

# NOTICE OF REFERENDUM

## CITY OF GREEN LAKE

**APRIL 1, 2025**

### Referendum Election Details

At an election to be held in the City of Green Lake on April 1, 2025, the following proposed Resolution of the City Council, will be submitted to a vote of the people:

The Common Council of the City of Green Lake in special session duly begun on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025, does resolve as follows:

Whereas, the State of Wisconsin has imposed limits on town, village, city and county property tax levies under Wis. Stat. sec. 66.0602; and

Whereas, Wis. Stat. sec. 66.0602 limits the increase in fiscal year 2026 to the local property tax levy to no more than the greater of (a) 0% of last year's actual levy or (b) a percentage equal to the percentage change in equalized value due to new construction less improvements removed; which for the City of Green Lake is estimated to be 1.709 percent; and

Whereas, the Common Council of the City of Green Lake, Green Lake County believes it is in the city's best interest to exceed the state levy limit as described above by a greater percentage than 1.709 for the purpose of maintaining or expanding public safety services; and

Whereas, the City of Green Lake's actual levy in 2024 (collected in 2025) was \$1,132,293; and state law would limit the increase to \$30,925 for a total allowable 2025 (collected in 2026) city tax levy of \$1,163,218.

Now, Therefore the Common Council of the City of Green Lake, Green Lake County does hereby resolve, and order as follows:

The common council hereby supports an increase in the city tax levy for 2025 (to be collected in 2026) to exceed the state levy limit. The common council intends that the levy increase be applied on an ongoing basis by including it in the base used to calculate the limit for 2027 as well. The purpose for which the increased levy will be used is maintaining or expanding public safety services.

The common council directs that the question of increasing the city tax levy for 2025 (to be collected in 2026) by 64.476% percent, which would increase the city levy

by \$750,000 over the past year's levy, for a city tax levy of \$1,913,218, and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$750,000 for each fiscal year going forward, the increase to be used for maintaining or expanding public safety services shall be submitted to the electors in a referendum at a special referendum election to be held on April 1, 2025.

### **Ballot Text**

The question will appear on the ballot as follows:

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, 2026, is limited to 1.709%, which results in a levy of \$1,163,218. Shall the City of Green Lake be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2026, for the purpose of additional public safety protection services, by a total of 64.476% which results in a levy of \$1,913,218 and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$750,000 for each fiscal year going forward?

### **Explanation**

A "yes" vote on this referendum would add an additional \$750,000 to the City's operational levy on the City's Levy Limit Worksheet. This ongoing increase will allow the city to continue maintaining public safety services at the level that is currently being offered. The State will not allow this increase to happen without a referendum.

A "no" vote will reduce the City's levy limit to increase only over the amount the city levied the prior year by the percentage increase in equalized value from net new construction. The City of Green Lake's actual levy in 2024 (collected in 2025) was \$1,132,293. The City of Green Lake's Net New Construction increase in equalized value in 2024 was 1.709%. Utilizing the levy and percentage increases from 2024 for the estimated 2025 actual levy (collected in 2026) state law would limit the increase to be at a maximum of \$1,163,218 from \$1,132,293 with only an approximate projected 1% (based on net new construction) increase per year going forward. The City of Green Lake projects a 2025 general fund budget deficit of \$728,635 which is to be covered by a onetime transfer of funds from other accounts and general fund reserves. If a referendum is not approved the general fund reserves will be depleted as early as 2026 and the city would then have to reduce services, it currently is offering its taxpayers in all departments.

Done in the City of Green Lake, on March  
26, 2025

Barbara L. Dugenske  
Clerk/Treasurer