REFERENDUM 2022
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

GENERAL ELECTION AND FINANCE QUESTIONS

1.   What is an operating levy referendum?

An operating levy (also known as a referendum revenue request or excess operating levy referendum) is a procedure which allows school districts to raise additional funds to supplement regular state education funding. It helps fund day-to-day operations within the schools, which includes staff salaries, classroom supplies, instructional assistants, instructional materials, utility bills, building custodians, and district-wide functions such as accounting, payroll, and technology.

2.   How is an operating referendum different from a bond referendum?

An operating levy asks voters to support additional funds for day-to-day school operating costs. This could include hiring staff, paying utility costs, purchasing learning materials or paying for other operational activities. A bond referendum asks voters to support using bond money for the purpose of building projects. While both require voter support the two different funding sources can only be used for the required intent and are completely separate from one another.

An operating levy will not be used to build new school buildings. This levy is not a bond. Bonds build buildings, and levies are for learning.

3.   How will this affect my taxes?

Please use the tax calculator on the Levy Referendum web page where any taxpayer can enter their property value and see their actual impact.

4.   *Who pays for this?*

Homestead and businesses. The only effect for ag is homestead and 1 acre as any other resident.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE REFERENDUM AND VOTING

1.   What will the referendum be used for?

Operating levy referendum will be used for critical school operations:
- *Instructional materials*
- *Classroom supplies*
- *Staffing*
- *Student support programs*
- *Enhance and maintain current course and program offerings*

2.   What is the question on the ballot?

School District Question 1

Approval of New School District Referendum Revenue Authorization

The board of Independent School District No. 690 (Warroad), Minnesota has proposed to increase the School District's general education revenue by $460.00 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation. The proposed new referendum revenue authorization would be first levied in 2022 for taxes payable in 2023 and applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

Shall the new referendum revenue authorization proposed by the Board of Independent School District No. 690 (Warroad), Minnesota be approved?

3.   Why is the District asking again?

- *Failed vote in 2021*
- *The District currently has no voter approved operating levy authority.*
- *Increased operational costs and overhead*

4.   What will happen if the referendum doesn't pass?
The district will be forced to cut staff and programs directly affecting student opportunities.

5.   *I do not have any students in the district. How would the referendum be meaningful to me?*
Schools built on a solid foundation where quality student learning is taking place contribute to a thriving and prosperous community, protecting your home and property investment. Even if you don't have children in the schools, this issue is important to you because when the quality of schools increases, the quality of the community increases.

6.   How can I get involved with helping the referendum pass?
The District can only provide information about the referendum and the process that led to it. Oftentimes, a separate independent citizen committee forms to promote the referendum and communicate why they believe it is important for the District.

7.   How can I learn more about the 2022 Levy Referendum?
We believe in informing our stakeholders and voters. For more information:

Visit:
https://www.warroad.k12.mn.us/

Email:
shawn_yates@warroad.k12.mn.us

Call:
Dr. Shawn W. Yates, Superintendent @ 218-386-6066

Visit our Referendum Webpage:
2022 Referendum Webpage

Attend a Community Information Session:
Tuesday, September 27, 2022 @ 6 p.m. - High School Theater