



PUBLIC SAFETY REFERENDUM

NOVEMBER 3, 2026

Planning for Reliable Police, Fire, and EMS Services

WHAT ARE VOTERS DECIDING?

On November 3, New Berlin voters will decide whether to authorize a **\$3,122,149 ongoing increase** in the City's property tax levy to fund additional Police and Fire staffing and related equipment.

\$3,122,149

Proposed increase to the
City's annual property tax levy.

WHAT WOULD THE REFERENDUM FUND?

The referendum would fund the following staffing and related personnel costs:



POLICE

- 3** full-time Police Officers
- 2** part-time Police Service Aides
- 1** contracted Crisis Worker



FIRE

- 12** Firefighter/Paramedics
- 1** Division Chief
- 3** Captain Promotions
(Previously approved but unfunded)

The referendum also includes funding for the personnel equipment associated with the additional staffing and one Police squad.



ESTIMATED TAX IMPACT

\$41.60

per \$100,000
of assessed value

For a home with an assessed value of **\$375,246**, the estimated annual impact would be **\$156** or **\$13** per month.



See page 3 for examples
or try the online
Tax Impact Calculator
NewBerlinWi.gov/Referendum

LEARN MORE AND ASK QUESTIONS

Attend one of the upcoming public information sessions on Monday, October 26.



MONDAY, OCT. 26

1:30 p.m. | Public Q&A
Hickory Grove Senior Citizens Club

MONDAY, OCT. 26

5:30-7:30 p.m. | Public Open House
New Berlin Public Library

SCAN TO
LEARN MORE



WHY IS ADDITIONAL STAFFING BEING REQUESTED?

The Police and Fire Departments have identified additional staffing needs through the City's long-range planning processes, but existing budget constraints have limited the City's ability to fund those positions. The proposed staffing is based on a review of historical service trends, community growth, staffing levels, current operational needs, and long-term planning.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Increasing demand and overlapping incidents



3,636 → 5,046

Calls for service, 2015-2025
Nearly 40% increase



70%+

of Fire calls are
EMS-related



54%

of EMS calls overlap
another incident

Three of the City's four fire stations currently operate with a cross-staffed fire and EMS model, meaning the same personnel are responsible for both a fire apparatus and an ambulance. When one of those units is committed to an emergency, the other is unavailable.

WHAT WOULD CHANGE?

The proposed staffing would add four Firefighters/ Paramedics per shift, allowing the Department to add an ambulance at Station 7 and eliminate cross-staffing at Station 9. A Division Chief would also support Department training needs.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Staffing and officer availability

70



full-time sworn
officers **today**

74



full-time sworn
officers in **2004**

The Police Department has identified additional staffing needs and requested them through the City's budget and planning process for a number of years, but previous requests have not been funded due to available funding limitations.

Additional staffing is intended to support officer availability, increasingly complex calls for service, mental-health-related responses, training requirements and long-term staffing needs.

HOW WOULD THEY BE USED?

The three additional Police Officers would bring sworn staffing closer to previous levels. The two part-time Police Service Aides would support Department operations, while the contracted Crisis Worker would assist with mental-health-related incidents and help connect individuals to appropriate resources.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

PERSONNEL



\$2,948,349 +

Includes employee wages and the City's cost of providing benefits.

EQUIPMENT



\$173,800 =

Includes personnel equipment and one additional Police squad.

LEVY INCREASE



\$3,122,149



ESTIMATED PROPERTY TAX IMPACT

\$41.60

per \$100,000 of assessed property value per year.

Assessed Property Value	Per Year	Per Month
\$300,000	\$124.80	\$10.40
\$400,000	\$166.40	\$13.87
\$500,000	\$208.00	\$17.33
\$600,000	\$249.60	\$20.80



Use your property's Assessed Value when calculating the estimated impact.



Tax Impact Calculator:
NewBerlinWi.gov/Referendum



WHY IS A REFERENDUM REQUIRED?

Wisconsin law limits how much municipalities can increase their property tax levy each year. The proposed Police and Fire staffing would require recurring funding above the City's allowable levy limit. A referendum allows voters to decide whether the City may exceed that limit for the stated purpose.



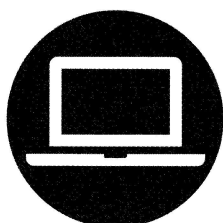
WHAT DOES "ONGOING" MEAN?

If approved, the \$3,122,149 increase would become part of the City's levy base beginning in 2027 to help maintain the additional Police and Fire staffing positions in future years.



WHY NOT BORROW FOR STAFFING?

Police and Fire salaries and benefits are ongoing operating expenses that recur each year. Borrowing is generally used for long-term capital improvements such as roads, buildings, park improvements and major equipment; it does not create the recurring operating revenue needed for ongoing staffing.



LEARN MORE

Review the official ballot question, Frequently Asked Questions, presentation materials, Tax Impact Calculator, and more at:

NewBerlinWi.gov/Referendum



Questions?
Referendum@newberlin.org

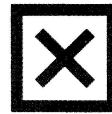
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PERMIT NO. 530

WHAT DOES YOUR VOTE MEAN?



IF YOU VOTE **YES**

A “yes” vote allows the Common Council to exceed the state-imposed levy limits by \$3,122,149 to provide additional funding to pay for expanded full-time staffing of the New Berlin Fire and Police Departments. The increased levy would apply on an ongoing basis thereafter by including it in the base used to calculate the limit going forward.



IF YOU VOTE **NO**

A “no” vote does not allow the Common Council to exceed the state-imposed levy limits to provide additional funding to pay for additional full-time staffing of the New Berlin Fire and Police Departments. The Fire and Police Departments would continue to be staffed in the same manner they are presently staffed.



WHERE IS THE REFERENDUM ON THE BALLOT?

The City of New Berlin Public Safety Referendum appears on the **second side** of the ballot under the Municipal section.



ELECTION DAY

**Tuesday,
November 3, 2026**

7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Find your polling location at
MyVote.wi.gov.



IN-PERSON ABSENTEE VOTING

Begins October 20
at New Berlin City Hall.

For voting information, dates
and hours, visit:

MyVote.wi.gov