



Frequently Asked Questions

Forest County Referendum 2024

1. What unique challenges does Forest County have compared to other counties?

Forest County is unique from other counties because about 83% of the land is owned by government entities, primarily the US Forest Service. That means about 17% of county land that pays property taxes needs to support 100% of the county government operations- including public safety, highway maintenance and social services.

2. What will happen if this referendum does not pass?

If the referendum fails, we must evaluate non-mandated services for potential reductions starting in 2025. Mandatory county services may also need to be scaled back as ongoing staffing shortages and other budgetary shortfalls may impact them.

SERVICES AT RISK OF REDUCTIONS

The following are some of the non-mandated services that may be reduced.

- **UW Extension**
 - 4H Program
 - Training and other services
- **Forest County Fair**
- **Economic Development Efforts**
 - Partnership funding, matching grants, etc.
- **Elderly Support Services**
 - Meal sites
 - Transportation for the elderly

MANDATORY COUNTY SERVICES

The following are some of the mandated services that could be scaled back.

- **Public Safety**
 - Sheriff's Department, Jail, etc.
- **Highway Maintenance**
 - County & State highway and road repairs, plowing, etc.
- **Social Services**
 - Child and Adult Protective Services and Juvenile Justice
 - Economic Services: support and screening
- **Court House Services**

- Zoning, Register of Deeds, Veteran services, Treasurer's Office, County Clerk, Child Support, etc.
- **Health Department**
 - Clinic services and health fairs

3. What has caused the county to get to this point?

Operating costs have been steadily increasing due to inflation and the rising cost of goods and services, salaries and employee benefits. Adding to the deficit are state and federal mandates that are placed on counties without the additional funding to implement them.

4. What will this funding be used for?

This referendum covers **operating** costs. Operating costs are long-term and cover things like salaries, insurance, facility maintenance and fuel for vehicles. We are going to taxpayers as a last resort to help us balance the county budget and provide a stable funding source that allows us to keep providing important services.

This referendum would eliminate the current operating deficit and provide additional funding to increase staff salaries to be more regionally competitive.

This referendum **does not** cover capital costs. Capital costs include large one-time purchases and new construction, such as the courthouse repairs and additions.

5. What is the tax impact for a resident?

The tax impact for a resident with a property value of \$100,000 would be less than \$10 per month starting in 2025.

6. How can I vote?

Vote absentee in person or by mail, **or vote in person** on Election Day, April 2.

The **first day** to vote absentee in person is **March 19**. To vote absentee by mail, visit **myvote.wi.gov** or contact your municipal or city clerk's office.

The **last day** to request an absentee ballot is **March 31**.

Election Day Polling Locations

Polls are open on **April 2 from 7am-8pm**

Ward	Location Type	Address
Alvin	Town Hall	16942 State Hwy 55 Alvin, WI
Argonne: Wards 1 and 2	Town Hall	8842 Black Bear Ave Argonne, WI

Armstrong Creek	Community Center	7860 Old 101 Rd. Armstrong Creek, WI
Blackwell	Town Hall	3696 Flanner Lane Blackwell, WI
Caswell/Cavour	Town Hall	4045 Village Rd. Cavour, WI
Town of Crandon: Wards 1 and 2	Town Hall	5474 County Rd S. Crandon, WI
Freedom	Town Hall	918 Macarthur Tr. Freedom, WI
Hiles	Town Hall	9193 N. Main St. Hiles, WI
Laona: Wards 1, 2, 3, and 4	Town Hall	5146 Linden St. Laona, WI
Lincoln: Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5	Town Hall	5376 County Rd W. Crandon, WI
Nashville, Wards 1, 2, and 3	Town Hall	4265 State Hwy 55 Crandon, WI
Nashville, Ward 4, and 5	Community Center & Town Offices	1038 County Rd. Q Pickerel, WI
Popple River	Town Hall	11690 Old 139 Rd. Long Lake, WI
Ross	Town Hall	10170 Cypress Street Newald, WI
Wabeno, Wards 1, 2, 3, and 4	Town Hall	4473 N. Branch St. Wabeno, WI
City of Crandon, Wards 1, 2, 3, and 4	Community Building	601 W. Washington St. Crandon, WI

7. How do salaries in Forest County compare to other counties in the area?

Across the board, our salaries are lower than our neighboring counties. We need to be regionally competitive with our salaries to retain and recruit employees.