

Centered on Community.

2019 Referendum
Watertown - Mayer School District

Focused on Success.

FAST FACTS
2019 REFERENDUM GUIDE
VOTE NOVEMBER 5



In Watertown-Mayer “we take care of ourselves.” In other words, we like to keep it local. This referendum reflects those values. The taxes we pay will go directly to our schools, our kids, and stay in our community. Our schools are the center of our community and we are proud of our achievements. Our kids give back to their hometowns and we prepare them to be successful in whatever they do, wherever they go – it’s a bonus that many of them move back and we all benefit.

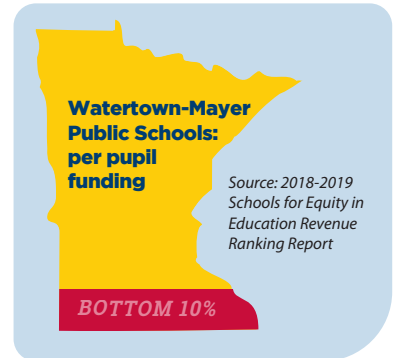
Survey Says

73%

of Watertown-Mayer residents agreed that ongoing investments in the schools are needed.

From a recent 2019 community opinion survey

WHY NOW? “The school district is integral to the quality of life of our community. It is important that we provide opportunities for our kids. If we don’t support ourselves, who will? No one is going to do it for us.” Steve Washburn, Mayor of Watertown



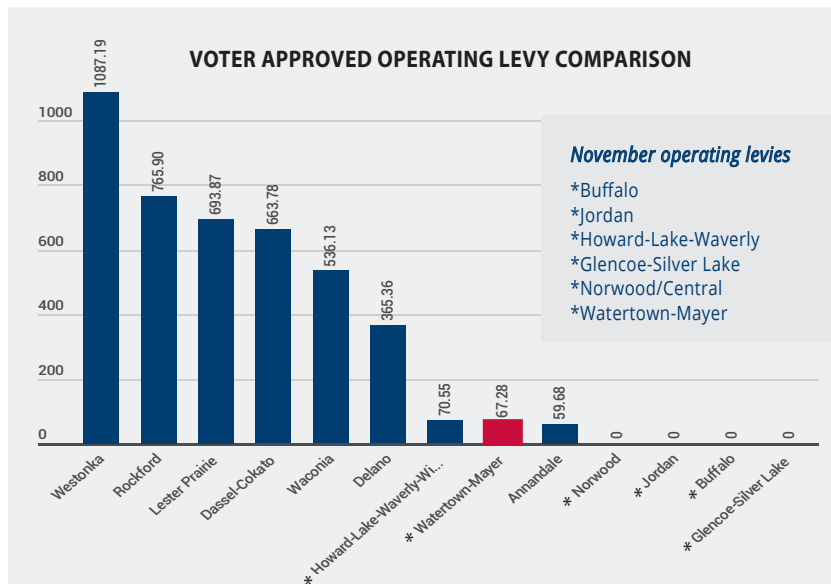
Funding challenges

- State revenue has *not kept pace with inflation*.
- Innovative programming, curriculum updates and teacher training identified in our “Profile of a Graduate” guiding framework *require additional funds*.*
- We are *forecasting \$1.5 million in budget reductions*, resulting in higher class size and fewer student programs, over the next three years.
- Watertown-Mayer Schools is in *the bottom ten percent* in per pupil funding in Minnesota (includes federal, state and local revenue sources).
- Watertown-Mayer has *among the lowest voter approved operating levies* in the area.

Facilities challenges

- *Outdated classrooms* and educational spaces in career, tech, ag and library areas.
- *Aging, worn infrastructure* inside and out of middle school and high school and outdated equipment.
- Outdoor education areas and athletics fields are at the *end of their useful life*.
- Driveways and parking areas at the middle/high school *pose a safety risk* to pedestrians due to congestion and poor layout.

*(Learn more on the website.)



Referendum info at: www.w-mreferendum2019.org

WHAT IS THE PLAN?

Here is what is proposed:

The school board unanimously approved a two-question ballot for a November 5, 2019 referendum:

Question 1: is asking voters to approve an increase in the operating levy that would provide an extra \$425 per student in revenue (currently \$67 per student). If approved, Watertown-Mayer's operating levy would be in the middle of neighboring districts' operating levies.

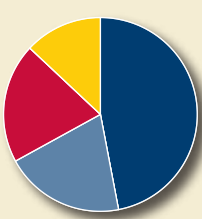
Question 2: is asking voters to approve a facilities/bond levy to pay for classroom modernization, outdoor education and activities, parking lot safety, and long-term maintenance. *
Question 1 must pass for Question 2 to pass.

* For specific details and a list of where the bond money will be spent, visit the website

// We need to take care of ourselves locally because we are not getting the equivalent help from the state that we have in the past. //

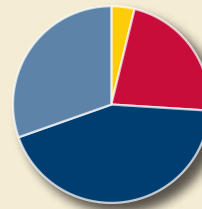
Tim Thompson,
school board member, Mayer resident.

HOW WILL THE MONEY BE SPENT?



Q1, Operating Levy

- 47% Maintain class size, electives, after school activities
- 20% Current/relevant curriculum resources
- 20% Technology infrastructure
- 13% Teacher training



Q2, Bond Referendum

- 44% Educational Space Improvements
- 30% Infrastructure and Physical Facility Needs
- 22% Activities and Athletics Improvements
- 4% Safety and Security

How Much Will It Cost Me?

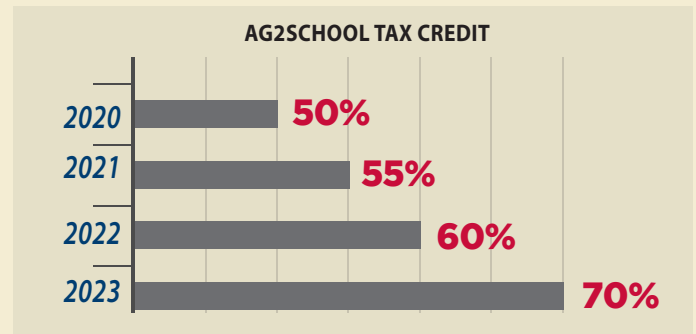
Home Value	Q1 Annually	Q1 Monthly	Q2 Annually	Q2 Monthly	Q 1 & 2 Annually	Q 1 & 2 Monthly
\$150,000	\$105	\$8.75	\$6.00	\$0.50	\$111	\$9.25
\$230,000*	\$161	\$13.42	\$11.08	\$0.92	\$172	\$14.33
\$350,000	\$245	\$20.42	\$16.96	\$1.41	\$262	\$21.00



* Average home value in the Watertown-Mayer area according to Carver County records. Visit the district website to find a tax calculator for your property.

Does farm property receive some school tax relief?

Yes. For decades, farm families paid school operating levies on 1 acre of property that included the house, but paid school bond levies on all property. In 2017, the Minnesota Legislature approved a 40 percent tax credit for farm land school bond taxes. This year (2019), the legislature approved higher tax credits to be phased in over time:



LEVIES ARE FOR LEARNING BONDS ARE FOR BUILDINGS

Voter-approved building bond levies are used for major renovations and new construction. These funds cannot be used for school operations. Operating levies support day-to-day expenses, including teacher salaries, utilities, transportation.

Where and When Do I Vote?

Vote Tuesday, November 5. Polls are open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Watertown City Hall
309 Lewis Avenue South
Watertown, MN

Mayer Community Center
413 Blue Jay Avenue
Mayer, MN

Early voting begins September 20-November 4 from 7:30AM - 4:00PM on regular school days at the district office. For additional dates visit the district website.

BE AN INFORMED VOTER. Need More Information?

Visit: www.w-mreferendum2019.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/watertown-mayer

Twitter: @RoyalsSupt

Contact: any school board member or Superintendent Ron Wilke 952-955-0480 or Ron.Wilke@wm.k12.mn.us

Prepared and paid for by Independent School District ISD #111 (WATERTOWN-MAYER PUBLIC SCHOOLS), 1001 Highway 25 NW, Watertown, MN 55388

Won't you join us? Public Meetings:

Look to the website for location information.

September 16, 7:00 PM
October 1, 7:00 PM
October 14, 7:00 PM

