

Vote **YES** on November 6th



Save De Pere Pools

FAST FACTS

The City of De Pere will hold a binding referendum regarding the issue of aquatic facilities, on the Nov. 6 general election ballot.

The decision to host a city-wide referendum was approved by a unanimous 7-0 Common Council vote on August 21.

What is proposed?

The referendum will ask residents if they wish to allow the City to exceed the tax levy limits to first build and then maintain new "aquatic facilities" at the current sites of both VFW and Legion pools. The referendum allows the City to exceed the levy limit up to \$900,000 each year, **but it does not require the City to do so.** With a binding referendum, there are only two choices available - exceed the limit for one year or exceed the limit on an ongoing basis. The City cannot limit it to a certain number of years.

Define "Aquatic facility"

The term "aquatic facility" was carefully chosen so that the citizens have flexibility to put in whatever type of "pool" and enhanced features they would like to see.

The term "aquatic facility" encompasses the locker rooms, concession stands, shade areas, seating areas, etc. If the referendum simply said "pool," the funds could not be used to make improvements on anything surrounding the water.

Why is the referendum needed?

VFW and Legion pools are 50+ years old. They are in need of expensive repairs to fix various mechanical and structural problems, such as defective pipes and water mains, deteriorating diving boards and faulty electrical systems. Without a passing referendum, the city has no funds to rebuild these facilities.

By law, any updates would have to bring facilities up to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. The referendum language of "improving and transforming" means that some form of new aquatic facility would be built at VFW and Legion to meet these requirements.

What are we going to do about VFW pool?

VFW has sustained major structural damages when drained for the 2018 season. If the referendum fails, our days of swimming at VFW Park may be over.

Why are our pools important?

Our pools provide affordable, safe youth & adult recreation. They promote physical fitness & community wellness. They teach children an essential life skill. They promote community connectedness. They improve property values and maintain the vibrancy of our community.

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What is the estimated financial impact?

A passed referendum would increase your property taxes by a maximum of approximately \$46 per \$100,000 of assessed property value. For example, if you own a home or business assessed at \$100,000, your property tax could increase a **maximum** of \$46 per year. **This is not a year over year increase.** These dollars are earmarked specifically for our aquatic facilities and cannot be used for anything else.

Items that will reduce the tax impact over time include:

- Fundraising, including corporate sponsors
- Reduced operating expenses
- Payment of construction loan

What about the "Aquatic Center" at VFW Park?

Prior to approving the motion for a binding referendum, the Common Council also unanimously rescinded its previous decision to close Legion Pool and construct a singular aquatic center for the City at VFW Park.

Would we have needed a referendum to fund the aquatic center at VFW?

Most likely, yes! The estimated cost of the aquatic center was \$9,000,000. The city did not have any funds to pay for these construction costs.

What would the new aquatic facilities look like?

No actual designs or concepts for what will come to VFW and Legion parks are in place at this time, and will only be developed **with public input** after the outcome of the referendum is known. The previous proposed aquatic center designs for VFW were never approved by the Common Council. Whether those plans will be used in the future is unknown.

For more FAQ, please visit www.SaveDePerePools.com

A **YES** vote ensures the existence of neighborhood aquatic facilities in De Pere for generations to come!

WE NEED YOU
to help shape the future of our community!



Save De Pere Pools

Municipal

Under state law, the increase in the levy of the City of De Pere for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year, 2019, is limited to 1.98% which results in a levy of \$12,442,502.00. Shall the City of De Pere be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2019, and on an ongoing basis, for improving and transforming the pools located at VFW Park and at Legion Park into aquatic facilities and for operating those aquatic facilities, by a total of \$900,000.00, which results in a levy of \$13,342,502.00? A "YES" vote allows the Common Council to exceed the State imposed levy limits for improving and transforming the pools located at VFW Park and at Legion Park into aquatic facilities and for operating those aquatic facilities. A "NO" vote does not allow the Common Council to exceed the State imposed levy limits for improving and transforming the pools located at VFW Park and at Legion Park into aquatic facilities and for operating those aquatic facilities.

Yes

No