



A Message from the Gilmanon School District Superintendent

On April 7th, community members will have the opportunity to vote on an operational referendum that is critical to the continued success of our school district. The Gilmanon School Board is asking the community to approve a **\$475,000 operational referendum**, which would go into effect beginning with the **2026–27 school year**.

Over the past two years, **225 of Wisconsin's 421 school districts** have gone to referendum as districts across the state face budget pressure from state-imposed revenue limits. Gilmanon is not alone in this challenge.

Since 2012, the Gilmanon School District has relied on an operational referendum to help meet the everyday funding needs of our schools. While we are grateful for the state aid our district receives, that funding has remained largely flat over the years and has not kept pace with rising costs. As a result, Wisconsin's revenue limit laws — which cap how much a district can raise through local property taxes — have left Gilmanon facing a budget shortfall. Without additional voter-approved funding, our district simply does not have the resources needed to maintain the quality of education our students deserve.

The dollars generated through this referendum would be directed toward the areas that matter most: preserving academic programs and curriculum, retaining quality staff, maintaining up-to-date technology, and addressing the rising costs of utilities and building maintenance. These are not extras — they are the foundation of a functioning school.

We understand that any request involving taxpayer dollars deserves a thorough explanation and an open conversation. Your voice and your vote matter deeply to the future of our school and community.

At our referendum informational meeting on **March 24th**, we shared how this funding supports the **Panther Advantage** — our commitment to strong teacher-student personalized learning, investment in our people, and maintaining Gilmanon Schools as a cornerstone of this community. Approving this referendum allows us to continue that work.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions regarding the upcoming referendum. Email- krud@ghs.k12.wi.us or by phone, 715-946-3158, Extension #2.