



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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## **REPUBLICANS UNLEASH YET ANOTHER ATTACK ON LOCAL CONTROL**

MADISON, Wis. – Today, Representatives Sondy Pope (D-Mt. Horeb), ranking member on the Assembly Committee on Education and Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh), member of the budget-writing Joint Finance Committee, responded to a package of bills released by several Republican Legislators called the Referendum Reform Initiative. These bill seek to limit the ability for local communities to raise money for their own school districts.

**“Legislative Republicans, who have enacted the most devastating cuts to K-12 education in Wisconsin’s history and have held revenue limits flat for years are now trying to make it more difficult for communities to invest in their own schools,”** said Rep. Pope **“Their mantra in defending the lack of adequate funding to public education has been ‘districts can go to referendum to make up the difference.’”**

**“Now that Republicans see that citizens across the state have called their bluff and have overwhelmingly voted to increase their own taxes to support their neighborhood schools, they are seeking new ways to subvert local control. If they are so concerned with reducing referenda, they should figure out ways to make sure that districts have increased state support so that educators have the resources to address the many challenges public education faces.”**

This multi-pronged attack includes provisions that would: change all recurring referenda to non-recurring, limit referenda to only spring and fall general election ballots, reduce equalization aid to districts that choose to exceed revenue limits, and limit the frequency of referendum resolutions.

**"Governor Walker and the Republican majority have dramatically cut K-12 education the last six years. As a result, taxpayers have stepped up and voted to raise their own property taxes through operating referendums in 139 school districts by over \$630 million. The resources**

**raised through these referendums is going toward basic operating expenses," said Rep. Hintz. "Instead of pushing public school investment that used to be funded at the state level on the backs of local property taxpayers, Republicans should fully fund public classrooms."**

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