



Board Meeting Date: 7/14/2025

Title: Operating Referendum Renewal - FY 2029-2038

Type: Action

Presenter(s): Mert Woodard – Director, Finance & Operations

Description: In 2023, the State amended its Referendum Revenue statute, allowing school boards to renew existing operating referendums without voter approval. Edina's current referendum authority was approved by voters on November 7, 2017, for taxes payable from 2018 through 2027. In 2020, voters approved \$2,075.07 per pupil, with annual inflationary increases through 2027. For taxes payable in 2025, Edina's *certified* per pupil authority is \$2,260.63, generating \$21,447,478.46—about 13.62% of the District's FY2026 General Fund revenue. The projected per pupil amount for 2027 is \$2,375.57.

To renew an operating referendum via board action, the following conditions must be met:

1. The per pupil amount of the proposed renewed operating referendum authority must be the same as the expiring referendum authority;
2. The term of the renewed referendum cannot be longer than the initial term approved by the voters;
3. The school board must adopt a formal resolution renewing the expiring levy after a public meeting is held allowing public comment on the proposed renewal;
4. The expiring referendum authority cannot have been previously renewed.

The District's window to renew the existing referendum authority begins July 1, 2025 and ends June 15, 2027.

Recommendation: Adopt a resolution authorizing the District to renew its existing operating referendum for ten years, beginning with taxes payable in 2028, at the same per pupil amount approved by voters in 2017, adjusted annually for inflation.

Desired Outcomes from the Board: Approval of the administration's recommendation in compliance with Minn. Stat. § 126C.17 Subd. 9b.

Attachments:

1. Slide Deck – Operating Referendum Renewal
2. Resolution – Operating Referendum Renewal
3. Ballot Proof – 2017 Election