

Dear Fellow Dover Residents,

**The Town of Dover will have a referendum question on the April 7, 2026 ballot.**

**To help residents understand how this referendum may affect their taxes, informational meetings will be held at Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. on the following dates: January 12, February 9, and March 9, 2026**

**We encourage you to attend one of these meetings to learn more and have your questions and concerns addressed.**

**Attached you will find a brief overview of the referendum. The reverse side includes the exact wording that will appear on the ballot. We hope you will be able to join us.**

**Thank you for your consideration- The Dover Town Board- Sam Stratton, Mike Shenkenberg, Jared Guillien**



The Town has never requested a Levy Referendum.

The Town of Dover's mill rate has been held flat for many years. When a rate starts at an artificially low level, like Dover's \$1.01, even a necessary adjustment results in a large percentage increase of 104.5%. Dover needs to catch up after years of holding the mill rate flat to ensure the Town can continue providing the services residents rely on. Approval of the referendum will enable the Town to make gradual infrastructure improvements, including road resurfacing, shoulder upgrades, updated signage, and the installation of a backup power generator at the town hall to ensure DPW snow operations and voting equipment remain functional during power outages.

What does this referendum in terms of your property tax mean?

First a mill rate is simply the amount of tax paid per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

EXAMPLE:

The current town mill rate is \$1.01 OR

$$\bullet \$300,000 \div \$1,000 = 300$$

$\bullet 300 \times \$1.01 = \$303.00$  Amount the town is paid from your taxes

The proposed town mill rate is \$2.09 OR

$$\bullet \$300,000 \div 1,000 = 300$$

$\bullet 300 \times \$2.09 = \$627.00$

- Annual amount the town would be paid from your taxes: \$627 per year. (Schools receive the remaining portion of your tax dollars)
- Monthly impact: about \$52 per month
- Weekly impact: about \$12 per week

#### Neighboring Racine County Mill Rates:

Municipality	Population	Mill Rate	Notes:
Village of Yorkville	3264	\$2.35	
Village of Rochester	3797	\$2.54	Re-eval just completed, adding fire special assessment, already have garbage special assessment
Village of Raymond	3963	\$1.30	Large income from the landfill
<b>TOWN OF DOVER</b>	<b>4224</b>	<b>\$1.01</b>	<b>REQUESTING \$2.09 on REFERENDUM (to begin in 2027)</b>
Village of Union Grove	5247	\$5.60 dropping to \$4.56	Re-eval just finished
Village of Waterford	5837	\$3.65 dropping to \$3.48	Closed a TID (tax increment district)
Town of Waterford	6539	\$2.63	
Town of Burlington	6448	\$1.98	

**NOTICE OF REFERENDUM**  
**Town of Dover**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that an election to be held in the Town of Dover, Racine County, Wisconsin, on April 7, 2026, the following proposed Resolution will be submitted to a vote of the people:

**RESOLUTION PROPOSING TO INCREASE THE LEVY BEYOND THE AMOUNT THAT IS ALLOWED UNDER THE LOCAL LEVY LIMIT STATUTE FOR THE PURPOSE OF GENERATING REVENUE FOR SUSTAINING OPERATIONS IN THE TOWN OF DOVER AND SCHEDULING AN ELECTION FOR A REFERENDUM TO EXCEED THE LEVY LIMIT FOR SUCH EXPENSES.**

**The question will appear on the ballot as follows:**

*"Under state law, the increase in the levy of the Town of Dover for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year, 2027, is limited to 1.059%, which results in a levy of \$547,454.00. Shall the Town of Dover be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2027, for the purpose of sustaining full municipality services, by a total of 104.50%, which results in a levy of \$1,119,542, and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$572,088, for each fiscal year going forward?"*

**EXPLANATION**

In 2026, the Town is operating on a mill rate of \$1.01, which has resulted in these examples: no road resurfacing or shouldering, no tree removal or sign replacements, no building improvements such as: replacement of the town hall roof, no generator or overhead door replacements in the DPW area, Water Patrol hours reduced to the minimum required by the DNR.

Without a mill rate increase, the Town will be required to significantly reduce service levels beginning in 2027. This would include service level reductions in the current EMS paramedic level services, potentially the disbandment of the Water Patrol Department, and the continued inability to fund needed road and building improvements. Dover's mill rate is at \$1.01; it has consistently remained below its 2020 peak of \$2.13. The Town has controlled costs for years, and those efforts have now reached their limit. It is not realistic to expect a business/household to operate on only a one percent annual increase.

Approval of the referendum will enable the Town to make gradual infrastructure improvements, including road resurfacing, shoulder upgrades, updated signage, and the installation of a backup power generator at the town hall to ensure DPW snow operations and voting equipment remain functional during power outages. A YES vote will increase the mill rate from \$1.01 to \$2.09 based on the 2025 Town assessed value of \$535,522,300.00.

A "YES" vote will allow the Town of Dover to increase the property tax levy to maintain the current paramedic-level EMS services and meet increasing operational and capital costs.

A "NO" vote will require reductions in EMS from paramedic level to a technician who cannot administer medications and the continuation of no road or building improvements.

Town of Dover  
January 5, 2026

Sam Stratton, Chair  
Camille Gerou, Clerk/Treasurer