

NRHEG Public Schools  
306 Ash Avenue South  
New Richland, MN 56072

FIRST-CLASS  
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Permit No. 1  
New Richland, MN



**VOTE**  
**November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Empowering students with knowledge  
and skills to succeed**

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you for taking time to be informed about the November 3, 2020, operational referendum question to increase the general education revenue for the school district so that our school community can maintain as well as grow educational opportunities for our students. For more information, call 507-465-3206 or visit our Funding Referendum website at <https://www.nrheg.k12.mn.us/domain/711>



# Operational Referendum

**November 3, 2020**

NRHEG Public Schools is proud of who we are, the people we serve, and the people who provide services to students, families and our communities. We also believe strongly in offering a wide range of opportunities within the classroom and beyond the classroom to help our young people learn, grow, and have the most options and the best options available to them in the future.

The NRHEG Board of Education (BOE) unanimously approved asking voters for local financial support through an operating levy request on the November 3, 2020 ballot. A voter approved operational referendum gives voters local control to invest in their school district through a property tax increase.

The ballot question asks voters whether to approve a levy increase that would increase school funding by \$560 per pupil annually over a ten-year period. If voters approve the additional revenue, the tax impact on a \$125,000 home is projected to be about \$11.25/month. The increase in revenue, per student, to the school district would be about \$47/month.

The operating levy funding from a successful referendum would be used to:

- Maintain quality programming and learning opportunities for students
- Attract, retain, and fairly compensate high-quality staff
- Build a path to long-term financial stability

Be sure to go to the district's website for more information including the Tax Calculator at <https://www.nrheg.k12.mn.us/domain/711>

## BALLOT QUESTION

The board of Independent School District No. 2168 (New Richland-Hartland-Geneva Public Schools) has proposed to increase its general education revenue by \$560 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduce as provided by law.

## WHY NOW?

The BOE made the decision to ask voters for more revenue based on several factors including but not limited to:

- Increase in state aid over the past five years has not kept pace with the District's operational expenses, mandated purchases, and employee wages/benefits.
- Additional revenue is needed in order to maintain current programs and operational services.
- Schools throughout our region are investing more in their students than we are at NRHEG.
- As part of community surveys in 2018 and 2016, respondents identified priorities including:
  - Maintaining current class sizes and course offerings
  - Recruiting and retaining high-quality staff
  - Updating Career and Technical Education curriculum, equipment, and facilities
  - Sustaining curriculum replacement cycle
  - Utilizing latest technology in classroom
  - Expanding mental health services
  - Preparing students for life after high school including college and/or career
  - Increasing student achievement in literacy

The BOE has determined the increased revenue is needed in order to maintain and address the priorities listed above.

*"Seeking additional revenue from voters is the only option available for our school district if we want to maintain our current programming and services. Through careful planning, we have worked to address unfunded and underfunded needs for years. There has been a reluctance to approach the communities seeking this funding because the School Board has always wished to practice the highest level of stewardship with the resources provided."* Board Chair Rick Schultz

## WHAT WILL IT COST ME?

If voters approve the levy, the average homeowner (\$125,000 value home) would see school tax increases averaging \$11.25 per month.

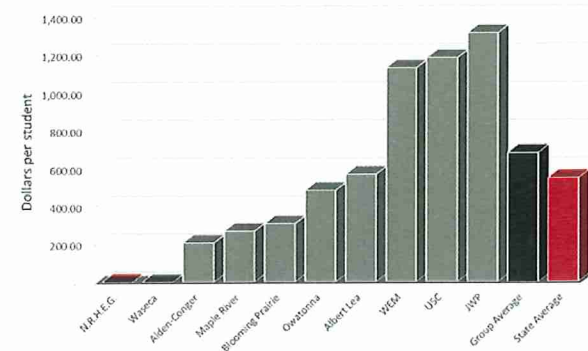
Tax Impact Summary								
Proposed Tax Rate is 0.107961%								
RMV Value	Annual	Monthly	RMV Value	Annual	Monthly	RMV Value	Annual	Monthly
\$ 30,000	32.39	2.70	100,000	107.96	9.00	\$ 175,000	188.93	15.74
\$ 50,000	53.98	4.50	125,000	134.95	11.25	\$ 200,000	215.92	17.99
\$ 75,000	80.97	6.75	150,000	161.94	13.50	\$ 250,000	269.90	22.49
						\$ 300,000	323.88	26.99

- Agricultural Land and Seasonal Recreational Property not affected since they are not taxed for referenda.
- Ag Homesteads pay based on the value of the house, garage and 1 acre of land only, in accordance with the table above.
- RMV = Referendum Market Value

## HOW DO WE COMPARE?

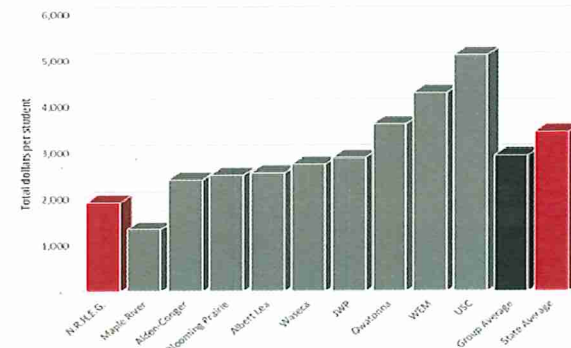
Currently, our district does not have any additional local funding, that has been approved by our voters, to pay for the costs of operating our schools. Operating levies provide critical funding for classrooms, instruction and other operating costs. Of the 332 school districts in Minnesota, 226 currently have locally approved operating levies, providing important financial support for their schools. In a report recently published for the 2019-2020 school year ([schoolsforequity.org](http://schoolsforequity.org)), NRHEG Public Schools ranked 276th out of 332 school districts in revenue received. The graph below shows where NRHEG Public Schools is positioned compared to regional school districts.

Voter Approved Operation Levies (2020-2021)



The graph below compares the total tax impact of regional school districts. The February 2020 Maple River Schools successful building referendum is not included.

Comparison of Pay 2020 Total Levy per ADM (Student)



## OPERATING VERSUS BUILDING NEEDS

Needs associated with this operational referendum should not be confused with taxpayer support in approving the April 2019 building referendum. The 2019 referendum focused on addressing needed classroom repairs, safety improvements and deferred maintenance. The November 2020 operating referendum addresses operational services, programming and other ongoing or recurring costs that cannot be sustained within the current revenue limits received from the state and local taxpayers.