

GET READY TO VOTE!

The district wants all residents to learn as much as possible about the two referendum proposals and then cast an informed vote. You can participate in early voting or cast your ballot on **Tuesday, November 8, 2022**.



Vote early starting September 23, 2022

There are two early voting options, both available beginning Friday, September 23:

Vote early by mail: Apply to the state of Minnesota to have an absentee ballot mailed to your address. Visit www.sos.state.mn.us to get started. Once you receive the ballot, complete your ballot choice and mail it back to the state following the instructions provided.

Vote early in person: From 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, or from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5, visit the Eden Prairie City Center (8080 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie) to receive and complete your ballot.

For more details about early voting, visit www.epvote.org.

Vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8

Be sure to confirm your election day polling place before November 8 by clicking on "Find my polling place" at www.epvote.org.

Voting Requirements

Individuals must meet the following requirements to vote in this election:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be a resident of the school district and maintain residence in the district for 20 days immediately preceding the election

You also must be registered to vote. If you are not yet registered to vote, visit www.epvote.org to get started.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Here are a few frequently asked questions about the district's operating levy, capital project levy and overall finances. Looking for more? Find additional detailed FAQs at www.epvote.org.

When are the existing levies set to expire?

Both levies are set to expire after the 2024-25 school year. Proposing these initiatives now, in advance of their expiration, provides the district with opportunities to engage the community and ensure financial stability for at least the next five years.

What is the status of the district's finances?

The district is in a very good financial condition. Thanks to strong financial stewardship, the district has not had to reduce program offerings or increase class sizes for the past eight years, and the new operating levy would continue this trend for at least another five years. The district also regularly takes actions to reduce costs and to operate as efficiently as possible.

What was the process to determine these referendum proposals?

Eden Prairie Schools has been reviewing options and engaging the community ahead of proposing the two-question referendum in the November 8, 2022 election. As part of its ongoing stewardship of district finances, the School Board began to discuss the possibility of conducting a referendum election in 2021 and launched an in-depth process to engage the community and explore options. The Board ultimately chose to put the two-question referendum on the ballot during a November election in order to maximize participation in this important decision for our future.

What is the difference between an operating levy, capital project levy, and bond referendum?

Levies for Learning: An operating levy generates revenue to be used for the day-to-day costs of providing education, including maintaining quality academic programming and low class sizes. A capital project levy (also known as a technology levy) generates revenue to pay for technology equipment, software, online security, infrastructure, staff and training.

Bonds for Building: A bond referendum generates revenue to pay for facilities construction and renovation and must be used to fund facilities and grounds projects. It cannot be used to pay for academic programming or low class sizes.

Didn't we just approve a referendum in 2019?

In 2019, our community overwhelmingly approved a bond referendum that provided funds to renovate Central Middle School and transition sixth grade students to the middle school. The bond also included funding for safety and security improvements at all school sites and the transition of 4-year-old preschool students to elementary schools. Funds from a bond referendum cannot be used to fund general operations of the district, so money generated from the 2019 referendum could only be used for renovations to buildings, not for operational costs.

Would Eden Prairie school property taxes remain among the lowest in the southwest metro and well below the metro and state averages if these measures pass?

Passage of Question 1 would keep the district's property taxes lower than the average for the metro area and among the lowest in the southwest metro area.

REFERENDUM SPECIAL EDITION

Open this edition to learn more about the two referendum questions on the November 8, 2022 ballot.

Prepared and paid for by Eden Prairie Schools. This publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot question.

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WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

This fall, our community will be asked to invest in our schools to ensure financial stability and academic excellence for years to come. The referendum questions on the **Nov. 8, 2022 ballot** are:



Question 1: Revoke the current **operating levy** authority of \$1,815.27 per student and replace it with a levy of \$2,075.27 per student, which will maintain **low class sizes** and **personalized learning**.



Question 2: Renew the previously-approved **capital project levy**, which provides **technology, security** and **infrastructure** across the district.

WHAT'S THE TAX IMPACT?

If approved, Question 1 would cost under **\$8 per month** for an Eden Prairie home valued at \$430,000.



Since Question 2 asks to renew a levy already in place, approval will result in no property tax increase.

Learn more at epvote.org

OPERATING LEVY

Academic Excellence for Each Student Every Day

The operating levy question, Question 1, proposes to **revoke** the current levy authority of

REVOKE ~~\$1,815.27~~
per pupil and **replace** it with a levy of
\$2,075.27 **REPLACE**

per pupil. Voters are asked to “revoke,” or end, the current levy and “replace” it with a new levy. This is different than the proposed renewal of the capital project levy, which simply renews the existing levy.

The cost of the approval of Question #1 will be **under \$8 per month** – about \$95 per year – in property taxes for a home in Eden Prairie valued at \$430,000.

Extending a Promise

The 2014 operating levy promised to **avoid reductions to programs and services for at least five years**.

2022-2023 is year eight.



A new operating levy will:

- Keep our K-5 class sizes among the lowest in the southwest metro, currently made possible by funds from the 2014 operating levy
- Provide financial stability for engaging, high-quality student programming
- Continue and expand college and career-focused academic options
- Continue to attract and keep the best teachers and other staff to inspire our students
- Maintain mental health support for students

If approved, the new operating levy will be in place for **10 years**.

What happens if the operating levy is not approved?

If the operating levy is not approved in November 2022, the district will conduct another election prior to when the levy expires at the end of the 2024-25 school year. **Budget reductions greater than \$1 million will likely be needed for the 2023-24 school year if the levy is not approved.**

CAPITAL PROJECT LEVY



Crucial Technology for Inspired Leaders

The capital project levy question, Question 2, proposes to renew the same capital project levy (otherwise known as a technology levy) that was approved in 2013.

Because this proposal is renewing an existing levy, its approval would result in **no increase in property taxes** for district residents.

Why is our capital project levy important?

Our capital project levy, otherwise known as the “technology levy,” supports the district’s technology structure, including 1:1 student devices and technologies used by teachers. Because funds from the 2013 capital project levy were available, Eden Prairie Schools had the devices and infrastructure in place to respond immediately when the COVID-19 pandemic required schools to find new ways to keep students connected to their peers and their teachers. Renewal of this levy allows us to be prepared for future unforeseen changes in student learning.



A renewed capital project levy will continue to:

- Provide our students with a technological advantage in a modern and future-focused learning environment
- Keep our students safe by funding school security technologies
- Support the district’s technology infrastructure, including student devices, classroom technologies, and teacher training
- Keep student and staff data safe by funding our work to reduce the likelihood of cyber security attacks
- Maintain and update critical technology infrastructure that is aging and nearing end of life, like fiber infrastructure and servers

If approved, the new capital project levy will be in place for **10 years**.

What happens if the capital project levy is not renewed?

If the capital project levy is not renewed, budget reductions and adjustments will be needed to make up for the loss in revenue provided by the levy.