



ALEXANDRIA
Public Schools

VOTE

November 5, 2019

Our **Schools**. Our **Community**. Our **Future**.

2019 REFERENDUM - OPERATING LEVY

On November 5, residents of Alexandria Public Schools will be asked to vote on a request to increase school funding. If approved, the funding would help maintain the quality education currently offered.

WHAT IS AN OPERATING LEVY?

Operating levies provide essential funding for classrooms, teachers, instruction, utilities and other operating costs.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✔ Alexandria is one of the only school districts in the area without a voter-approved operating levy.
- ✔ State education funding has not kept pace with inflation or increasing costs for the past 15 years.
- ✔ Our district is in the bottom 10% of all MN school districts for general education funding, ranking 293 out of 328.
- ✔ This year's budget had a \$1.1 million shortfall. Deficit spending is not sustainable. We will have ongoing cuts without additional revenue.
- ✔ The estimated tax impact on the average homeowner (\$220,000 value) will be less than \$10 per month in year one.

PHASED-IN LEVY

The School Board chose a conservative approach that phases in funding over time, rather than increasing the levy all at once. The tax impact would also be phased in over the first three years of the levy, providing a more respectful and financially responsible approach.



IF VOTERS APPROVE

Enables the district to:

- ✔ Maintain or reduce class sizes
- ✔ Continue with specialist teachers in elementary, such as music, art and science
- ✔ Expand mental health support
- ✔ Maintain or expand real world work experiences at middle and/or high school

IF VOTERS DO NOT APPROVE

The District will need to:

- ✔ Increase class sizes
- ✔ Cut and/or reduce specialist teachers, such as music, art and science
- ✔ Reduce real world work programs and electives at middle and high school
- ✔ Implement more budget cuts

LEARN MORE

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