

# 10 facts

## every voter should know



This Election Day, voters in the White Bear Lake Area School District will be asked to renew an operating levy that is expiring.

*Here are 10 facts every voter should know on November 7:*



1.

The local operating levy approved by voters in 2011 is expiring.

In 2011, voters approved an operating levy to improve class sizes and programs throughout White Bear Lake Area School District. This levy is expiring, and without renewal, the district will lose approximately 15% of its annual revenue.

2.

A successful levy renewal will not increase current taxes.

The School Board voted unanimously to ask voters to renew the expiring levy at the same level as the 2011 question.

3.

The School Board discussed various options before deciding on the renewal request.

The School Board had various options with the expiration of the current levy. Choices included:

- Asking voters to increase authority
- Asking voters to renew current authority

Respecting the voters' current support, the Board decided to ask for the same level of funding that schools have been receiving.

4.

We are not alone.

99% of Minnesota school districts have local operating levies. These districts, like ours, depend on local support to maintain quality educational programs.

5.

A successful levy will help provide a decade of stable funding.

If voters renew White Bear's expiring levy on November 7, schools will continue to receive levy support. This funding allows the district to offer comprehensive, rigorous programs that students need and parents and residents expect from their local schools. Our goal is to continue to improve, but within a relatively stable budget. The levy renewal will allow us to do so for the next decade.

6.

Failure to renew the levy will result in a \$14 million reduction in revenue.

With the loss of this revenue, class sizes could rise as teaching positions are eliminated, programs could be cut, and the district might need to operate with fewer and more crowded school sites.



7.

The district has increased opportunities for students.

Since the last levy referendum in 2011, the district has increased opportunities for students:

- Innovative programs provide individual advancement and support for students.
- District-wide world language, orchestra and gifted program offerings have expanded.
- Our high school students can choose from 42 college credit courses.
- Career Pathways programs are available to our high school students.
- The district's impressive graduation rate has continued to increase.

District parents and grandparents are saving \$1.9 million annually on college tuition - at no cost to the District or the taxpayers

8.

White Bear continues to be a good steward of the community's investment.

White Bear routinely makes difficult budget reductions and finds innovative solutions to live within its means.

- The district has a AA bond rating, which we have received from Standard and Poor's every year the district has applied since 2010.
- Our district received excellence in financial reporting awards from both the Association of School Business Officials and Government Finance Officers Association for 17 consecutive years.
- When recently surveyed, community showed strong support for the White Bear Lake Area Schools and a belief that "the district could be trusted to properly manage additional local tax revenue."
- Our many community and academic partnerships allow the district to provide enriched programming to our students that we could not afford on our own.

9.

The district's future is bright.

- The district's student enrollment numbers are strong, with continued growth projected in the next decade.
- The district began work on a new Strategic Plan in the fall of 2017.
- A Comprehensive Facilities Planning process will get underway during the 2017-18 academic year.

10.

You have opportunities to learn more about the local operating levy renewal.

- Attend public meetings
  - **Thursday, September 28**  
7 p.m., District Center
  - **Wednesday, October 4**  
7 p.m., Vadnais Heights Elementary
  - **Thursday, October 5**  
7 p.m., Hugo City Hall
- Visit our websites
  - [www.isd624.org](http://www.isd624.org)
  - [www.isd624.org/localoperatinglevyrenewal](http://www.isd624.org/localoperatinglevyrenewal)
- Contact us
  - [LocalOperatingLevyRenewal@isd624.org](mailto:LocalOperatingLevyRenewal@isd624.org)
  - Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak, Superintendent  
651-407-7563
  - Tim Wald, Asst. Sup. for Finance & Operations  
651-407-7515

Voting Options:

- **SEPTEMBER 22ND: ABSENTEE VOTING BEGINS.**  
Voters can go to the County website to print the absentee ballot application. Once completed, they can submit to the County in person, by mail, email, or fax.
- **OCTOBER 31ST - NOVEMBER 6TH: VOTING EARLY.**  
Ramsey County will have locations available for individuals to vote early. Ramsey County Library - White Bear Lake will serve as a Vote Early polling place.
- All information on Elections and Voting can be found at <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/elections-voting>

