



Pelican Rapids Public Schools

"We Learn for Life"

OPERATING LEVY - NOV. 5, 2019

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION ISD #548

The board of Independent School District No. 548 (Pelican Rapids Public Schools) has proposed to increase its general education revenue by \$315 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. **BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**

Pelican Rapids and 37 other school districts are going to the voters for an increase in operating funds. Why? One of the factors is that 93 percent of Minnesota's 332 school districts receive less aid per pupil today than they did in 2003. According to Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA), "Over the past 17 years, Minnesota school district general fund revenue per pupil trailed inflation by \$121 per pupil in constant FY 2020 dollars, according to a new analysis by MREA. State aid has declined nearly \$1,500 over the same timeframe while levies have increased \$1,377."

Is the District committed to fiscal responsibility?

The Pelican Rapids Public Schools is asking the voters to approve a \$315 per pupil increase. Taxpayers would **NOT** pay a flat fee of \$315.00. If approved, the District will receive an increase of \$303,903 in funding. This amount is divided among district property owners based on the market value of their property. As an example, taxes will increase \$69.44 per year (\$5.79 per month) on a property value of \$150,000.

What efforts have been made to ensure fiscal stability?

The school board and administration are committed to being good stewards with taxpayer dollars. The School District has made dramatic reductions of \$1,050,000 for the 2019-20 school year by reducing administration, staff, supplies, pupil support services, technology services and equipment. This represents over 10.74% of the General Fund. It is anticipated that without the Levy an additional \$750,000 of expenses will be reduced for the next school year. The funds generated by the levy would minimize the impact of additional reductions on instructional programs.

Who will pay for an operating levy?

Owners of property in the Pelican Rapids Public Schools will pay for this operating levy based on the property value owned with the following exceptions: For agricultural property (both homestead and non-homestead), the taxes for the proposed referendum will be based on the value of the house, garage and surrounding one acre of land only. There will be no referendum taxes paid on the value of other agricultural lands and buildings. For seasonal residential recreational property (i.e. cabins), there will be no taxes paid for the proposed operating levy.

Why is the operating levy so important?

The Pelican Rapids Public Schools believe that our students are our top priority. The District continues to build a strong foundation for our students. Pelican Rapids Viking Elementary was recently validated as a Minnesota School of Excellence. Over the last five years, student achievement demonstrated growth beyond the state average. Funds raised through this levy will help the District to continue to prepare our students for career, college, and lifelong learning.

How will the additional funds be used?

The additional funds will be used to offset \$303,093 of the proposed \$750,000 in upcoming budget reductions, which will help maintain the quality of instructional programs and opportunities for our students.

Why is an operating levy needed?

Pelican Rapids Public Schools cost of operating expenses – transportation, food service, utilities, buildings and grounds, instructional supplies, teacher and staff– have risen each year and Minnesota state aid has declined. Operating levy funds would be used for these general operating expenses necessary to educate our students.

What is an operating levy referendum?

School districts can ask voters to approve an operating levy to provide additional operational funding for local schools per Minnesota state law. Pelican Rapids Public Schools does not have a voter approved levy at this time.

What happens if the Operating Levy doesn't pass?

If the levy does not pass in 2019, Pelican Rapids Public Schools will be forced to implement dramatic budget reductions of approximately \$750,000 in instructional programs and staff.

State-wide Referendum Facts for 2019

- 239 out of the 332 Minnesota School Districts have an operating levy in effect.
- The average referendum of the 239 Minnesota School Districts is \$985.10 per pupil.
- State funding formula has not kept up with inflation.

HOW IS THE INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY TAX DETERMINED?

The operating levy will generate \$303,093 based on student enrollment. This amount is then divided among district property owners based on the market value of their property. In the table below, you will find the annual dollar amount for typical residential homesteads, apartments, commercial-industrial properties, and most other classes of property within the school district. As an example, *taxes will increase \$69.44 per year (\$5.79 per month) on a property value of \$150,000.*

<u>Referendum Property Market Value</u>	<u>Tax Increase</u>
\$75,000	\$34.72
\$100,000	\$46.29
\$125,000	\$57.87
\$150,000	\$69.44
\$200,000	\$92.59
\$250,000	\$115.73
\$300,000	\$138.88
\$350,000	\$162.03
\$400,000	\$185.18
\$450,000	\$208.32
\$500,000	\$231.47
\$700,000	\$347.20
\$1,000,000	\$462.94

Who can vote?

Any eligible voter, residing in the school district may vote at said election. A voter must be registered to vote; an unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on Election Day.

Where and when do I vote on Election Day – Tuesday, November 5, 2019?

Pelican Rapids City Hall
315 N. Broadway
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572