



Chisago Lakes

SCHOOL DISTRICT 2144

AUGUST 2010

OPERATING LEVY REFERENDUM INFORMATION

Voters To Decide on November 2, 2010

Voters in the Chisago Lakes School District will be asked to approve an Operating Levy for Chisago Lakes Area Schools on November 2, 2010.

Two referendum questions will appear as part of the regular Election Day ballot on November 2nd and will contain information that explains to voters that the existing school operating levy is set to expire at the end of the 2011-2012 school year.

Question 1 asks voters to extend the \$400.96 per pupil unit that will be expiring. Passing that question will not raise school taxes as it extends existing tax authority.

Approval of Levy Will Help Maintain Quality Programs and Educational Excellence

The Chisago Lakes School District has been a good steward of the resources provided it through community support.

Regular budget reductions have occurred over the past two years due to the declining level of financial support from the state.

Question 2 for \$290.00 will keep the district from future deep cutting and will have new tax impact.

The existing levy generates \$400.96 per pupil unit in the district. Even 9 years ago, that amount was below the state average for an operating levy.

The current average operating referendum across the state is \$847.00 per pupil. **The total per pupil amount that the district is requesting is \$690.96 which is well below the state average.** Over 90% of school districts in the state have operating levies in place.

In the past, operating levies were used for extra expenses but now for most

The declining support of state revenue has forced the district to make cuts in programs and services.

Approving the new levy this November will allow the district to maintain quality programs and appropriate class sizes.

districts, including Chisago Lakes, it keeps districts from making cuts in basic services.

Vote on November 2nd at your regular polling place.

Special points of interest:

- ✓ **Question 1 extends the existing \$400.96 that was previously approved 9 years ago.**
- ✓ **Question 2 asks for an additional \$290.00.**
- ✓ **The funding that is received from this levy is critical for the day to day operations of the school district and existing programs depend on this levy.**
- ✓ **90% of public school districts in MN have operating levies.**

Prepared and paid for by Chisago Lakes Area Schools, 13750 Lake Boulevard, Lindstrom, Minnesota 55045. This publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot question.

Chisago Lakes Area Schools - *“Continue the Quality”*

- Over 95% High School Graduation Rate, Year After Year
- MN Comprehensive District Test Results Well Above State Averages in Math, Reading, and Writing
- Gifted and Talented Programs in All Elementary Schools
- Highly Qualified Professional Staff
- College Preparation Classes at the High School Including Advanced Placement Offerings & College In the Schools Courses
- Strong Emphasis on Literacy Skills
- All Day/Everyday Kindergarten Available as well as Other Kindergarten Program Options
- Olweus Anti-Bullying Program District Wide
- Excellent Fine Arts Programs Including Band, Choir, Drama, Visual Arts
- Enrichment Opportunities at the Middle School
- Early Childhood and Pre-School Programs Available
- New Six Classroom Addition at Taylors Falls Elementary School
- Comprehensive HS Curriculum Providing Business Education, Ag Science and Industrial Tech Offerings
- Breakfast Programs Available at all School Buildings
- Before and After School Kid’s Club Programs Allow Flexible Hours for Families
- “State Tournament” Caliber Athletic Offerings
- State of the Art Classroom Technology and Programming for Students
- NWEA - MAP Testing to Monitor Student Progress and Placement
- Summer Marching Band Opportunities
- Modern Pool and Diving Well for Student and Community Use - Swimming Lessons
- Renovated High School Athletic Complex - New Track and Turf Field - New Ball Diamonds for School and Community Use
- High School Greenhouse for Ag Education Students & Award Winning FFA Programs
- Excellent World Language Programs at the High School
- Strong Service Learning Projects at the Middle School - Solar Panels & H2O for Africa
- Outstanding Parent Involvement and Volunteerism