



ISD 423

2026 Levy Referendum

LEVY REFERENDUM FAST FACTS

VOTE ON OR BEFORE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD

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isd423.org



320-587-2860



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Find your place to vote:

<http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>

Property Tax Calculator:

<https://www.ehlers-inc.com/calculator/hutchinson2026/>

DO OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS RELY ON LEVY REFERENDUMS?

Yes. Approx. 73% 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 \$1,293.43 per pupil. Hutchinson's is currently \$310.88 per pupil.

IS FARMLAND TAXED FOR LEVY REFERENDUM AID?

For levy referendum purposes, farmland is exempt from levy referendum taxes. Only the house, garage, and one acre are taxed.

WHAT DID THE SCHOOL DISTRICT DO WITH ALL OF THE BUILDING BOND FUNDS?

Building bond funds must be spent on construction projects only. Operating levy funds may be spent on general operating costs, such as personnel, supplies, equipment, transportation, etc. Even though the district passed bonds in the last ten years, those funds had to be spent only on construction costs in accordance with state laws.

IS THE DISTRICT SPENDING THEIR MONEY WISELY?

Yes. Hutchinson has reduced its operating budget by \$5.5 million over the past 10 years due to a decline in student enrollment. Despite reductions, 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.

WHY DOES THE HUTCHINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT NEED TO APPROVE AN ADDITIONAL OPERATING REFERENDUM?

1. The formula allowance from the State has not kept up with inflation.
2. Lower birth rates led to lower enrollment which drive revenue lower.
3. There are several unfunded or underfunded mandates received from the State.
4. Special Education costs are not being adequately covered by the State and Federal government.
5. Expense increases are outpacing revenue available.
6. Following \$5.5 million in reductions, additional revenue is needed to preserve/maintain programs and courses.

WHAT IF THE QUESTION DOES NOT PASS?

If the referendum does not pass, it will result in greater reductions in staff, programming, and student services starting in the 2027-2028 school year of up to \$2,300,000. The proposed operating referendum is for an estimated \$1,100,000 per year for 10 years, which will help the district cover a portion of its projected deficit. The following list includes areas that MAY be reduced in order to balance the budget.

✂ Reduced staffing, leading to higher class sizes

✂ Reduced transportation services, expanded walk zone

✂ Reduction of programs

✂ Reduced course offerings

✂ Reduced administration/administrative services

✂ Higher fees for activities, rentals, arts, technology

✂ Decreased mental health supports

✂ Fewer academic and behavioral intervention staffing and programming.

✂ Fewer activity offerings (co/extracurricular activities: arts, academics and athletics)

✂ Fewer custodial staff to maintain buildings

✂ Fewer technology staff to maintain infrastructure, staff resources and student devices

Referendum Authority Per Pupil

