

The Oak Creek-Franklin School Board is set to vote tonight on preliminary approval of an enormous \$27 million bond issue for so-called energy efficiency expenditures. The action would be illegal after January 1 thanks to action by the state legislature ending the ability of school districts to get around spending limits and referendum requirements by calling the spending "energy efficiency related." The resolution the board is voting on even states that the plan must be approved before the end of the year when the law changes. Final approval is planned for December 11.

The legislature this year passed, and Governor Walker signed, budget language that ends the abuse of the energy efficiency loophole by school districts but it doesn't have an effective date until January 1. Oak Creek-Franklin is therefore putting together an enormous spending package and seeking to pass it before the end of the year. After January 1 the district would need voter approval in a referendum to do it.

The resolution being voted on tonight doesn't even specify how any of the money will be spent!

Mark Belling
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