

TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS
WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-14

**CALL FOR A REFERENDUM TO EXCEED THE STATE-IMPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY
LIMIT PURSUANT TO WIS. STAT. § 66.0602(4) FOR GENERAL TOWN OPERATIONS
AND PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES ON AN ONGOING BASIS**

WHEREAS, the Town of Grand Rapids (the "Town") is a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Wisconsin, located in Wood County, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 66.0602 imposes limits on the amount by which the Town may increase its annual property tax levy over the prior year's levy; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 66.0602(4) authorizes a municipality to exceed the state-imposed levy limit upon approval of the electors of the municipality at a referendum; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that additional levy capacity is necessary to maintain and support general town operations and public safety services, including police protection, fire protection, and emergency services, for the residents of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board estimates that an increase in the annual property tax levy of \$300,000 above the state-imposed levy limit is necessary and appropriate to fund such operations and services on an ongoing basis; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 8.37, the Town Board must file the referendum question with the Wood County Clerk no later than seventy (70) days before the election at which the question is to be submitted to voters; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to place this referendum question on the ballot at the General Election of November 3, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the filing deadline with the Wood County Clerk for the November 3, 2026 General Election is no later than August 25, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Grand Rapids, Wood County, Wisconsin, as follows:

1. **Findings and Authorization.** The Town Board hereby finds that it is in the best interest of the Town and its residents to seek voter authorization to exceed the state-imposed property tax levy limit on an ongoing basis, for the purpose of maintaining and funding general

town operations and public safety services, including police protection, fire protection, and emergency services.

2. **Referendum Called.** Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0602(4), the Town Board hereby calls a referendum to be held at the General Election of November 3, 2026, at which the following question shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the Town of Grand Rapids.

3. **Ballot Question.** The following question, as required by Wis. Stat. § 66.0602(4)(c), shall be placed on the ballot for the November 3, 2026 General Election:

OFFICIAL REFERENDUM QUESTION

Under state law, the increase in the levy of the Town of Grand Rapids for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year, 2027, is limited to .949% (based on actual data or the Town's best estimate), which results in a levy of \$1,888,036. Shall the Town of Grand Rapids be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2027, for the purpose of maintaining and providing general town operations and public safety services, including police protection, fire protection, and emergency services, by a total of 15.890%, which results in a levy of \$2,188,036, and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$300,000 for each fiscal year going forward?

☐ YES ☐ NO

4. **Ongoing Basis.** Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0602(4)(a), the Town Board hereby specifies that the proposed increase in the levy, if approved by the voters, shall apply on an ongoing basis. The amount of the approved increase shall be included as part of the base used to calculate the levy limit for each subsequent fiscal year going forward, as provided in Wis. Stat. § 66.0602(4)(d).

5. **Purpose of Funds.** The additional levy revenue authorized by this referendum, if approved, shall be used exclusively for general town operations and public safety services, including police protection, fire protection, and emergency services. The funds shall not be used for the construction or purchase of a building or specific capital items.

6. **Direction to Town Clerk.** The Town Clerk is hereby directed to do the following:

- a. File a certified copy of this Resolution, together with the ballot question set forth in Section 3, with the Wood County Clerk no later than **August 25, 2026**, in accordance with Wis. Stat. § 8.37;
- b. Publish the required Type A, Type B, Type C, Type D, and Type E election notices in accordance with Wis. Stat. § 10.01(2) and § 66.0602(4)(b);

- c. Transmit certified results of the referendum to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue within fourteen (14) days following the November 3, 2026 General Election, in accordance with Wis. Stat. § 66.0602(4)(d); and
- d. Take all other actions necessary and appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Resolution.

7. **Pre-Filing Review.** The Town Attorney is directed to submit the proposed ballot question to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, Local Government Services Bureau, for informal pre-review prior to filing with the Wood County Clerk. In the event that the question is determined by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue to be defective, the Town Attorney is directed to recommend corrections to the Board promptly in order to ensure that the referendum may be conducted in a timely manner.

8. **Explanatory Statement.** The Town Attorney is directed to prepare a plain-language explanatory statement of the effect of a "yes" and a "no" vote on the referendum question, for inclusion in the Type C Notice of Referendum pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 10.01(2)(c).

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Town Board of the Town of Grand Rapids, Wood County, Wisconsin, at a duly noticed regular meeting held on the 19th day of August, 2026.



Jeff Kuhn, Board Chair



Lisa Dotter, Town Clerk

ATTESTED AND FILED by the Town Clerk of the Town of Grand Rapids this 19th day of August, 2026.



Lisa Dotter, Town Clerk