less state aid and impact aid this year, which also impacted the overall budget.

**Menominee Indian  
School District**

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# January 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 <b>No school</b>	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 <b>School Bd.</b> <b>Mtg. @ 5 p.m.</b>	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 <b>No school</b> <b>MLK Day</b>	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 <b>School Bd.</b> <b>Mtg. @ 5 p.m.</b>	24	25	26	27 <b>No school</b>	28
29	30	31				