

What was the existing levy amount?

The district's current levy is \$449.03 per pupil, which generates \$192,723.68 in revenue. This expired at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. This revenue is a combination of state aid in the amount of \$118,581.88 and local levy of \$74,141.80. The new \$460 per pupil will generate revenue in the amount of \$197,432. This revenue is also a combination of state aid in the amount of \$116,664.17 and local levy in the amount of \$80,767.83.

Why is renewing this referendum authority important?

If not renewed, the district would lose \$197,432 plus inflation, in annual funding for essential services such as classroom staffing, supplies, utilities, transportation, and athletic/activity programming. The current operating levy is not keeping pace with inflation and rising costs, so increasing the levy each year at the rate of inflation is financially responsible. This will help retain high quality teachers, maintain optimal classroom pupil sizes, maintain academic programming and athletic and activity programs for all students.

How is an operating levy 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 material 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.

How is the inflation adjustment calculated?

The Minnesota Department of Education uses the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers for all items as provided by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. For each fiscal year, the actual inflation adjustment ratio and annual inflation will be finalized after the close of the fiscal year, and will be used to finalize aid and levy calculations.

Independent School District No.768
371 Hancock Avenue
PO Box 367
Hancock, MN 5622-0367
Phone (320) 392-5621



2022 Operating Levy Referendum Hancock Public School

**FAST FACTS
2022 Levy Guide
VOTE NOVEMBER 8TH**

**Our kids. Our community. Our future.
District tax payers will be asked to
replace an expiring operating levy.**

Hancock School is asking Hancock residents to vote on November 8th, 2022 to authorize renewed referendum levy authority. We have compiled a list of common questions about the operating levy referendum and their answers.

What is on the ballot?

There will be one question on the November 8th ballot: Approval of School District Referendum Revenue Authorization. The board of Independent School District No. 768 (Hancock Public Schools) has proposed to increase its general education revenue from \$449.03 per pupil to \$460 per pupil. The proposed referendum authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation and be applicable for ten years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

What is the tax impact to a homeowner?

A \$200,000 home would see an estimated tax impact of \$5.22 per year. The school district's current operating levy of \$449 per pupil expired at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. A homeowner was paying \$213.51 per year. For the renewed operating levy of \$460 per pupil, a homeowner would be paying \$218.72, an increase of \$5.22 per year. You can calculate the taxes for your property through the "Tax Calculator" on the district website.

http://ptax.bakertilly.com/client/default.aspx?customer_id=4jXuWO2eOC0%3D

TAX IMPACT ON THREE HOME VALUES FOR TAXES PAYABLE 2023			
Home Value	Expiring Authority	Renewed Authority	Net Change
\$150,000	\$160.13	\$164.04	\$3.91
\$200,000	\$213.51	\$218.72	\$5.22
\$300,000	\$320.26	\$328.08	\$7.82

Note: "The following properties are exempt from the operating referendum: agricultural property (except for house, garage and one acre); recreational property." "The operating referendum tax is spread on properties such as residential property, commercial property and only house, garage and one acre of agricultural property."

How does the Hancock Public School voter approved local operating levy compare with surrounding districts?

- Hancock Expired levy = \$449
- Hancock renewed levy = \$460
- Benson = \$629.29
- Chokio/Alberta = \$2,693.69
- LQPV = \$566.00
- Morris = \$273.13
- Minnewaska = \$257.97
- State Average = \$978.25

When was the last time Hancock Public School asked for an operating levy referendum?

In 2012, voters approved a \$800 per pupil operating levy for 10 years. The was reduced to \$449 per pupil when the State Legislators granted school board levy authority of up to \$350 per pupil. Consequently, the voter approved authority changed from \$800 per pupil to \$449 per pupil.

What will happen if the operating levy referendum fails?

Hancock Public School will lose \$197,432 plus inflation in revenue causing a reduction in classroom staffing, increased class sizes, increased student fees, and reduced programming opportunities for students.

Why now?

State revenue increases do not keep pace with inflation. If state aid had increased at the rate of inflation, schools would have received \$7,461 per student during the last school year. Instead school districts received \$6,863 per student, a difference of \$598 per student. (Source: MDE August 2020 inflation estimates.)

Who can vote?

All legal residents who reside in the Hancock School District and are at least 18 years of age can vote. You can register online at mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterRegistration

Where and when do I vote?

Election day is November 8th. Residents may find their polling location using the "Polling Place Finder" on the Minnesota Secretary of State website.



Voting Details by County

Hancock Public School exists within Stevens, Swift, and Pope counties. Please find additional election details for each county below:

Stevens County "Mail Ballot Precincts"

The following Hancock School District voting precincts within Stevens County are designated "Mail Ballot Precincts" for the November 8th election meaning that all votes must be cast by mail. Voters may either mail or drop off their completed ballots at the County Auditor's Office.

- Hancock
- Hodges Township
- Horton Township
- Moore Township

Swift County "Mail Ballot Precincts"

The following Hancock School District voting precincts within Swift County are designated "Mail Ballot Precincts" for the November 8th election meaning that all votes must be cast by mail. Voters may either mail or drop off their completed ballots at the County Auditor's Office.

- Fairfield Township
- Tara Township

Pope County "Mail Ballot Precincts"

The following Hancock School District voting precincts within Pope County are designated "Mail Ballot Precincts" for the November 8th election meaning that all votes must be cast by mail. Voters may either mail or drop off their completed ballots at the County Auditor's Office.

- Hoff Township

Pope County "In Person" Polling Places

• Walden Township
(Polling location is at the Blue Mounds Township Hall).
7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Be an informed voter, need more information?

<https://hancock.k12.mn.us/index.php/2022-operating-levy-referendum-facts/>
Contact: Superintendent Paul Carlson 320-392-5621 or paul.carlson@hancockisd768.org