

SOUTH MILWAUKEE 2017 Public Safety Referendum



WHAT IS ON THE BALLOT TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017?

The South Milwaukee Common Council has approved an operating funds referendum question asking taxpayers to increase the tax levy by \$616,641 to maintain current paramedic services and hire two additional police officers. The special election will be held on Tuesday, November 7. If approved by voters, homeowners would pay an additional \$52 per year for every \$100,000 of their home's value starting in 2018 and beyond.

The formal resolution requesting permission to exceed the state revenue limit will appear as follows on the November 7 ballot:

Under state law, the increase in the levy of the City of South Milwaukee for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year, 2018, is limited to .09%, which results in a levy of \$10,774,142. Shall the City of South Milwaukee be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2018, by a total of 5.73%, which results in a levy of \$11,381,095?



WHY ARE WE PROPOSING THIS REFERENDUM NOW?

As South Milwaukee seeks to maintain its strong public safety services it faces a growing budget gap—as the demand for these services continues to rise, funding from current sources is either stagnant or decreasing.

The City must take action if it is to preserve locally provided paramedic services into the future. The City has also identified a need for additional police officers to deliver on the department's mission and address growing public safety needs.

We are responding directly to community input.

The City of South Milwaukee evaluated several funding options to maintain the first-class fire and police services residents have come to expect. As part of the decision-making process, the City solicited feedback via a community-wide survey. More than 1,350 residents responded, with the majority supporting an operational referendum.

VOTE NOVEMBER 7

For additional background information, including the community survey results, visit the city website: www.smwi.org