



Community to vote on operating levy increase

Cast your vote on November 5

We are grateful for local support of Westonka Public Schools, which has brought positive growth, recognition and success to our students and community. On Nov. 5, 2019, Westonka residents will be asked to vote on a *revoke and replace* levy with a tiered payment structure. The district currently has three voter-approved operating levies in place, totaling \$1,096 per pupil. These will be replaced with a single, 10-year levy with a two-step increase.

If the levy passes, the district will:

- **Stay competitive** with neighboring school districts in class sizes and programming
- **Maintain the lowest school taxes** in Hennepin County
- **Accelerate progress** in Westonka's award-winning schools
- **Secure long-term funding** to avoid impactful reductions

If the levy fails:

- **\$750,000 in reductions** are projected to be needed for 2020-2021—equivalent to about 15 teachers

Securing 10 years of stable funding

The new levy will provide 10 years of stable funds needed for growth and continuous improvement. State funding has not kept up with inflation over the last decade, and unfunded federal and state mandates divert funds from other needed programming. Westonka makes annual budget reductions to help close this funding gap; however, even with reductions and enrollment growth, the past two years the district has dipped into its fund reserve to protect class sizes and programs.

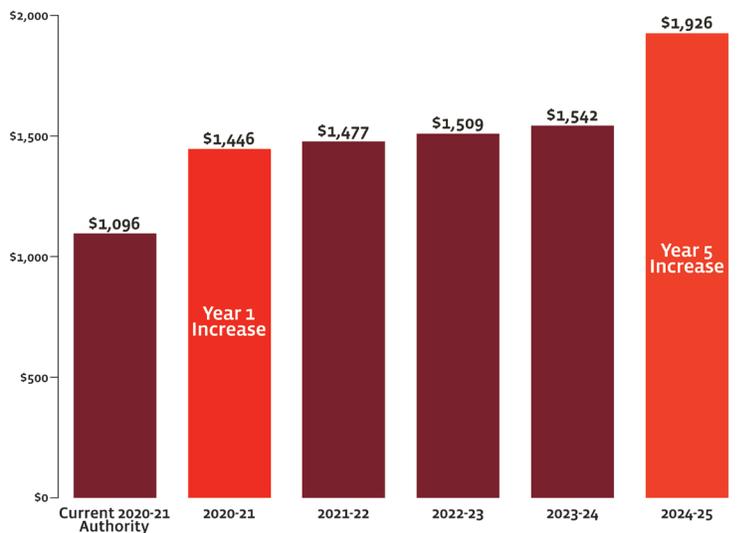
Using an “emergency fund” to balance the budget is not sustainable. Furthermore, the enrollment growth the district has relied on for revenue in recent years is projected to level off in 2023. Without a long-term funding solution, significant reductions impacting student learning will be required.

Responsible tiered approach

The single, 10-year levy will be implemented in two steps and will adjust for inflation, providing long-term revenue and lessening the tax impact for residents. Instead of asking for a larger increase up front, this levy accesses funds only as they are needed by the district.

If the levy passes, the current levy authority will increase to \$1,446 per pupil for taxes payable 2020 (generating approx. \$1 million in additional revenue) and to \$1,926 for taxes payable 2024 (generating an additional \$1 million). This will gradually bring Westonka's per pupil funding closer to that of neighboring school districts Orono and Minnetonka.

Estimated Referendum Revenue Per Pupil



Source: Ehlers

Learn more: www.westonka.k12.mn.us/referendum

securing our future

nov. 5 operating levy referendum

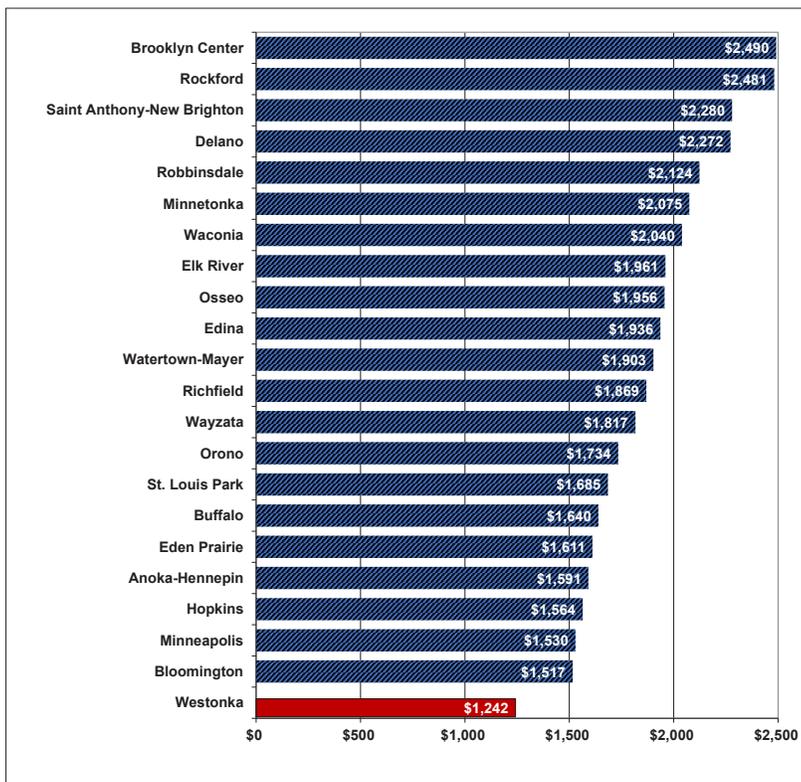
A great return on your investment

Westonka has the lowest school taxes in Hennepin County with top-in-state results.

Even with the passage of a bond referendum in 2016 to build an activity center and performing arts center on the high school campus, Westonka Public Schools continues to have the lowest total school taxes in Hennepin County. Westonka has not asked for an increase to its operating levy in more than 10 years, with the last increase coming in 2007. If the new levy is approved in 2019, Westonka will *still* have the lowest school taxes in the county.

Westonka School District No 277

Total School Property Taxes, Payable 2019, on a Home with an Estimated Market Value of \$377,000



Source: School Tax Reports



Westonka Average Taxable Market Value	Estimated Monthly Tax Impact	
	Taxes Payable 2020 (Increase #1)	Taxes Payable 2024 (Increase #2)
\$377,000	+\$7.50 per month	+\$6.50 per month

Source: Ehlers. More tax information available on the Referendum page on the district website.

Learn more: www.westonka.k12.mn.us/referendum

A tradition of excellence

FIVE FAST FACTS

- 1 Westonka is currently listed as the No. 16 “Best School District” in Minnesota by Niche.com
- 2 U.S. News & World Report ranks Mound Westonka High School as the 12th “Best High School” in Minnesota
- 3 Westonka has long been recognized for high levels of financial accountability and transparency, receiving the 2019 School Finance Award
- 4 Westonka earned a strong Aaa rating on its 2016 bonds
- 5 In a 2019 class size study, Westonka had the lowest average elementary class size (20.88) out of 28 metro area and surrounding school districts

Learn more about the November 5 election

- Visit the Referendum page on the district website for school board candidate profiles, detailed tax charts and voting information
- Find your polling location, register to vote or print an early voting application on the Minnesota Secretary of State website: www.sos.state.mn.us
- Questions? Contact Westonka Superintendent Kevin Borg at borgk@westonka.k12.mn.us or (952) 491-8001