

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Willmar Public School District 2018 General Operating Levy

### **Why is this issue on the ballot?**

Due to poor economic conditions in Minnesota, as well as nationally in 2008, WPS passed an operating levy of \$221.36 per pupil. That levy is expiring, so a renewal is on the ballot to sustain current levels of referendum revenue. The WPS School Board exercised the authority granted by Minnesota Statute, to approve **\$176.26** of the original **\$221.36** per pupil from the 2008 referendum and passed a resolution to ask voters to approve the balance, which is **\$45.10** per pupil, thereby putting this question on the ballot for the **November 6, 2018** election.

### **What will happen to the School District if this levy is not renewed?**

The WPS referendum revenue will decrease by about \$227,000 per year. The District's budget would need to be adjusted to offset the decrease in revenue. Reducing expenses can happen in numerous ways, including eliminating programs or increasing class sizes.

### **If this levy is approved, what impact will it have on my property taxes?**

Since this is a renewal, approval would mean **your taxes would remain the same or even be reduced slightly**. For example, it is estimated that a home valued at \$100,000 would see no increase or decrease to taxes if the measure is approved, and a home valued at \$200,000 would see an estimated tax decrease of one dollar per year.

### **If this levy is approved, what impact will it have on my farmland?**

An operating levy only impacts the homestead, which is the house, garage, and one acre of land. Other farmland is not taxed for operating levy purposes.

### **How will the funds from this levy be used?**

The funds will be used to sustain current staff and programs. Since the referendum revenue the District receives would remain constant, the funds will not be used to expand programs.

### **How long will this levy last, if it's renewed?**

Ten years.

### **Will Willmar Public Schools be putting any similar issues on the ballot in the future?**

Since the School Board has the authority to decide whether to pass a resolution for a levy referendum, it is not yet known. There is an additional operating levy that will expire soon, so it is possible that a similar issue could be placed on the ballot in the near future.

