



Faribault Public Schools **Operating Levy**

Vote Early or on November 5, 2019.
Voters may vote early via absentee ballot.

At its July 22, 2019 meeting, the Faribault School Board voted unanimously to authorize a special election on Tuesday, November 5 for the community to vote on two ballot questions for an operating levy.

The operating levy questions seek to increase the district's local revenue authority to provide needed operating funds to institute a seven-period schedule at Faribault High School, and to provide additional student support and transportation.

The current voter-approved authority is \$827 per pupil unit (student). If Question 1 is approved, the voter-approved authority will be \$1,048 per pupil for taxes payable in 2020. If Questions 1 and 2 are approved, the voter-approved authority will be \$1,163 per pupil for taxes payable in 2020.

WHY ARE WE ASKING FOR A LEVY?

The state of Minnesota is not meeting its obligation to fund public schools and this lack of funding impacts the budgeting decisions in our school district. Our district made \$1.9 million in budget adjustments for the 2019-20 school year.

We are asking for this levy so we can provide all students with a greater opportunity to succeed and find their own Pathway to Excellence, whether they're entering the workforce or continuing their education. A seven-period schedule will put our students on an even playing field with students around the state.

ON THE BALLOT

QUESTION 1: Approval of Additional Revenue for High School Seven Period Day

Approval will increase general education revenue \$221 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation and be applicable for 10 years, beginning with taxes payable in 2020, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provide by law.

BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

QUESTION 2: Approval of Additional Revenue for Student Academic Support and Transportation

Approval will increase general education revenue \$115 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation and be applicable for 10 years, beginning with taxes payable in 2020, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provide by law.

BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

IF THE LEVY PASSES, priorities include offering our students:

- A seven-period day at the high school, which will allow them to take specialized electives in subject areas like manufacturing, robotics, and engineering. It will also decrease the need for students to take summer school to fit in all their desired classes during the school year.
- More access to innovative classes that are part of career and trade pathways, offer college credits, and allow them to explore areas of interest.
- More opportunities to gain experience through internships at local businesses and other community-based learning.
- Additional academic and mental health support.
- Additional transportation options.

WHERE WILL THE LEVY MONEY GO?

Switching to a seven-period day requires hiring additional staff who specialize in teaching the kinds of innovative classes we want to offer students in subject areas like manufacturing, robotics, engineering, and health and human services. These classes also require equipment that allows students to gain hands-on experience.

Additional staff are also needed to implement academy programs that will improve student performance.

Funds will also go toward providing three additional bus routes that will cut our busing radius for high school students from two miles to one mile.

Faribault High School is the only high school out of 12 in the Big 9 Conference still operating on a six-period schedule.

WHAT IS THE TAX IMPACT?

The amount the levy will increase your taxes depends on the market value of your home. Below are three examples based on homes valued at \$150,000, \$300,000 and \$450,000. The average home market value in Faribault is \$175,000. The tax impact on an average market value home will be \$99 per year, or just over \$8 per month.

Note: Agricultural property will pay taxes for the proposed referendum based ONLY on the value of the house, garage and one acre. Seasonal recreational property (i.e. cabins) will pay no taxes for the proposed referendum.



Faribault Home Market Value	\$150,000
Current School Property Taxes	\$450
Question 1 Monthly Change	\$4.67
Question 2 Monthly Change	\$2.42
Total Yearly Increase	\$85



Faribault Home Market Value	\$300,000
Current School Property Taxes	\$900
Question 1 Monthly Change	\$9.34
Question 2 Monthly Change	\$4.84
Total Yearly Increase	\$170



Faribault Home Market value	\$450,000
Current School Property Taxes	\$1,350
Question 1 Monthly Change	\$14.01
Question 2 Monthly Change	\$7.26
Total Yearly Increase	\$256

THE TAX IMPACT
on an average home valued at \$175,000 will be

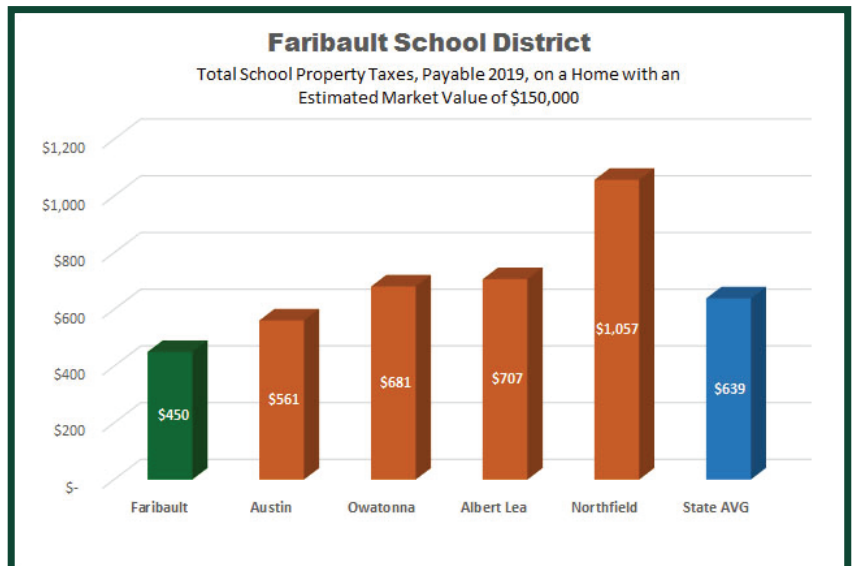
\$99
per year

or just over

\$8
per month.

HOW DO WE COMPARE TO OTHER DISTRICTS?

Faribault's school property taxes are 28 percent lower than the state average. If both levy questions are approved, Faribault's school property taxes will be 16 percent lower than the state average and lower than those in Austin, Owatonna, Albert Lea and Northfield.



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Our district made

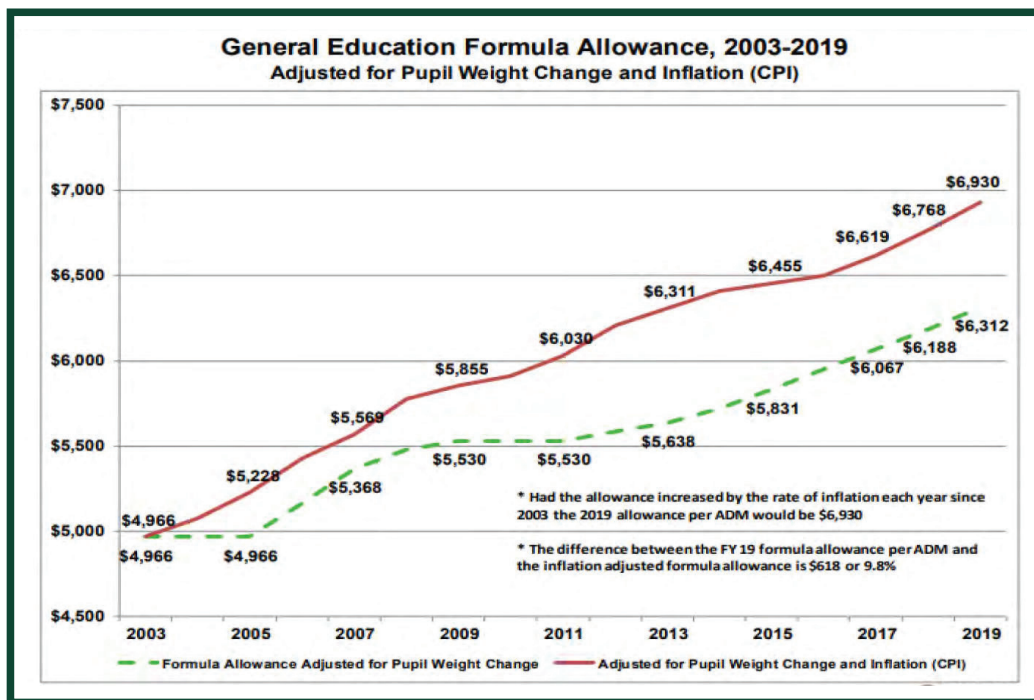
**\$1.9
MILLION**
in budget
adjustments

for the 2019-20
school year

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE LEVY FAILS?

- The high school will continue to operate on a six-period schedule that limits students' access to college-credit bearing courses, career and trade pathways, electives and community-based learning
- Further reductions in staff and increased class sizes
- Students will continue to take summer school to fit required classes into their schedules
- Students will not receive additional academic support through academy programming
- Students who live 1-2 miles from the high school will not have access to transportation

The state of Minnesota is not meeting its obligation to fund Minnesota public schools. This lack of funding impacts the budgeting decisions in our school district.



The basic funding
formula would be

**\$618
per pupil
HIGHER
TODAY**

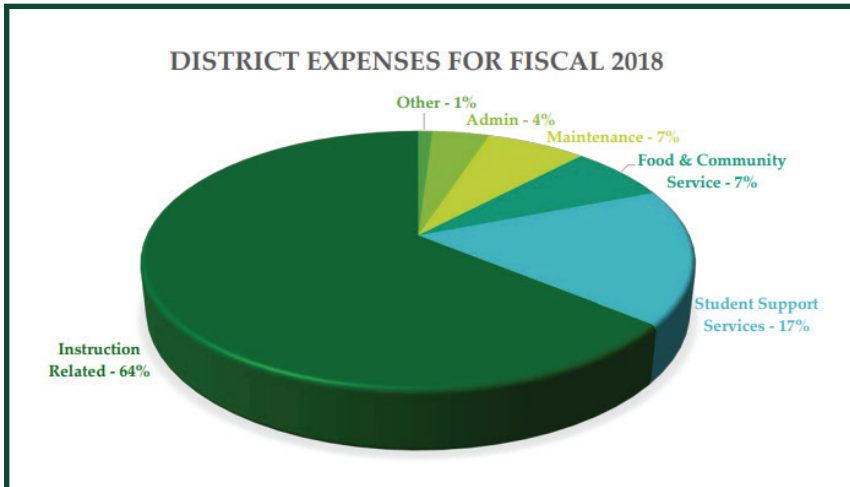
if it had kept up
with inflation.

- Basic education revenue allocated on a per-pupil basis is the primary source of general operating funds for school districts. The basic funding formula would be \$618 per pupil higher today if it had kept up with inflation.
- In Faribault, 81 percent of our general education revenue comes from the state of Minnesota.
- The lack of state funding is an unfortunate budget reality impacting school districts across the state.
- Our district made \$1.9 million in budget adjustments for the 2019-20 school year.

Faribault Public Schools currently receives over \$200 less in voter approved funds per pupil than the state average.

WHERE DOES MONEY GO IN OUR DISTRICT?

In District 656, we're proud that over 80 percent of our general fund expenditures are spent directly on students through instruction (teachers and curriculum) and support services (counseling and guidance).



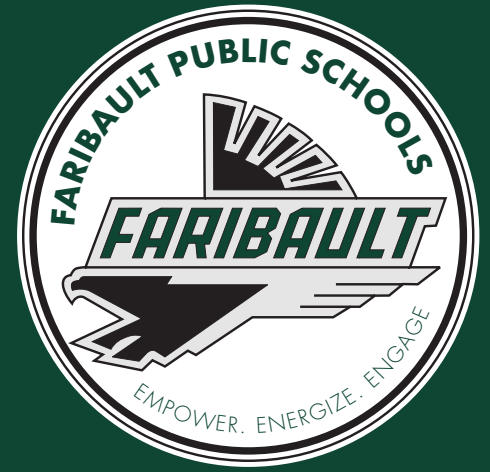
The lack of state funding is an unfortunate budget reality impacting our school district and other districts across the state.

HOW TO VOTE

Any eligible voter residing in the school district may vote at the combined polling place designated for their home precinct. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 5. A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on election day. 4H Building No. 17, 1900 Fairgrounds Drive Washington Center, 117 Shumway Avenue Buckham Community Center, 15 Division Street West Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1207 Prairie Avenue

Voters in District 656 can request an absentee ballot by contacting the Faribault Public Schools superintendent's office at 507-333-6010. Voters may also request an absentee ballot in person at the Faribault Public Schools district office, 710 17th street SW, Faribault, MN 55021, or by writing to us at that address.

Voters may also vote by absentee ballot in person at the Faribault Public Schools district office, 710 17th street SW, Faribault, MN 55021, from Sept. 20 to Nov. 1, 2019, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. We will also be open for absentee voting on Monday, Nov. 4, 2019, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Applications to receive an absentee ballot can be found at Faribault.k12.mn.us



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faribault.k12.mn.us