



School District of Holmen

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**RESOLUTION Opposing Anti-Local Control School Referendum Restriction Bills
(Senate Bill 191/Assembly Bill 282, Senate Bill 192/Assembly Bill 279, Senate Bill
193/Assembly Bill 285, Senate Bill 194/Assembly Bill 269, Senate Bill 195/Assembly
Bill 268, Senate Bill 187/Assembly Bill 274)**

WHEREAS, such restrictions include a limit on when operating referenda and debt issuance referenda may be called, create a general aid penalty for exceeding revenue limits by referendum and allowing school boards to rescind revenue limit increases previously approved by referendum, require referenda to be scheduled on general election dates, and eliminate referenda to exceed revenue limits on recurring (permanent) basis; and

WHEREAS, since the 1993-94 school year, school districts have been operating under state-imposed revenue limits that cap the amount that schools can collect in state aid and local property taxes combined, and thus serve to limit school spending. Referenda are the only way many districts can access resources to stay viable. 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; and

WHEREAS, the bills 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 the zip code; and

WHEREAS, 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 might have the effect of forcing districts to consider dissolving; and

WHEREAS, these bills are anti-local control and do not show confidence in locally-elected officials, local elections, or local voters; and


WHEREAS, the School District of Holmen base per pupil revenue limit in 2016-17 ranks 141 out of 431 school districts, and the SDH passed a \$2,848,203 safety and security referendum and a \$900,000 site improvement referendum on April 4, 2017 with respective 64% and 54% voter support; and

WHEREAS, the School District of Holmen has passed recurring referendum including: on April 7, 2015 in the amount of \$335,000 for capital maintenance and vehicle replacement with 60% approval, on November 6, 2007 in the amount of \$536,952 for new Prairie View Elementary maintenance, operations, and technology with 55% approval, on April 7, 1998 in the amount of \$508,458 for technology costs with 55% approval, and on April 7, 1998 in the amount of \$330,000 for new Sand Lake Elementary and High School addition operations with 57% approval; 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 Coulee Region, Wisconsin, and Nation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School District of Holmen calls on Governor Walker, the Wisconsin State Assembly, and the Wisconsin Senate to oppose these pieces of legislation that would further curtail the already very limited set of revenue options available to Wisconsin school boards.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being President and Vice President of the Board of Education for the School District of Holmen, have executed this resolution this 24 day of July, 2017.


Cheryl Hancock, President


Anita Jagodzinski, Vice President