



Town of Geneva Wisconsin

Safety and Municipal Operations Referendum

November 5th Vote

Voting will be at Como Community Church- W3901 Palmer Rd, Lake Geneva

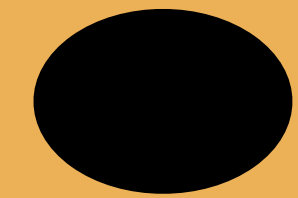


The Referendum Question

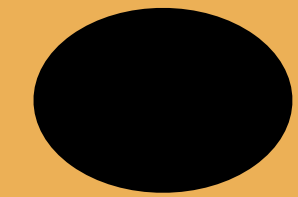
“Under State law, the increase in the levy of the Town of Geneva, WI for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year 2025, is limited to 0.483%, which results in a levy of \$2,319,644. Shall the Town of Geneva, WI be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2025, for the purpose of employing and equipping additional Police Officers, cover municipal operating costs, facility improvements, and eliminating the current outstanding debt obligation, by a total of 64.665% which results in a levy of \$3,819,644 and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$1,500,000 for each fiscal year going forward?”



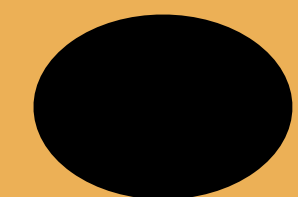
NOTE: The State of Wisconsin imposes limits on what the Town of Geneva may levy. One way the Town may increase the levy for additional funding is through a referendum.



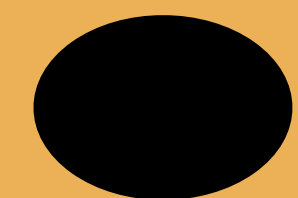
A YES vote would support the Town of Geneva tax levy increase, providing much needed funding for employing, training, equipping and supporting current and future Police Officers.



A YES vote would provide funds to reconfigure the Geneva Town Hall for current and future Police Officers plus improve disability access, needed ADA enhancements, to the Town Hall.



A YES vote would eliminate the past and current need for an annual loan, plus interest, which is already included in your tax bill, to cover increasing operating costs for staffing and equipment.



A NO vote would oppose the Town of Geneva tax levy increase in excess of the State of Wisconsin imposed limits.

HOW THE \$1,500,000 TAX LEVY INCREASE WILL AFFECT YOU

\$100,000
Assessed
Property Value

\$69.00
Per Year

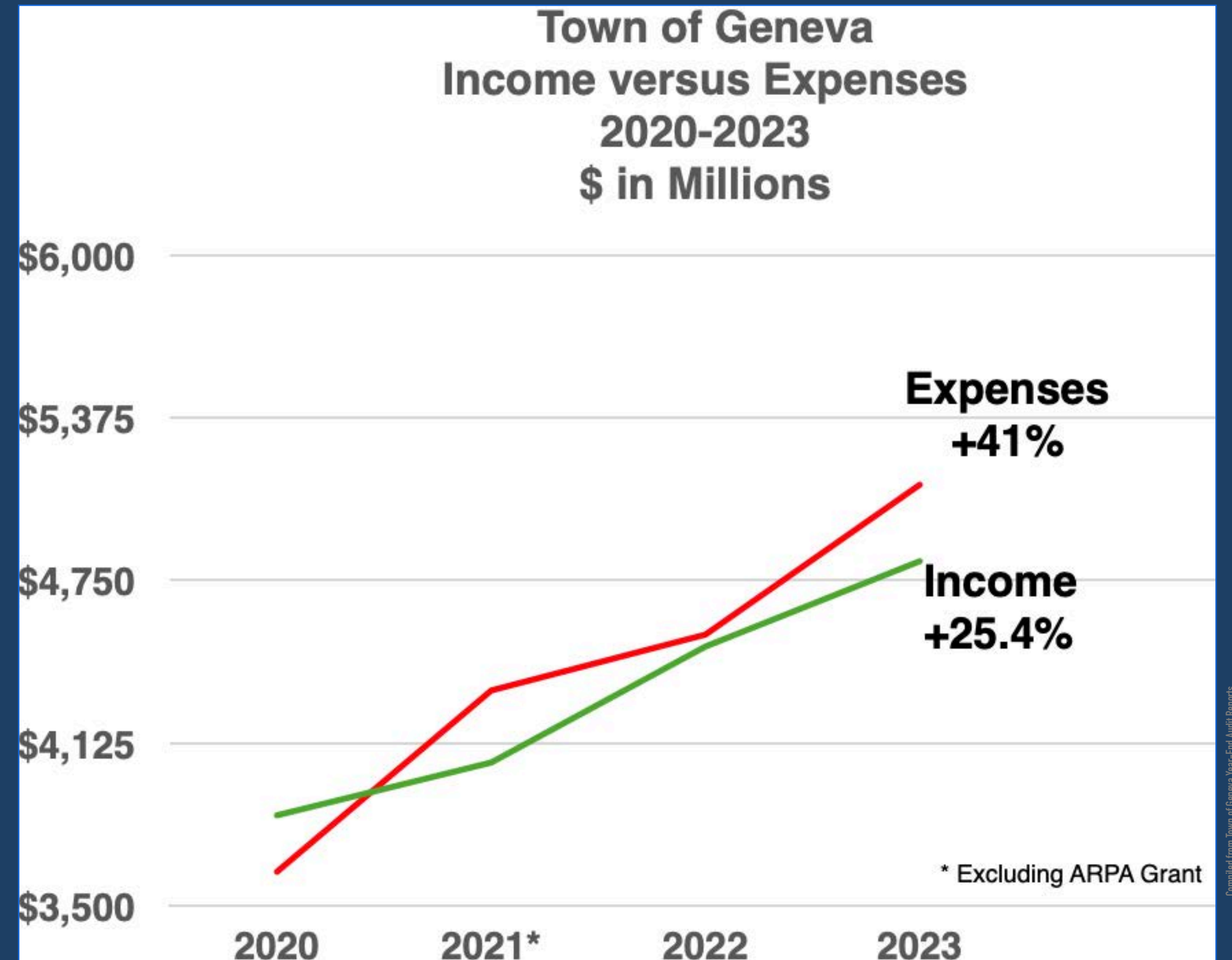
\$5.75
Per Month

19 Cents
Per Day



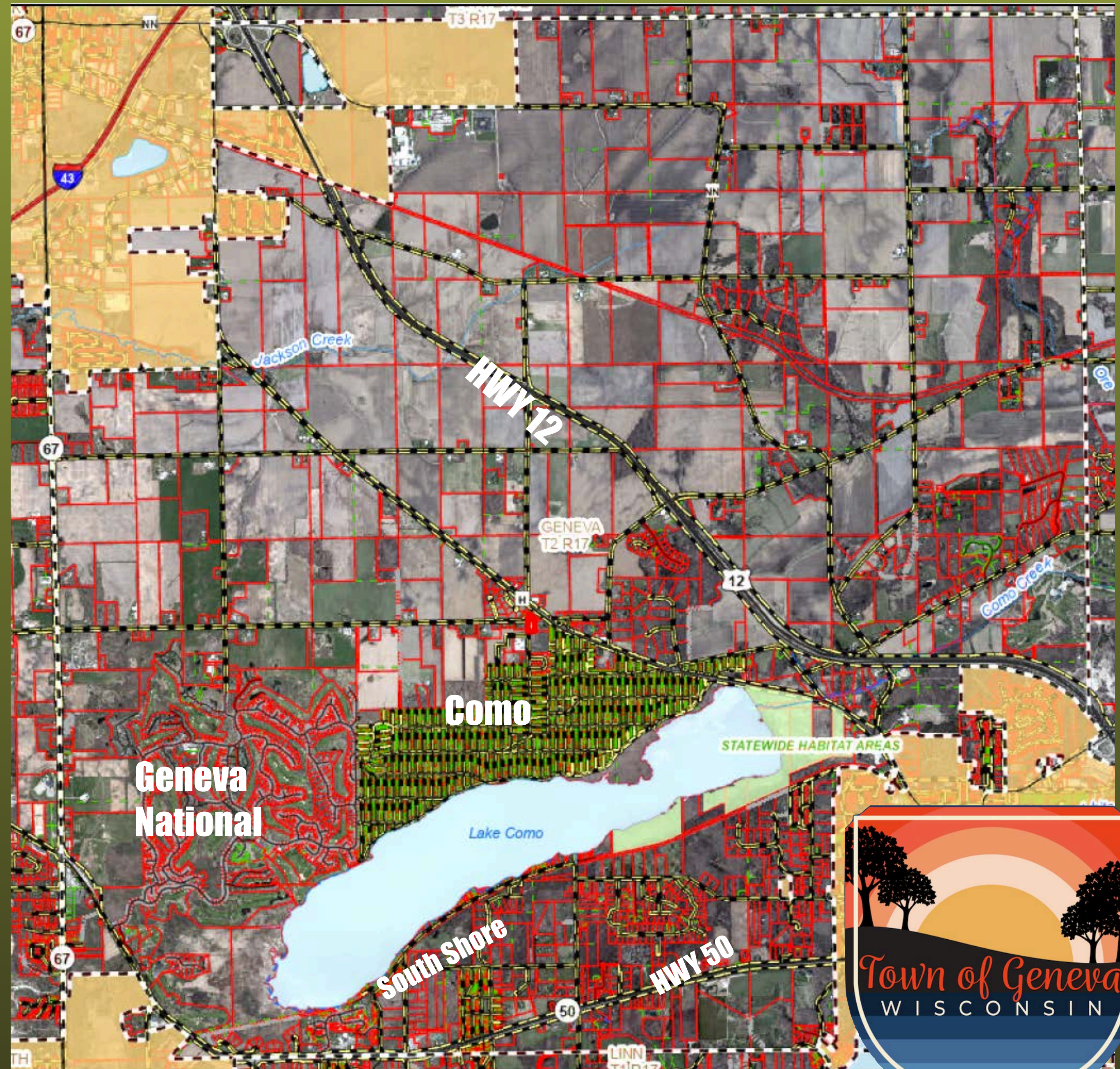
Between 2020 and 2023
the Town of Geneva Expenses
grew more than the Income

41% for Expenses
versus
25.4% for Income



Town of Geneva Police Officers cover 29 sq. miles of land mass which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- 5528 Full Time Residents but 2-3 times the population during summer months
- 2 hospitals (the only 2 in Walworth County)
- State/Federal Highways - 12, 50, 67
- Woods Elementary School
- Como Subdivision
- Geneva National Community
- Interlaken/The Ridge Resort
- South Shore of Como Lake Area
- Lake Patrol
- Adult Entertainment Club
- 13+ establishments selling alcoholic beverages





2025 EXPENDITURES- \$1,500,000

- **\$ 400,000- Employ, Train and Equip Two (2) New Additional Police Officers.**
- **\$ 400,000- Remove and Replace the Existing ADA Front Ramp with an elevator giving access to the upper and lower levels of the Town Hall (currently the lower level is not ADA accessible).**
- **\$ 200,000- Remodel the Lower Town Hall Level to accommodate the Expanding Police Department and relocate existing Clerk, Highway and Court Staff upstairs.**
- **\$ 500,000- Retire the existing 2024 annual operations loan and cover the 2025 operations inflationary cost overruns.**

2026 AND BEYOND ANNUAL EXPENDITURES - \$1,500,000

- **\$ 700,000- In 2026, add two (2) more Officers to the two (2) hired in 2025. This number represents the annual costs to employ, train and equip these 4 new Officers. Thereby, we will create an eleven (11) Officer Police Department.**
- **\$ 400,000- Cover the recurring annual operations inflationary cost overruns currently covered by annual loans.**
- **\$ 400,000- Create Non-Lapsing Accounts designated for land purchase and for future replacement of Town Facilities, Highway and Fire Department equipment, etc.**

Town of Geneva Police Department:



Annual cost per officer
approx. \$150,000

Average Police Officers per 1000 residents in similarly sized communities:
National 2.4
Wisconsin 2.3,
Geneva is currently at 1.3

To meet the average coverage the Town of Geneva would need to staff 11-12 officers, which this referendum would address.



Several smaller communities have chosen to do without their own police such as Lyons Township (population 3648, 2020 census) but the population of the Town of Geneva is 5528 (current data) and there are other factors to consider such as the lake and tourism traffic, short term rentals etc.



Recently, with the resignation of officers, the town has had to rely on the County Sheriff's department for some staffing which is more expensive.



Town of Geneva Police Department



Current available office space for up to 7 Full Time, 2 Part Time Officers & 1 Administrator



This room is for suspect & other interviews



As stated in slide 6- 2025 expenditures:

- \$ 400,000- Employ, Train and Equip Two (2) New Additional Police Officers.
- \$ 200,000- Remodel the Lower Town Hall Level to accommodate the Expanding Police Department and relocate existing Clerk, Highway and Court Staff upstairs.

2026 and beyond annual expenditures:

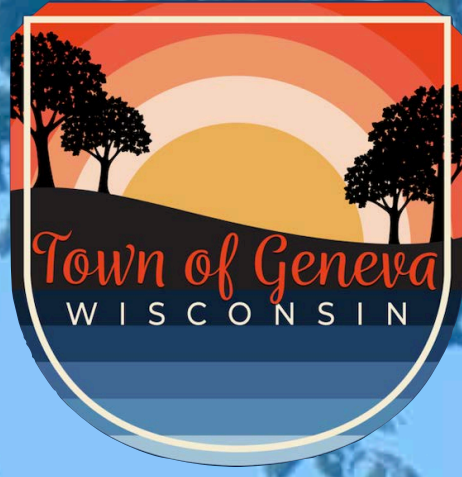
- \$ 700,000- In 2026, add two (2) more Officers to the two (2) hired in 2025. This number represents the annual costs to employ, train and equip these 4 new Officers. Thereby, we will create an eleven (11) Officer Police Department.

Other Current Town of Geneva Paid Staff Needing Space In The Town Hall

- Hwy Dept- 3 FT, 5 PT
- Municipal Court Clerk FT; Judge PT
- Clerk/Treasurer – 2 FT
- Plan Commission – 8 Members
- Town Board – 5 Members
- Election Inspectors– 46



This part of the lower level has one office space, file storage and a table/chairs for breaks or small meetings. There are 2 other small office spaces, an additional storage area and the stairs to the upper level. Currently not handicap accessible.



The Town of Geneva expenses fluctuate depending on circumstances, such as: snow removal, road repairs, overtime for Police Officers and Town staff, cost of living increases, attorney costs, election expenses, lake maintenance, storm damage etc.

Storm Damage
the last couple of years



Putting away the 2 lake weed harvesters & barge for the season



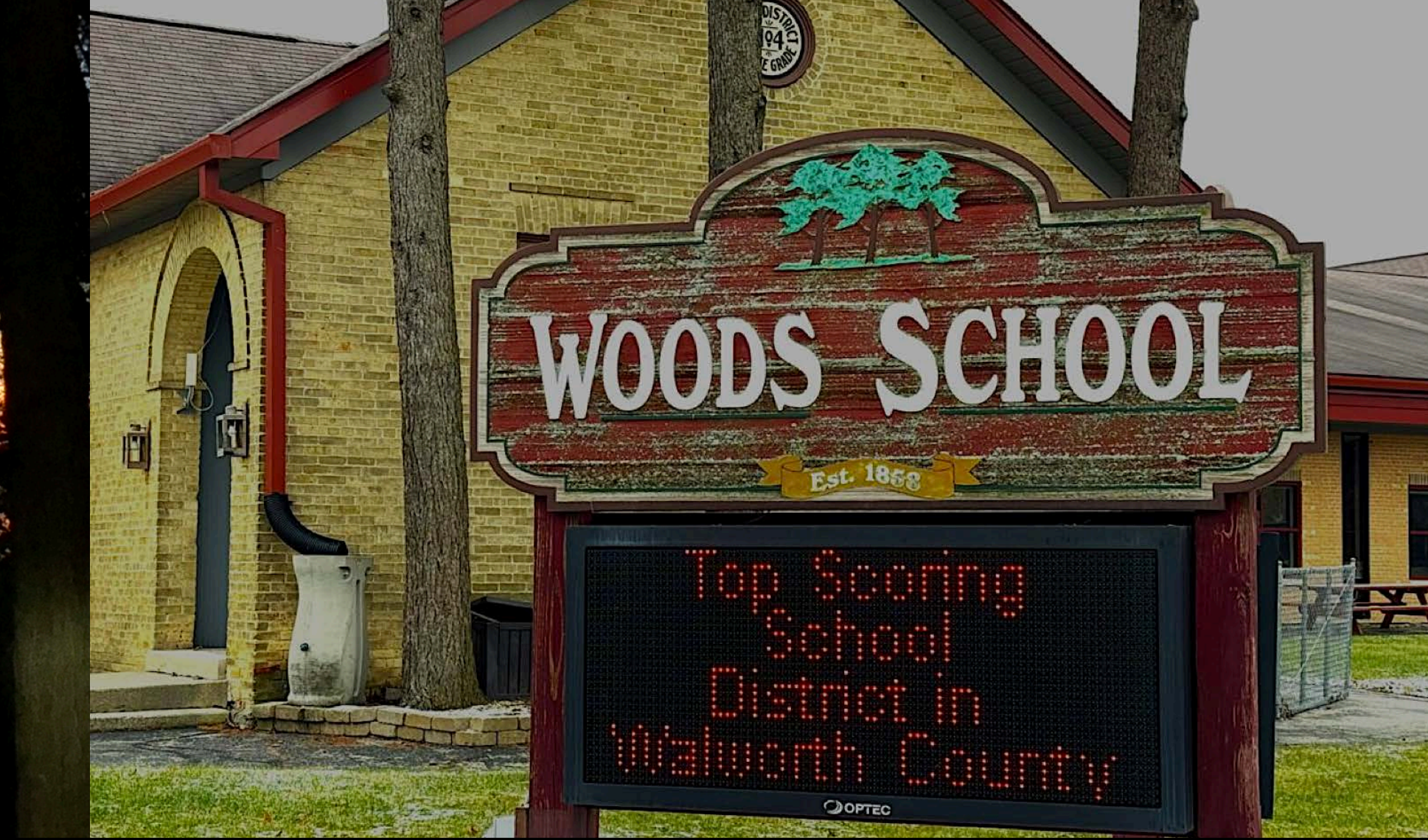
Roof replacement Sept. 2024





\$ 400,000- Remove and Replace the Existing ADA Front Ramp with an elevator giving access to the upper and lower levels of the Town Hall (currently the lower level is not ADA accessible).





Town of Geneva, WI
VOTE NOVEMBER 5th
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