

WASBO's
Money Talks
Tax Levy Episode
October 20, 2026



Our Panel

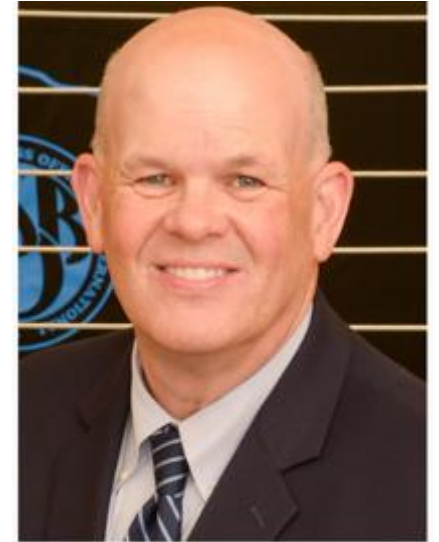
- We're not lobbyists or attorneys, just WASBO colleagues
- We share non-partisan, veteran perspectives on how to navigate the financial challenges present in your school district
- Opinions expressed are our own, not necessarily those of our employers (but we're usually right)



**Brian
Adesso**
Money Talks Co-Founder



**Sarah
Viera**
Asst. Supt. & CFO
Pewaukee SD



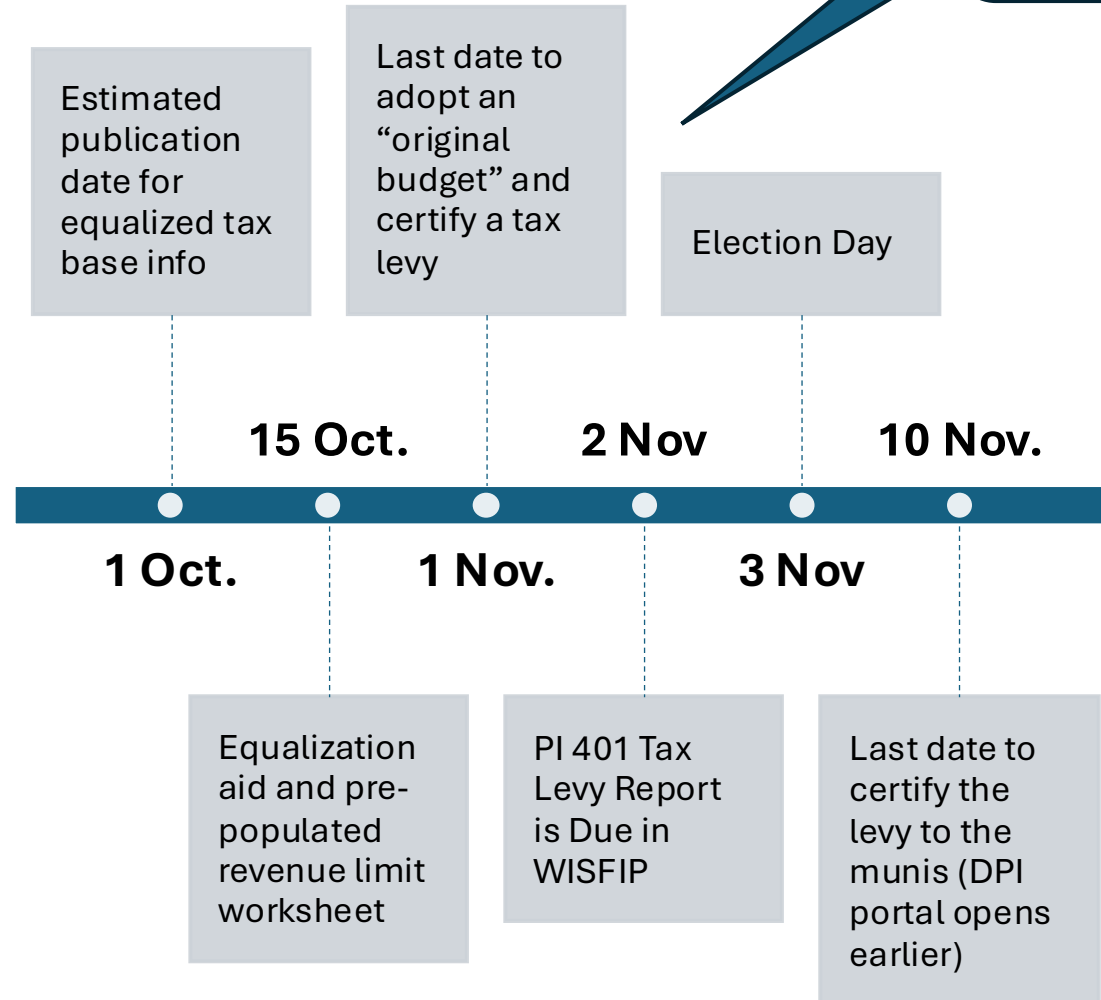
**Mike
Barry**
WASBO Executive Director

State Policy Context

- ***No increase in the General Aid pool*** for 2025-26 and 2026-27: \$5.58 billion each year (a 2-yr aid freeze is rare, but not rare enough)
- 2025-27 state budget policy choice: \$1.5 billion for ***income and sales tax relief*** instead of equalization aid
- No increase in ***School Levy Credit pool*** for 2025-26 or 2026-27

Key Levy Dates:

Since Nov 1 is a Sunday. Oct 30 is the effective date this year



Tax Bill Mailing



State law (sec . 74 .09(5), Wis . Stats .) requires the municipal clerk to distribute tax bills no later than the third Monday in December

December 2026

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Adopting the Tax Levy – Beyond the Math

- Identifying Voucher and ICS levy impact in your board presentation
- Identifying the “Gross Levy” and “Net Levy” once SLTC are applied
- Working with muni/county to include a tax levy explainer with the tax bill
- Getting school board up to speed so the meeting goes smoothly (no surprises)
- If you are new, see what was done last year, check with supt, read minutes
- Prepare a tax summary for the media
- Prepare talking points for the school board members

Know Your Budget Vocabulary



Preliminary Budget: Adopted by the board in late spring as a placeholder for the period July 1 until late October



Original Budget: Defined in statute as the first budget adopted by the school board AFTER the Public Hearing, may remain in place through June 30 if not revised



Revised Budget: Requires a super-majority (two thirds) vote of the board to revise the Original Budget, publication requirement applies



Thank You!
See You Soon

October 30, 2026

“WASBOO” Halloween Episode