

Hutchinson Public Schools

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Remember to Vote! Minnesota Polling Place Finder
<https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>

 **Vote November 8, 2022**

Hutchinson Public Schools

Excellence in Academics, Activities, and Character

Levy Referendum Election

Summary

A levy referendum provides general education revenue. These funds are used for teachers, other staff positions, classroom supplies, energy to heat our buildings, technology, and other educational needs. A portion of approved levies are paid for by local property taxes.

In 2013, voters in our school district approved a levy that provides approximately \$1,100,000 in annual revenue. On November 8, 2022, the district is asking voters to renew this levy. Also, voters will be asked to approve a second question of an additional \$382 per pupil. This levy will generate an estimated \$1,000,000 in annual revenue. This revenue is needed to preserve our current educational programming.

Voting Information

The Minnesota Secretary of State's [Polling Place Finder](https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/) can be found here: <https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>

Voters may register at the precinct on Election Day in accordance with Minnesota statute(s). [Registration](#) may also be completed ahead of time; for more information, check out: <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote>.



If eligible voters are unable to get to the polling place on Election Day, they may vote by absentee ballot. [Absentee ballots](#) will be available at the Hutchinson City Center (111 Hassan St SE, Hutchinson, MN) through November 7, 2022. Hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm (November 5 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm and November 7 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm). If you have questions about absentee voting, please contact Melissa Starke, Administrative Coordinator, City of Hutchinson at 320-234-4202.

A Message of Pride to Our Community from the School Board Members of ISD 423

We believe our Hutchinson community and its educational system provides a bright future for our children.

The School Board members of ISD 423 are asking for the community's support of the renewal of our existing levy and a second question of \$382 per pupil.

In 2013, the School Board made a promise to the community; if the community supported the Levy Referendum, the Board would commit to making the funding last for the 10 year levy period. The School Board kept this promise through some very difficult economic and pandemic times when school districts were subject to several years of funding which lagged behind inflationary increases.

The School Board sees the value in preserving the excellent educational programming we have in Hutchinson Public Schools. We encourage you to vote on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

We are proud of our schools and community and appreciate all the support given over the years to the school district in order to preserve educational excellence.

www.isd423.org 320-587-2860

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Hutchinson Public Schools: Excellence in Academics, Activities, and Character

Question #1

RENEWAL OF EXPIRING SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION

The Board of Independent School District No. 423, Hutchinson Public Schools, has proposed to renew the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization of \$310.88 per pupil which is scheduled to expire after taxes payable in 2023. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten years beginning with taxes payable in 2024 unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

- ☐ YES
- Shall the increase in the revenue proposed by the Board of Independent School District No. 423 be approved?
- ☐ NO
- By voting "yes" on this ballot question, you are voting to extend an existing property tax referendum that is scheduled to expire.

Key Message

In 2023, for a \$200,000 home in Hutchinson, the levy referendum portion of school taxes was \$95. In 2024, if levy referendum question 1 is approved, along with the adjustment for equity revenue, the levy referendum portion of school taxes will be \$91, \$4 dollars less than 2023.

Question #2

APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION

The Board of Independent School District No. 423, Hutchinson Public Schools, has proposed to increase its referendum revenue authorization by \$382 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten years beginning with taxes payable in 2023 unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

- ☐ YES
- Shall the increase in revenue proposed by the Board of Independent School District No. 423 be approved?
- ☐ NO
- By voting "yes" on this ballot question, you are voting for a property tax increase.

Key Message

In 2023, if the community supports both the renewal and the second question, the levy referendum portion of your school property taxes will go up compared to your 2022 school taxes. For a \$200,000 home in Hutchinson, the levy referendum portion of school taxes would increase by \$117 per year. Hutchinson will be able to preserve our current educational programs for our students.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

What did the school district do with all of the building bond referenda funds?

The State of MN requires that building bond referenda funds be expended on construction projects only. Meanwhile, operating referenda funds may be expended on general operating costs for the district (personnel, supplies, equipment, transportation, etc). Even though the district passed bond referenda in the last ten years, those funds had to be spent only on construction costs in accordance with state laws.

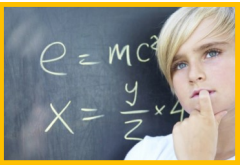
Why are you asking the community to support a second question of \$382 per pupil unit?

The second question is needed to keep up with inflation, since there has been severe underfunding from the State of Minnesota over the past 20 years. The district's enrollment has declined by approximately 300 students over the past 10 years. Fewer students leads to less revenue, and despite budget reductions, the district would benefit from additional local support in order to continue important student programs including TigerPaths (STREAM, Business, Sci Hi, and Human Services), mental health supports, and technology services.



Do other school districts rely on levy referendums?

Yes. Approximately 72% of the school districts in the State of Minnesota rely on levy referendum to operate their schools. The average levy referendum in the State of Minnesota is \$874 per pupil. Hutchinson's is currently \$310.88 per pupil.



Are we spending our money wisely?

Yes. Hutchinson has reduced its operating budget by almost \$3 million over the past 7 years in order to right size its budget relative to a reduced level of revenue due to a decline in student enrollment. Throughout this right sizing process, our students consistently outperform state and national averages in reading, math, and science. We strive to get the most out of each educational dollar we spend.

Is farmland taxed for levy referendum aid?

No. For levy referendum purposes, farmland is exempt from levy referendum taxes. Only the house, garage, and one acre are taxed.

What if the renewal and/or question 2 does not pass?

This is a difficult question to answer. The broad answer is: If the referendum does not pass, it will result in greater reductions in staff, programming, and student services starting in the 2023-2024 school year. If question 1, the renewal of our existing levy does not pass, the district will lose approximately \$1,100,000 in revenue annually. If question 2 does not pass, the district will lose another estimated \$1,000,000 in revenue annually. These reductions could result in:

- Less staff and student technology
 - Reduced staffing
 - Elimination of programs
 - Reduced course offerings
- Increased class sizes
 - Higher activity fees
 - Decreased mental health supports
 - Fewer activity offerings (co/extracurricular activities: arts, academics, and athletics)



Annual (Yearly) Tax Impact

Estimated Market Value	2023 Expired	2024 Renewed	2024 Net	2023 New
\$100,000	-\$48	\$46	-\$2	\$59
125,000	-59	57	-2	73
150,000	-71	69	-2	88
200,000	-95	91	-4	117
300,000	-143	137	-6	176
400,000	-190	183	-7	234
500,000	-238	228	-10	293
1,000,000	-475	457	-18	586

Check out the **Property Tax Calculator** at www.isd423.org to calculate the tax impact of the levy on your taxes.

Data provided and calculated by Ehlers Financial Advisors

 **Vote November 8, 2022**