

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-02

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REFERENDUM FOR THE VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA TO ALLOW THE VILLAGE TO EXCEED THE STATE IMPOSED LEVY LIMIT FOR HIRING ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL BEGINNING WITH THE 2023 LEVY (COLLECTED IN 2024) AND ON AN ONGOING BASIS

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

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. §66.0602 limits the increase in 2023 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 plus other exceptions like new debt service; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Caledonia's actual levy in 2022 (collected in 2023) was \$16,480,315; and, based upon the percentage change in equalized value (1.96%) due to new construction less improvements removed plus new debt service, state law would limit the increase to \$1,017,330 (10.179%) for a total allowable 2023 (collected in 2024) Village tax levy of \$17,497,645; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Caledonia is presently served by thirty-six (36) full-time sworn police officers and eight (8) additional police officers are required to maintain existing level of law enforcement services and/or enhance future services; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Caledonia will be served in 2023 by forty-three (43) full-time fire and rescue personnel and six (6) additional personnel are required to maintain existing level of fire and rescue services and/or enhance future services; and

WHEREAS, the increased costs necessary to add the additional required personnel to support the Village's public safety present and future needs would exceed the Village's maximum allowable levy; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board of the Village of Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin believes it is in the Village's best interest to exceed the state levy limit as described above by a greater percentage than allowed by statute in order to increase the number of sworn police officers and fire and rescue personnel, the purpose for which the increase will be used.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board of the Village of Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin, do hereby support an increase in the Village tax levy for 2023 (collected in 2024) to exceed the state levy limit for the reasons and purposes specified above. The Village of Caledonia intends that the levy increase be applied on an ongoing basis thereafter by including it in the base used to calculate the limit going forward.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village of Caledonia directs that the question of increasing the village tax levy for 2023 (to be collected in 2024) by 10.179 %, which would increase the village levy by \$1,781,000 over the past year's levy, for a Village tax levy of \$19,278,645, shall be submitted to the electors in a referendum election to be held on April 5, 2023, in the following form:

Referendum Question

“Under state law, the increase in the levy of the Village of Caledonia for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year, 2024, is limited to 1.96%, which results in a levy of \$17,497,645. Shall the Village of Caledonia be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2024, for the purpose of hiring and retaining additional sworn police officers and fire and rescue personnel, by a total of 10.179%, which results in a levy of \$19,278,645, and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$1,781,000 for each fiscal year going forward?”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of the referendum shall be binding upon the Village of Caledonia and certified to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, as required by Wis. Stat. §66.0602(4)(d); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village Board direct that the following Explanatory Statement of the vote be used where required:

Explanatory Statement and Effect of Vote

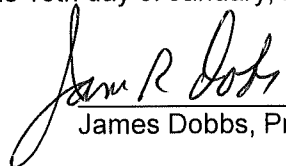
The Village of Caledonia, in 2023, is served by thirty-six (36) sworn police officers and forty-three (43) full-time fire and rescue personnel. In order to add additional full-time staff to maintain existing level of public safety services and/or enhance future services, the Village’s costs would exceed the maximum allowable state-imposed levy.

A “**yes**” vote allows the Village Board to exceed the state-imposed levy limits to provide additional funding to pay for eight (8) additional police officers and six (6) additional fire and rescue personnel. The increased levy would apply on an ongoing basis thereafter by including it in the base used to calculate the limit going forward.

A “**no**” vote does not allow the Village Board to exceed the state-imposed levy limits to provide additional funding for eight (8) additional police officers and six (6) additional fire and rescue personnel. The Police and Fire and Rescue Departments would continue to be staffed in the same manner as set out in the 2023 budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village Clerk shall provide the County Clerk with a certified copy of this Resolution to ensure that the referendum question can be placed on the April 4, 2023 election ballot for all wards within the Village of Caledonia.

Passed and adopted this 10th day of January, 2023.


James Dobbs, President

Attest:


Joslyn Hoeffert, Village Clerk