

VOTE


TUESDAY, APRIL 7

This spring, Sun Prairie voters will see a referendum question asking if they support a **\$3.95 million increase** to the City's property tax levy.

The City of Sun Prairie is a place where families thrive, businesses grow and opportunity is always within reach. And as our community grows, so do the demands for city services.

The City anticipates significant budget gaps starting in 2027. In response to community input, **Sun Prairie has reduced long-term costs by more than \$1 million, but cuts are not enough — additional funding is needed to maintain existing services.**

WHY REFERENDUM?



— **OVER TIME, DUE TO INFLATION, INCREASED COSTS AND COMMUNITY GROWTH, PROVIDING THE SAME SERVICES COSTS MORE.**

State-imposed levy limits set the amount of property tax Sun Prairie can collect from its residents. **Costs like wages, contracts, equipment and maintenance are rising faster than the levy limit.** The levy limits do not account for inflation and rising costs associated with a growing community such as ours.

By 2030, Sun Prairie's population is expected to reach 44,000 people — an increase of 23% since 2020. In addition, we're already facing significant public safety challenges.



In the last decade, EMS calls nearly **doubled** and Fire calls nearly **tripled**.



Between 2020 and 2024, calls for **Police service increased 13.5%** — now averaging 70 a day.



Current staffing levels are unable to keep up with demand, leading to **longer response times for Sun Prairie residents.**

An increase in the property tax levy would allow the City to maintain quality existing services, while also improving essential public safety services.

In addition to maintaining other services, the City would hire one additional patrol officer, two full-time firefighters and increase wages for part-time firefighters. Additionally, funds would support a part-time Makerspace Coordinator to deliver programming to Sun Prairie Public Library visitors. This would address growing demand, keep public safety response times stable and maintain existing services across other City departments.



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

SUN PRAIRIE REFERENDUM



IF A MAJORITY VOTE YES

The City will be able to increase the property tax levy by \$3.95 million to maintain quality existing services and improve essential public safety services.

	2027 ANTICIPATED NET IMPACT	2027 MAXIMUM POSSIBLE IMPACT
Annual impact on single-family home valued at \$381,500	\$82.04 (or \$6.84 monthly)	\$263.95 (or \$22.00 monthly)
Annual impact per \$100,000 in assessed value	\$21.51 (or \$1.79 monthly)	\$69.19 (or \$5.77 monthly)

This referendum requests a **single, permanent increase** to the property tax levy. If approved, **the levy would go up once and establish a new starting point** for the City's annual budget. At the same time, the City anticipates being able to pay down debt. As a result, the anticipated net impact for residents is expected to be lower.

To learn more about the City's plan with the referendum funding and tax implications, visit www.cityofsunprairie.com/referendum



IF A MAJORITY VOTE NO

The City will not be able to maintain existing service levels or make investments to improve priority public safety services.

Facing a budget deficit starting in 2027, difficult decisions will have to be made each year about how to cut services, programs and staffing. Specific cuts would be determined by the City Council during the annual budget process, starting in fall 2026.



ATTEND AN INFO SESSION

DISTRICT 1

Monday, 2/16
6–8 p.m.

Council Chambers,
City Hall

DISTRICT 2

Thursday, 2/19
6–8 p.m.

Mckenzie Family
Boys & Girls Club

DISTRICT 3

Wednesday, 3/4
6–8 p.m.

Community Room,
Sun Prairie Public Library

DISTRICT 4

Monday, 3/2
6–8 p.m.

Meadow View
Elementary School

CITY-WIDE TOWN HALL

Thursday, 2/26
10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Council Chambers, City Hall

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

Monday, 3/9
6–8 p.m.

via Zoom

PUBLIC SAFETY TOWN HALL

Monday, 3/16
6–8 p.m.

West Side Fire Station

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