

# Adrian Public Schools - ISD 511

## **2018 Operating Referendum Q & A**

### **Why is the District seeking an increase in the operating levy?**

- Since 2009 the number of resident students has sharply declined from 502 to 397 students. Referendum revenue is based on the number of resident students. **The loss of 105 students equates to an approximate annual loss of \$780,000 in combined State aid and referendum revenue.**
- We desire to maintain a solid curriculum for our students and to ensure our students have access to technology that is current and relevant to their future.
- We have an ongoing need to attract and retain staff during a time when there is a nation-wide teacher shortage. Locally, the teacher shortage has forced us to compete with two, larger neighboring districts when it comes to pay and benefits.
- State funding has not kept pace with inflation and the referendum helps fills the gap.

### **Has the District made budget cut?**

- We made major cuts in our staff between 2004 to 2010, which reduced the budget by \$670,000. Those reductions in teachers, support staff, and administration helped keep our operational costs at very efficient levels. According to Minnesota Department of Education data, Adrian is below the State and Southwest Minnesota spending averages when it comes to our per pupil ADM operational costs for schools with similar enrollment.

### **What other measures has the board taken to increase revenue or reduce operating cost in past years?**

- We increased extracurricular fees for students.
- We increased gate fees.
- We sold surplus District property in 2008.
- We made energy saving remodeling improvement to the MS/HS in 2005 reducing fuel usage by 60% and utilities usage by 40% per year.
- We began replacing fluorescent lighting in 2014 with energy saving LED lights.

### **Is the District asking for the maximum levy allowed?**

- No, not at the present time.
- The maximum operating levy (all authority) allowed by law for our District is capped at \$2,024.89 per pupil unit.
- District 511 is considering a \$1,200 per resident pupil referendum that replaces our current referendum of \$679.26.

## How does our current referendum levy compare with a sample of other school districts with similar enrollment in southwest Minnesota?

School	Dollars Per Pupil Combined Authority
Fulda	\$2600
WWG	\$1750
MACCRAY	\$1445
Ellsworth	\$1421
RRC	\$1417
Mt. Lake	\$1371
Yellow Medicine East	\$1371
HBC	\$1197
Round Lake/Brewster	\$1065
Heron Lake-Okabena	\$1603
Canby	\$976
MCC	\$926
Lac Qui Parle	\$866
Tracy	\$760
<b>Adrian</b>	<b>\$679</b>
Edgerton	\$609
Dawson-Boyd	\$569
RTR	\$300
BOLD	\$300
Minneota	\$300

Source: MDE > Districts, Schools and Educators > School Finance > General Education > Referendum

### What does the new levy proposal include?

- Revoke the current per pupil operating levy of **\$679.26**.
- Authorize a new 10-year operating levy of **\$1,200** per pupil unit, which will raise an estimated **\$750,000** a year in revenue starting in fiscal year 2019-20. **This is an estimated \$325,000 increase over the current levy.**
- We estimate that approximately **33%** of the **\$750,000**, or approximately **\$250,000**, will come from the State in the form of equalization aid.
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### What will be my estimated tax increase if referendum is passed?

- A home with a market value of \$75,000 will see an estimated tax increase of \$179, which amounts to approximately 49 cents a day.
- A home with a market value of \$100,000 will see an estimated tax increase of \$239, which amounts to just under 65 cents a day.
- For agricultural landowners, only the house, garage and one acre of land of an agricultural homestead are taxed for operating levies. **All other agricultural land is exempt from this levy.**

**How do our general fund revenues and expenditures, per student ADM, compare with a sample of other school districts with similar enrollment in southwest Minnesota?**

School	Revenue Per Pupil/ ADM	Expenditure Per Pupil/ADM
Fulda	\$15,260	\$14,855
Heron Lake-Okabena	\$14,234	\$14,831
WWG	\$13,972	\$13,922
Ellsworth	\$13,750	\$13,466
YME	\$13,326	\$12,862
MACCRAY	\$13,190	\$12,355
Mt. Lake	\$13,174	\$12,267
Lac Qui Parle	\$13,038	\$13,049
Cedar Mt.	\$12,810	\$12,878
RRC	\$12,562	\$10,793
Edgerton	\$12,459	\$12,266
RTR	\$12,380	\$11,901
HBC	\$12,319	\$10,909
Canby	\$12,205	\$10,895
Dawson-Boyd	\$12,009	\$12,114
Tracy	\$11,885	\$12,161
MCC	\$11,543	\$12,198
<b>Adrian</b>	<b>\$11,074</b>	<b>\$11,222</b>
Minneota	\$10,980	\$10,883
BOLD	\$10,939	\$11,495
Lakeview	\$10,927	\$10,655
Round Lake/Brewster *	\$10,656	\$9,656
<b>STATE WIDE AVG.</b>	<b>\$12,366</b>	<b>\$12,249</b>

\* Only serves grades K-6

Source:MDE > Data Center > Data Reports and Analytics, Consolidated Financial Report 2017

**For more information, please refer to the heading REFERENDUM 2018 on the home page of District web site, [www.isd511.net](http://www.isd511.net) to use a tax calculator tool that will help you estimate the tax impact that a new referendum will have on your property.**

Please feel free to contact your school board members with any questions you may have regarding the referendum.

Ed Lenz, Chris Wolf, Robert Kunkel Jr., David Bullerman, Lisa Kruger, Les Madison

**Be sure to vote on November 6, 2018**