



City of Green Lake

Operating Referendum Overview

Ballot Question April 2024

FAQs on the Referendum

What are Levy limits and why do they exist? Levy limits have been imposed by the State to slow the growth of property taxes. Wisconsin Statue (Section 66,0602) goes into calculations to include the value of the city, net new construction, tax increment districts, debt service, etc.

Why is the City needing to increase the levy limit? Currently the City's levy limit of \$1,527,339 does not meet existing and future operations, repair, and replacement of city assets. The city has had to utilize debt services to maintain operations and services.

Inflation rates of 2.51% have impacted the City's operating and capital expenses. Levy limits of 0.91% average since 2010/2011 & 1.07% (2024) increase imposed by the State has not kept up with inflation rates resulting in the city having to increase the debt service limit to meet operating expenses.

In addition to increased inflation, an accounting misallocation was made approx. 10 years ago by the City's contracted consulting firm, with Dept. of Revenue. (The misallocation created a low baseline for the City's levy limit). The misallocation is unable to be corrected unless the city addresses this through a referendum.

How much will my property taxes increase? Although the City operating levy would increase by 24.4 % (if referendum is passed) it does not mean a homeowner's total taxes (County, School District, and Moraine Park) would increase by that about. The impact of a homeowner owning a home with an assessed valued at \$255,900 would see an increase of approx. \$423.39 on the city tax section mailed out in December of 2024. City tax notifications are sent out in December of each year for the following calendar year; ex. 2024 tax notification is for 2025 fiscal year.

City of Green Lake Property Tax Estimate on a home with an assessed valued at \$255,900

2023 Budget 2022 Taxes	2024 Budget 2023 Taxes	*2025 Budget 2024 Taxes	2026 Budget 2025 Taxes	2027 Budget 2026 Taxes
\$1,673.87	\$1,735.20	\$2,158.59	\$2,180.18	\$2,201.98
Increase	\$83.13	\$423.39	\$21.59	\$21.80

The 24.4% increase is for 2025, in order to get the city at the appropriate operating levy limit. The operating levy going forward in future years would be limited to net new construction as determined by the Department of Revenue, unless put to the voters through a referendum. (Per Wisconsin Statutes)

What happens if the citizens do not vote yes on the referendum? If the referendum is not passed, the city would be required to reduce services in the areas of Public Safety and Public Works to include law enforcement, street maintenance, library, recreation, and parks. In addition, repairs/replacement and new capital improvement projects would be substantially decreased as the city cannot continue to increase debt services.

What happens if the referendum passes? If the referendum passes, the city is able to meet existing service levels in Public Safety and Public Works operations and can position operating and capital expenditures to meet the shortfall in inflation increases.

Official Ballot Question

Under state law, the increase in the levy of the City of Green Lake for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year, 2025, is limited to 1.07%, which results in a levy of \$1,109,686. Shall the City of Green Lake be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2025, for purpose of maintaining public works and public safety services, by a total of 71.220% which results in a levy of \$1,900,000, and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$790,314 for each fiscal year going forward?

YES

NO

Yes to City Referendum Question

- ✓ Allows the City to meet existing and future Public Safety and Public Works service levels.
- ✓ Allows the City to meet inflation increases in essential maintenance, and capital improvement projects that are needed due to years of deferred maintenance and repairs.
- ✓ Allows the City to correct a misallocation made years ago and adjust the operating levy limit to the appropriate baseline going forward.

No to City Referendum Question

- ✓ Reduction in the operating levy, thus creating a substantial reduction of Public Safety and Public Works service levels.
- ✓ Reduction of capital improvements and much needed repair and replacement of assets.
- ✓ The city will have difficulty keeping up with inflation increases in future years.