

**School Board Special
Meeting
Thursday, August 6, 2020
7:30 am
School Cafeteria**



Superintendent Comments [excerpts] as per July 29, 2020 Special Work Session...

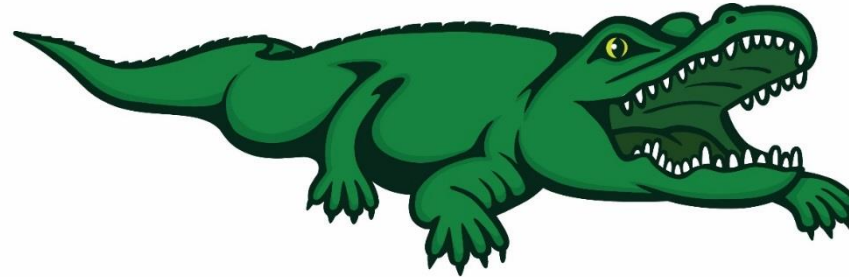
“The decision to request support from district voters is based on a review of the district’s financial condition, inadequate state funding and unfunded mandates putting pressure on an already stretched budget.”

....

“State funding is not keeping pace with inflation or increasing educational costs.”

Greenbush Middle River Public School District

Excerpts from ...



Truth-in-Taxation for School Taxes Payable in **2020**

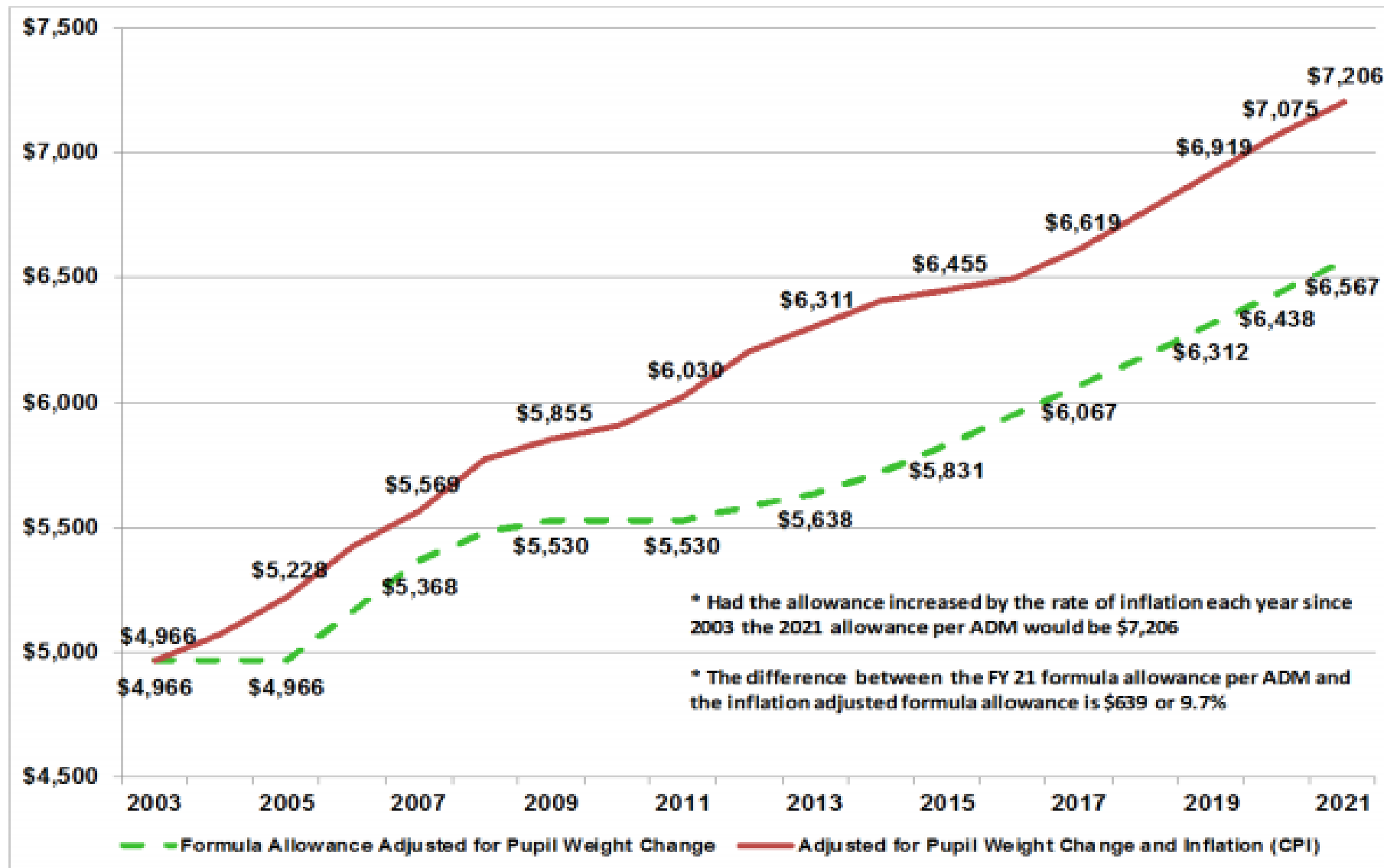
School Board Agenda item

6:00 pm ~ December 16, 2019

Greenbush Middle River School Library

General Education Formula Allowance, 2003-2021

Adjusted for Pupil Weight Change and Inflation (CPI)



Excerpt from Truth-in-Taxation
for School Taxes Payable in
2020

School Board Agenda item

6:00 pm ~ December 16, 2019

Greenbush Middle River
School Library

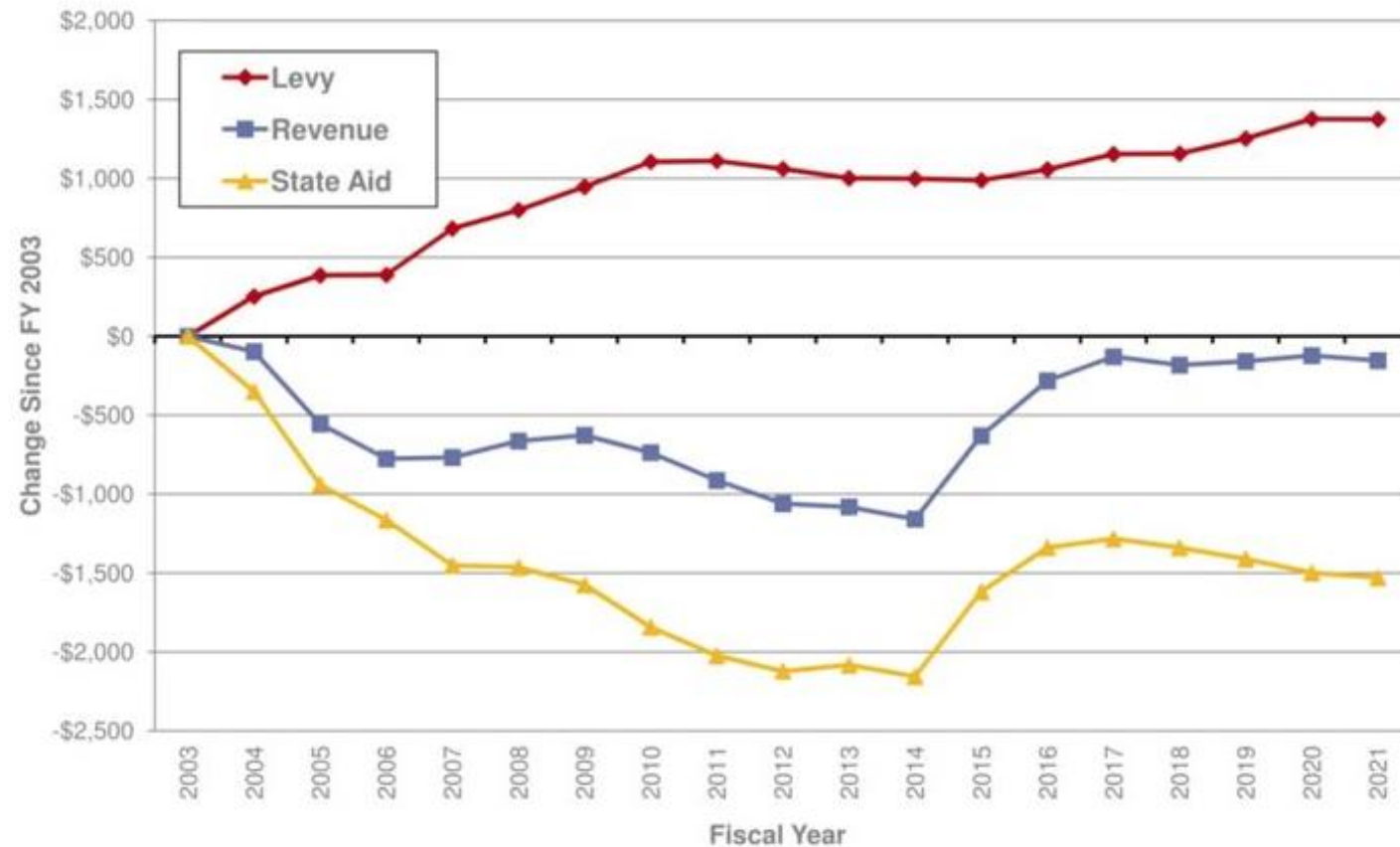
Source: MDE August 2019 Inflation Estimates



Per pupil allowance for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 would need to increase by another \$639 (9.7%) to have kept pace with inflation since 2002-2003. \$568 million annually (source: MREA)

Statewide Aid, Levies, Revenue

Constant FY 2020 Dollars Per Pupil



(Analysis by MREA, 2019, Data from MDE)

mreavoice.org

Excerpt from Truth-in-Taxation
for School Taxes Payable in
2020

School Board Agenda item
6:00 pm ~ December 16, 2019
Greenbush Middle River
School Library

**Local Operating Referendum increases
replace decline in formula buying power.**

Result: Growing Dependence on Referendum Revenue

- In 1992-93, 65% of districts had operating referendum revenue averaging \$332 per pupil
- For 2020-21, all Minnesota districts have referendum revenue and/or local optional revenue levy authority averaging \$1,475 per pupil

13.2% of General Fund operating revenue

Of this amount, \$751 is a voter approved operating referendum, and \$724 is Local Optional Revenue (LOR)

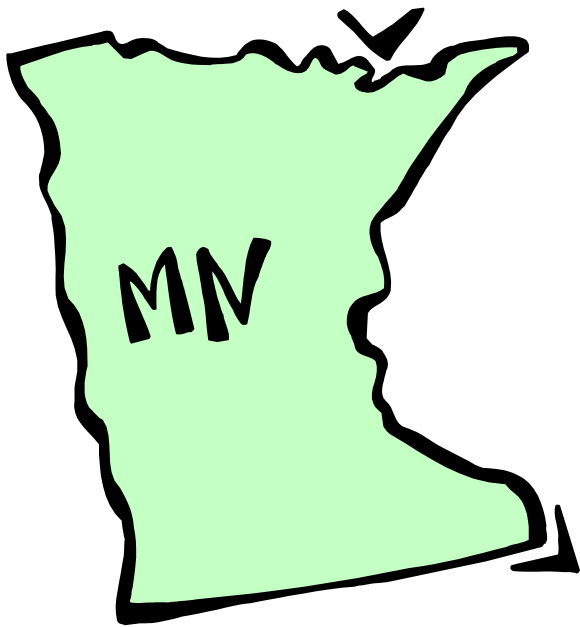
Excerpt from Truth-in-Taxation
for School Taxes Payable in
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School Board Agenda item

6:00 pm ~ December 16, 2019

Greenbush Middle River
School Library

Source: Ehlers & Associates



State Budget Update: \$2.4 Billion Deficit

The Minnesota Management & Budget on Tuesday (May 5) released an update on the state's budget showing a \$4 billion decline in state revenues for the current two-year budget cycle we're in.

Instead of the \$1.5 billion projected surplus announced in February, the state is now looking at a \$2.4 billion deficit.

The state needs to maintain a balanced budget and thankfully there's nearly \$2.4 billion in the state's budget reserve and cash flow accounts. Another \$2 billion in federal aid is on the way to the state, however, a significant portion of those funds are supposed to be passed through to local governments, the K-12 schools and Higher Education systems and hospitals.

It's possible that some of these funds could end up supplanting existing state appropriations, but the federal strings attached might prohibit supplanting.

Congressional leaders are talking about a fourth COVID-19 relief package to help states balance their budgets, but action on that item will take some time, if it comes to fruition at all.

Source: MN Rural Education Association communication downloaded on May 11, 2020 & presented to the school board during a Special Meeting on May 11, 2020

Minnesota facing \$4.7 billion shortfall in future budget fueled by pandemic

A new planning estimate showed a rapid evaporation of the state's projected surplus

By [Briana Bierschbach](#) Star Tribune

JULY 31, 2020 — 8:06PM

Minnesota lawmakers are facing a potential \$4.7 billion deficit in the next two-year budget as the coronavirus pandemic continues to gobble up more resources than the state gets in revenue.

Minnesota Management and Budget Commissioner Myron Frans said in a new planning estimate Friday that the pandemic has made economic conditions "extremely volatile." The revenue update, he added, "gives us more information about the budget problems we need to solve during this current biennium and the next."

The updated numbers for 2022 and 2023, coming ahead of a state bond sale, continue a stunning deterioration of the state's finances in a matter of months. A February economic forecast showed the state had a projected \$1.5 billion budget surplus for the remainder of this budget cycle, which ends July 2021. But a May budget update showed the state now faces a \$2.4 billion deficit this budget cycle.

"Minnesota is not alone. States across the country are facing large budget gaps during this global pandemic," Gov. Tim Walz said in a statement. "We have challenges ahead, but we will continue to make smart fiscal decisions and request aid from the federal government to help our state manage this difficult time."

Minnesota has received more than \$2 billion from the federal government in coronavirus relief, but that money cannot be used to fill gaps in revenue collections. The state's total two-year budget is roughly \$48 billion.

Unlike many states, Minnesota has a budget reserve that's filled automatically when revenue comes in higher than expected. Over the years, it's grown to nearly \$2.4 billion, with \$350 million in a cash flow account. But as the deficit grows, lawmakers are facing potential budget cuts or calls for tax increases to fill the gap. Lawmakers are constitutionally required to pass a balanced budget for 2022 and 2023 by next summer.



Minnesota Management and Budget Commissioner Myron Frans said in a new planning estimate Friday that the pandemic has made economic conditions "extremely volatile."

Coronavirus impact on MN finances: Possible \$7 billion hole projected over 3 years

By [DAVE ORRICK](#) | dorrick@pioneerpress.com | Pioneer Press

PUBLISHED: July 31, 2020 at 5:36 p.m. | UPDATED: August 1, 2020 at 12:07 p.m.

The coronavirus pandemic's impact on Minnesota government coffers is not good.

That part we've known for some time.

On Friday, state finance officials, armed with income tax payments from earlier this month, [clarified how not-good they think the picture is](#): Over the next three years, a roughly \$7 billion budget shortfall looms for Gov. Tim Walz and lawmakers.


Tax revenue paid to the state has dropped as the coronavirus and its response has crippled the economy. Nearly 890,000 Minnesotans have filed unemployment claims since early March and [1,600 residents have died](#) from the virus.

The \$7 billion figure comprises two figures, each of which will be tackled differently:

- **A \$2.4 billion hole** in the current two-year \$48.3 billion budget. That projection [was announced in May](#), and it appears to have held up. The state could cover it with its rainy day fund, but the state's top finance official, Management and Budget Commissioner Myron Frans, has cautioned against draining that fund. The current Legislature and Walz will have to tackle this shortfall before the end of the state's current two-year budget cycle, which ends June 30, 2021.
- **A \$4.7 billion hole** in the 2022-2023 budget cycle. In a May report, Frans and other state officials declared "it is likely that the negative impact on the state budget in the next biennium will be significant," but at the time they said it was impossible to quantify. Friday's announcement quantified it. This projected shortfall will ultimately need to be addressed by Walz and the next Legislature, which will be elected in November and take office in January.

In a statement Friday, Walz, a Democrat, said this: "Minnesota is not alone. States across the country are facing large budget gaps during this global pandemic. We have challenges ahead, but we will continue to make smart fiscal decisions and request aid from the federal government to help our state manage this difficult time."



| School Year | State Aid General Education Formula Allowance | Percent funding increase over previous year | Greenbush Middle River School District FALL enrollment | Unreserved General Fund Balance (<i>final audit</i>) |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| 1996-97 | \$3,505 | | | |
| 1997-98 | \$3,581 | | | |
| 1998-99 | \$3,530 | | | |
| 1999-00 | \$3,740 | | | |
| 2000-01 | \$3,964 | | 464 | \$370,564 |
| 2001-02 | \$4,068 | | 455 | \$522,520 |
| 2002-03 | \$4,601 | | 462 | \$610,675 |
| 2003-04 | \$4,601 | 0% | 459 | \$737,831 |
| 2004-05 | \$4,601 | 0% | 473 | \$999,976 |
| 2005-06 | \$4,783 | 4% | 474 | \$1,456,633 |
| 2006-07 | \$4,974 | 4% | 477 | \$1,673,426 |
| 2007-2008 | \$5,074 | 2% | 480 | \$1,930,121 |
| 2008-2009 | \$5,124 + 51* = \$5,175 | 1% + 1%* = 2% | 470 | \$2,032,994 |
| 2009-2010 | \$5,124 | 0% | 452 | \$2,035,316 |
| 2010-2011 | \$5,124 | 0% | 436 | \$1,962,475 |
| 2011-2012 | \$5,174 | 1% | 419 | \$1,869,037 |
| 2012-2013 | \$5,224 | 1% | 444 | \$1,832,245 |
| 2013-2014 | \$5,302 | 1.5% | 426 | \$1,660,869 |
| 2014-2015 | \$5,831 (increase due to changes in pupil weights) | 1.5% +.5% | 423 | \$1,645,227 |
| <i>Per pupil [weighted] funding. Historical Perspective</i>  | 2013-2014 <u>Grade Funding Weight</u> Grade K..... .612 Grade 1 to 3... 1.115 Grade 4 to 6... 1.06 Grade K to 6... 197 (Elem. Funding Units) 7-12..... 1.3 Grade 7-12..... 218 (H.S. Funding Units) K-12...197 + 218 = 480 (Total) Funding Units) | 2014-2015 <u>Grade Funding Weight</u> K-6 1.0 Grade K to 6... 201 (Elem. Funding Units) 7-12 1.2 Grade 7-12..... 266 (H.S. Funding Units) K-12...201 + 266 = 467 (Total) Funding Units) | 2015-2016 <u>Grade Funding Weight</u> K-6 1.0 Grade K to 6... 190 (Elem. Funding Units) 7-12 1.2 Grade 7-12..... 252 (H.S. Funding Units) K-12...190 + 252 = 442 (Total) Funding Units) | 2019-2020 <u>Grade Funding Weight</u> K-6 1.0 Grade K to 6... 121 (Elem. Funding Units) 7-12 1.2 Grade 7-12..... 180 (H.S. Funding Units) K-12...121 + 180 = 301 (Total) Funding Units) |
| | 2015-2016 \$5,948 | +\$117 or 2% | 400 | \$1,576,546 |
| 2016-2017 | \$6,067 | +\$119 or 2% | 387 | \$1,186,984 |
| 2017-2018 | \$6,188 | +\$121 or 2% | 323 | \$705,373 |
| 2018-2019 | \$6,312 | +\$124 or 2% | 279 | \$504,320 |
| 2019-2020 | \$6,438 | +\$126 or 2% | 271 | TBD by Audit |
| 2020-2021 | \$6,567 | +\$129 or 2% | 242 estimated | TBD by Audit |

Note¹: Effective 2014-2015: the 1.0 weighted factor applies to K-6. 7-12 students are weighted at 1.2.

Note²: There is no absolute right answer as to how much a given district should have in its fund balance. A general guideline provided by financial auditors believe a fund balance of 25% of the general education formula in the unreserved general fund: \$6,438 x 25% = \$1,609 x 311 [weighted] funding units (271 K-12 students = 301 weighted funding units) = \$484,459 would place the District in a solid financial position. This represents about 6 weeks of school district operations. Information Source: Minnesota Association of School Business Officials & District Financial Auditor

Excerpt from Truth-in-Taxation
for School Taxes Payable in
2020

School Board Agenda item

6:00 pm ~ December 16, 2019

Greenbush Middle River
School Library

Greenbush-Middle River School District, ISD 2683**Analysis of Tax Impact for Potential Referendum Levy**

July 29, 2020

| Year Taxes are Payable | 2021 | 2021 | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| | Revoked Authority | Proposed Authority | NET CHANGE |
| Revenue Per Pupil Unit | -\$506.05 | \$1,406.05 | \$900.00 |
| Estimated Change in Revenue | -\$139,872 | \$388,632 | \$248,760 |

| Type of Property | Estimated Market Value | Estimated Taxes for Referendum Levy Only* | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|---|-------|-------|
| | \$50,000 | -\$34 | \$138 | \$104 |
| | 75,000 | -52 | 207 | 155 |
| | 100,000 | -69 | 276 | 207 |
| | 125,000 | -86 | 345 | 259 |
| | 150,000 | -103 | 414 | 311 |
| Residential | 175,000 | -120 | 482 | 362 |
| Homesteads, | 200,000 | -138 | 551 | 413 |
| Apartments, | 225,000 | -155 | 620 | 465 |
| and Commercial- | 250,000 | -172 | 689 | 517 |
| Industrial Property | 275,000 | -189 | 758 | 569 |
| | 300,000 | -206 | 827 | 621 |
| | 325,000 | -223 | 896 | 673 |
| | 350,000 | -241 | 965 | 724 |
| | 375,000 | -258 | 1,034 | 776 |
| | 400,000 | -275 | 1,103 | 828 |
| | 425,000 | -292 | 1,172 | 880 |
| | 450,000 | -309 | 1,241 | 932 |
| | 475,000 | -327 | 1,310 | 983 |
| | 500,000 | -344 | 1,379 | 1,035 |
| | 550,000 | -378 | 1,516 | 1,138 |

* The amounts in the table are based on school district taxes for the referendum levy only, and do not include tax levies for other purposes. Tax increases shown above are gross increases, not including the impact of the Minnesota Homestead Credit Refund ("Circuit Breaker") program. Many owners of homestead property will qualify for a refund, based on their income and total property taxes. This will decrease the net effect of the referendum levy for many property owners.

NOTE: Agricultural property will pay taxes for the proposed referendum based only on the value of the house, garage and one acre. Seasonal recreational residential property (i.e., cabins) will pay no taxes for the proposed referendum.

OPTION 1

**EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF MEETING
OF SCHOOL BOARD
OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2683
(GREENBUSH- MIDDLE RIVER)
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 2683 (Greenbush- Middle River), State of Minnesota, was held in said school district on _____, 2020, at _____:00 o'clock p.m.

The following members were present:

and the following were absent:

Member _____ introduced the following resolution

and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO REVOKING THE EXISTING REFERENDUM
REVENUE AUTHORIZATION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, APPROVING A NEW
AUTHORIZATION, AND CALLING AN ELECTION THEREON**

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 2683, State of Minnesota, as follows:

1. The Board hereby determines and declares that it is necessary and expedient for the school district to revoke its existing referendum revenue authorization of \$506.05 per adjusted pupil unit and to replace that authorization with a new authorization \$1406.05 per adjusted pupil unit. As provided by law, the ballot question must abbreviate the term "per adjusted pupil unit" as "per pupil." The additional revenue will be used to finance school operations and the property tax portion thereof will require an estimated referendum tax rate of approximately 0.20696% of the referendum market value of the school district for taxes payable in 2021, the first year it is to be levied. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation and be applicable for ten (10) years, commencing with taxes payable in 2021, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. For this purpose, the rate of inflation shall be the annual inflationary increase calculated under Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.17, subdivision (2)(b). The question on the approval of this referendum revenue authorization shall be School District Question 1 on the school district ballot at the special election held to approve said authorization.

OPTION 1

If the new referendum revenue authorization is approved by the voters of the school district, the existing \$506.05 per adjusted pupil unit shall be revoked effective for taxes payable in 2021.

2. The ballot question specified above and herein shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the school district at a special election, which is hereby called and directed to be held in conjunction with the state general election on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. This date is a uniform election date specified in Minnesota Statute Section 205A.05.

3. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.11, the precincts and the polling places for this special election are those polling places and precincts or parts of precincts located within the boundaries of the school district which have been established by the cities or towns located in whole or in part within the school district. The voting hours at those polling places shall be the same as those for the state general election.

4. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause written notice of said special election to be provided to the county auditor of each county in which the school district is located, in whole or in part, and to the Commissioner of Education at least seventy-four (74) days before the date of said election. The notice shall specify the date of said special election and the title and language for each ballot question to be voted on at said special election. Any notice given prior to the date of the adoption of this resolution is ratified and confirmed in all respects.

5. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a notice of the election to be mailed to each taxpayer in the school district at least fifteen (15) but no more than forty-five (45) days prior to the date of the special election. The notice shall contain the required projections and the required statement specified in Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.17, subdivision 9, paragraph (b). The clerk is also directed to cause a copy of this notice to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education and to the county auditor of each county in which the school district is located in whole or in part at least fifteen (15) days prior to the day of the election.

6. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said special election to be published in the official newspaper of the school district, for two (2) consecutive weeks with the last publication being at least one (1) week before the date of the election.

7. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said special election to be posted at the administrative offices of the school district at least ten (10) days before the date of said special election.

8. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a sample ballot to be posted at the administrative offices of the school district at least four (4) days before the date of said special election and to cause two sample ballots to be posted in each polling place on election day. The sample ballot shall not be printed on the same color paper as the official ballot.

OPTION 1

The notice of election so posted and published shall state each question to be submitted to the voters as set forth in the form of ballot below, and shall include information concerning each established precinct and polling place.

9. The clerk is authorized and directed to acquire and distribute such election materials and to take such other actions as may be necessary for the proper conduct of this special election and generally to cooperate with state, city, township and county election authorities conducting the state general and other elections on that date. The clerk and members of the administration are authorized and directed to take such actions as may be necessary to coordinate this election with those other elections, including entering into agreements or understandings with appropriate municipal and county officials regarding preparation and distribution of ballots, election administration and cost sharing.

10. The clerk is further authorized and directed to cooperate with the proper election officials to cause ballots to be prepared for use at said election in substantially the following form, with such changes in form and instructions as may be necessary to accommodate the use of an optical scan voting system:

[Form of Ballot on next page.]

OPTION 2

**EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF MEETING
OF SCHOOL BOARD
OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2683
(GREENBUSH- MIDDLE RIVER)
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 2683 (Greenbush- Middle River), State of Minnesota, was held in said school district on _____, 2020, at ____:00 o'clock p.m.

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Member _____ introduced the following resolution

and moved its adoption:

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If the new referendum revenue authorization is approved by the voters of the school district, the existing \$506.05 per adjusted pupil unit shall be revoked effective for taxes payable in 2021.

OPTION 2

2. The ballot question specified above and herein shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the school district at a special election, which is hereby called and directed to be held in conjunction with the state general election on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. This date is a uniform election date specified in Minnesota Statute Section 205A.05.

3. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.11, the precincts and the polling places for this special election are those polling places and precincts or parts of precincts located within the boundaries of the school district which have been established by the cities or towns located in whole or in part within the school district. The voting hours at those polling places shall be the same as those for the state general election.

4. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause written notice of said special election to be provided to the county auditor of each county in which the school district is located, in whole or in part, and to the Commissioner of Education at least seventy-four (74) days before the date of said election. The notice shall specify the date of said special election and the title and language for each ballot question to be voted on at said special election. Any notice given prior to the date of the adoption of this resolution is ratified and confirmed in all respects.

5. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a notice of the election to be mailed to each taxpayer in the school district at least fifteen (15) but no more than forty-five (45) days prior to the date of the special election. The notice shall contain the required projections and the required statement specified in Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.17, subdivision 9, paragraph (b). The clerk is also directed to cause a copy of this notice to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education and to the county auditor of each county in which the school district is located in whole or in part at least fifteen (15) days prior to the day of the election.

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8. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a sample ballot to be posted at the administrative offices of the school district at least four (4) days before the date of said special election and to cause two sample ballots to be posted in each polling place on election day. The sample ballot shall not be printed on the same color paper as the official ballot.

OPTION 2

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9. The clerk is authorized and directed to acquire and distribute such election materials and to take such other actions as may be necessary for the proper conduct of this special election and generally to cooperate with state, city, township and county election authorities conducting the state general and other elections on that date. The clerk and members of the administration are authorized and directed to take such actions as may be necessary to coordinate this election with those other elections, including entering into agreements or understandings with appropriate municipal and county officials regarding preparation and distribution of ballots, election administration and cost sharing.

10. The clerk is further authorized and directed to cooperate with the proper election officials to cause ballots to be prepared for use at said election in substantially the following form, with such changes in form and instructions as may be necessary to accommodate the use of an optical scan voting system:

[Form of Ballot on next page.]


OPTION 2

Special Election Ballot

Independent School District No. 2683
(Greenbush-Middle River)

November 3, 2020

Instructions to Voters:

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: 

To vote for a question, fill in the oval next to the word "Yes" on that question.
To vote against a question, fill in the oval next to the word "No" on that question.

School District Question 1 Revoking Existing Referendum Revenue Authorization; Approving New Authorization

The board of Independent School District No. 2683 (Greenbush-Middle River) has proposed to revoke the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization of \$506.05 per pupil and to replace that authorization with a new authorization of \$1,406.05 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten years, commencing with taxes payable in 2021, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

☐

Yes

Shall the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization be revoked and the increase in the revenue proposed by the board of

☐

No

Independent School District No. 2683 be approved?

**BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU
ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**

Greenbush-Middle River School District, ISD 2683**Analysis of Tax Impact for Potential Referendum Levy**

July 29, 2020

| Year Taxes are Payable | 2021 | 2021 | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| | Revoked Authority | Proposed Authority | NET CHANGE |
| Revenue Per Pupil Unit | -\$506.05 | \$1,306.05 | \$800.00 |
| Estimated Change in Revenue | -\$139,872 | \$360,992 | \$221,120 |

| Type of Property | Estimated Market Value | Estimated Taxes for Referendum Levy Only* | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|---|-------|-------|
| | \$50,000 | -\$34 | \$126 | \$92 |
| | 75,000 | -52 | 190 | 138 |
| | 100,000 | -69 | 253 | 184 |
| | 125,000 | -86 | 316 | 230 |
| | 150,000 | -103 | 379 | 276 |
| Residential | 175,000 | -120 | 442 | 322 |
| Homesteads, | 200,000 | -138 | 505 | 367 |
| Apartments, | 225,000 | -155 | 569 | 414 |
| and Commercial- | 250,000 | -172 | 632 | 460 |
| Industrial Property | 275,000 | -189 | 695 | 506 |
| | 300,000 | -206 | 758 | 552 |
| | 325,000 | -223 | 821 | 598 |
| | 350,000 | -241 | 885 | 644 |
| | 375,000 | -258 | 948 | 690 |
| | 400,000 | -275 | 1,011 | 736 |
| | 425,000 | -292 | 1,074 | 782 |
| | 450,000 | -309 | 1,137 | 828 |
| | 475,000 | -327 | 1,200 | 873 |
| | 500,000 | -344 | 1,264 | 920 |
| | 550,000 | -378 | 1,390 | 1,012 |

* The amounts in the table are based on school district taxes for the referendum levy only, and do not include tax levies for other purposes. Tax increases shown above are gross increases, not including the impact of the Minnesota Homestead Credit Refund ("Circuit Breaker") program. Many owners of homestead property will qualify for a refund, based on their income and total property taxes. This will decrease the net effect of the referendum levy for many property owners.

NOTE: Agricultural property will pay taxes for the proposed referendum based only on the value of the house, garage and one acre. Seasonal recreational residential property (i.e., cabins) will pay no taxes for the proposed referendum.

OPTION 3

**EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF MEETING
OF SCHOOL BOARD
OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2683
(GREENBUSH- MIDDLE RIVER)
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 2683 (Greenbush- Middle River), State of Minnesota, was held in said school district on _____, 2020, at ____:00 o'clock p.m.

The following members were present:

and the following were absent:

Member _____ introduced the following resolution

and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO REVOKING THE EXISTING REFERENDUM
REVENUE AUTHORIZATION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, APPROVING A NEW
AUTHORIZATION, AND CALLING AN ELECTION THEREON**

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 2683, State of Minnesota, as follows:

1. The Board hereby determines and declares that it is necessary and expedient for the school district to revoke its existing referendum revenue authorization of \$506.05 per adjusted pupil unit and to replace that authorization with a new authorization \$1306.05 per adjusted pupil unit. As provided by law, the ballot question must abbreviate the term "per adjusted pupil unit" as "per pupil." The additional revenue will be used to finance school operations and the property tax portion thereof will require an estimated referendum tax rate of approximately .18397% of the referendum market value of the school district for taxes payable in 2021, the first year it is to be levied. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation and be applicable for ten (10) years, commencing with taxes payable in 2021, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. For this purpose, the rate of inflation shall be the annual inflationary increase calculated under Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.17, subdivision (2)(b). The question on the approval of this referendum revenue authorization shall be School District Question 1 on the school district ballot at the special election held to approve said authorization.

OPTION 3

If the new referendum revenue authorization is approved by the voters of the school district, the existing \$506.05 per adjusted pupil unit shall be revoked effective for taxes payable in 2021.

2. The ballot question specified above and herein shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the school district at a special election, which is hereby called and directed to be held in conjunction with the state general election on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. This date is a uniform election date specified in Minnesota Statute Section 205A.05.

3. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.11, the precincts and the polling places for this special election are those polling places and precincts or parts of precincts located within the boundaries of the school district which have been established by the cities or towns located in whole or in part within the school district. The voting hours at those polling places shall be the same as those for the state general election.

4. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause written notice of said special election to be provided to the county auditor of each county in which the school district is located, in whole or in part, and to the Commissioner of Education at least seventy-four (74) days before the date of said election. The notice shall specify the date of said special election and the title and language for each ballot question to be voted on at said special election. Any notice given prior to the date of the adoption of this resolution is ratified and confirmed in all respects.

5. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a notice of the election to be mailed to each taxpayer in the school district at least fifteen (15) but no more than forty-five (45) days prior to the date of the special election. The notice shall contain the required projections and the required statement specified in Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.17, subdivision 9, paragraph (b). The clerk is also directed to cause a copy of this notice to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education and to the county auditor of each county in which the school district is located in whole or in part at least fifteen (15) days prior to the day of the election.

6. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said special election to be published in the official newspaper of the school district, for two (2) consecutive weeks with the last publication being at least one (1) week before the date of the election.

7. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said special election to be posted at the administrative offices of the school district at least ten (10) days before the date of said special election.

8. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a sample ballot to be posted at the administrative offices of the school district at least four (4) days before the date of said special election and to cause two sample ballots to be posted in each polling place on election day. The sample ballot shall not be printed on the same color paper as the official ballot.

OPTION 3

The notice of election so posted and published shall state each question to be submitted to the voters as set forth in the form of ballot below, and shall include information concerning each established precinct and polling place.

9. The clerk is authorized and directed to acquire and distribute such election materials and to take such other actions as may be necessary for the proper conduct of this special election and generally to cooperate with state, city, township and county election authorities conducting the state general and other elections on that date. The clerk and members of the administration are authorized and directed to take such actions as may be necessary to coordinate this election with those other elections, including entering into agreements or understandings with appropriate municipal and county officials regarding preparation and distribution of ballots, election administration and cost sharing.

10. The clerk is further authorized and directed to cooperate with the proper election officials to cause ballots to be prepared for use at said election in substantially the following form, with such changes in form and instructions as may be necessary to accommodate the use of an optical scan voting system:

[Form of Ballot on next page.]


OPTION 3

Special Election Ballot

Independent School District No. 2683
(Greenbush-Middle River)

November 3, 2020

Instructions to Voters:

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: 

To vote for a question, fill in the oval next to the word "Yes" on that question.
To vote against a question, fill in the oval next to the word "No" on that question.

School District Question 1
Revoking Existing Referendum Revenue Authorization;
Approving New Authorization

The board of Independent School District No. 2683 (Greenbush-Middle River) has proposed to revoke the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization of \$506.05 per pupil and to replace that authorization with a new authorization of \$1,306.05 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation, and be applicable for ten years, commencing with taxes payable in 2021, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.



Yes

Shall the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization be revoked and the increase in the revenue proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 2683 be approved?



No

**BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU
ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**

OPTION 4

**EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF MEETING
OF SCHOOL BOARD
OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2683
(GREENBUSH- MIDDLE RIVER)
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 2683 (Greenbush- Middle River), State of Minnesota, was held in said school district on _____, 2020, at ____:00 o'clock p.m.

The following members were present:

and the following were absent:

Member _____ introduced the following resolution

and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO REVOKING THE EXISTING REFERENDUM
REVENUE AUTHORIZATION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, APPROVING A NEW
AUTHORIZATION, AND CALLING AN ELECTION THEREON**

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 2683, State of Minnesota, as follows:

1. The Board hereby determines and declares that it is necessary and expedient for the school district to revoke its existing referendum revenue authorization of \$506.05 per adjusted pupil unit and to replace that authorization with a new authorization \$1306.05 per adjusted pupil unit. As provided by law, the ballot question must abbreviate the term "per adjusted pupil unit" as "per pupil." The additional revenue will be used to finance school operations and the property tax portion thereof will require an estimated referendum tax rate of approximately .18397% of the referendum market value of the school district for taxes payable in 2021, the first year it is to be levied. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten (10) years, commencing with taxes payable in 2021, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. The question on the approval of this referendum revenue authorization shall be School District Question 1 on the school district ballot at the special election held to approve said authorization.

If the new referendum revenue authorization is approved by the voters of the school district, the existing \$506.05 per adjusted pupil unit shall be revoked effective for taxes payable in 2021.

OPTION 4

2. The ballot question specified above and herein shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the school district at a special election, which is hereby called and directed to be held in conjunction with the state general election on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. This date is a uniform election date specified in Minnesota Statute Section 205A.05.

3. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.11, the precincts and the polling places for this special election are those polling places and precincts or parts of precincts located within the boundaries of the school district which have been established by the cities or towns located in whole or in part within the school district. The voting hours at those polling places shall be the same as those for the state general election.

4. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause written notice of said special election to be provided to the county auditor of each county in which the school district is located, in whole or in part, and to the Commissioner of Education at least seventy-four (74) days before the date of said election. The notice shall specify the date of said special election and the title and language for each ballot question to be voted on at said special election. Any notice given prior to the date of the adoption of this resolution is ratified and confirmed in all respects.

5. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a notice of the election to be mailed to each taxpayer in the school district at least fifteen (15) but no more than forty-five (45) days prior to the date of the special election. The notice shall contain the required projections and the required statement specified in Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.17, subdivision 9, paragraph (b). The clerk is also directed to cause a copy of this notice to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education and to the county auditor of each county in which the school district is located in whole or in part at least fifteen (15) days prior to the day of the election.

6. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said special election to be published in the official newspaper of the school district, for two (2) consecutive weeks with the last publication being at least one (1) week before the date of the election.

7. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said special election to be posted at the administrative offices of the school district at least ten (10) days before the date of said special election.

8. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a sample ballot to be posted at the administrative offices of the school district at least four (4) days before the date of said special election and to cause two sample ballots to be posted in each polling place on election day. The sample ballot shall not be printed on the same color paper as the official ballot.

OPTION 4

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OPTION 4

Special Election Ballot

**Independent School District No. 2683
(Greenbush-Middle River)**

November 3, 2020

Instructions to Voters:

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: .

To vote for a question, fill in the oval next to the word "Yes" on that question.
To vote against a question, fill in the oval next to the word "No" on that question.

**School District Question 1
Revoking Existing Referendum Revenue Authorization;
Approving New Authorization**

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☐

Yes

Shall the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization be revoked and the increase in the revenue proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 2683 be approved?

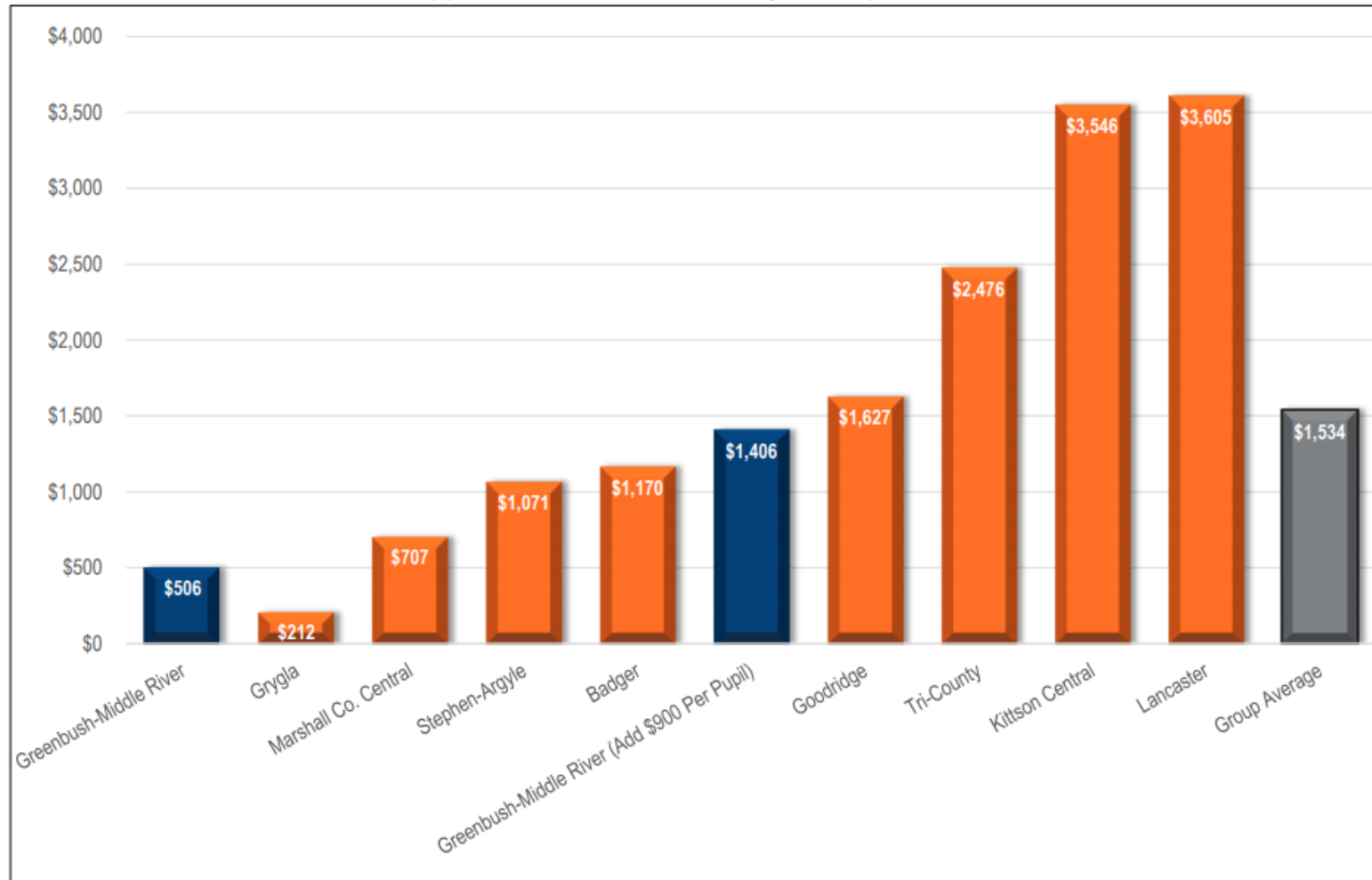
☐

No

**BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU
ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**

Greenbush - Middle River School District

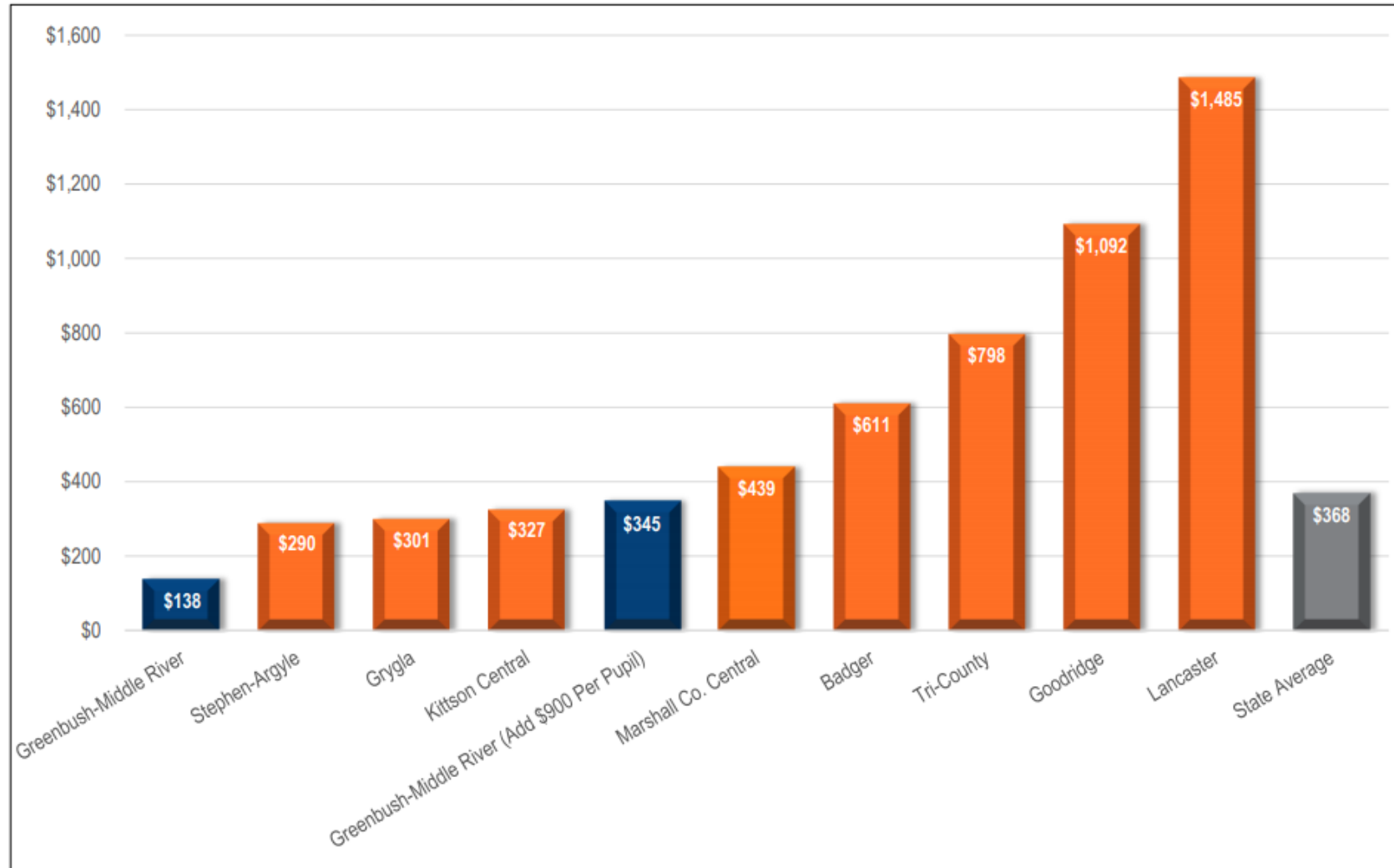
Voter Approved Referendum Authority Per Pupil Unit FY 20-21



Source: MDE Operating Referendum Phaseout January 2020

Greenbush - Middle River School District

Total School Property Taxes, Payable 2020, on a Home with an Estimated Market Value of \$100,000



Source: Pay 20 School Tax Report

Superintendent Comments [excerpts] as per July 29, 2020 Special Work Session...

“As a board, you have been very conscious of both the financial needs we have as a school district and the financial challenges that COVID-19 has placed on our community. **A solution that combines on-going budget reductions with an operating levy allows us to partner with our residents, and keep both our schools and our community strong.**”

Excerpt of Special Work Session Agenda Topics held on May 11, 2020 @ 7:30 pm

- **Review and discussion relating to deficit reduction(s) in the current 2019-2020 school year and 2020-2021 school year.**

GREENBUSH MIDDLE RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

DEFICIT REDUCTION SUGGESTIONS

Directions: The Board of Education and the School Administration is soliciting suggestions for making expenditure reductions. Although the primary responsibility for the school budget rests with the Board and the Administration, soliciting suggestions from residents and employees will ensure that all reasonable deficit reduction measures have been considered.

When making a deficit reduction suggestion, please phrase your suggestion in terms of a single action. Do not make a broad generalization about the school program. These kinds of statements are difficult to convert into specific cost cutting measures. For example, if you believe that too much money is spent on student athletics, state which sport(s) the school district should delete rather than making a general statement. Another example, if you believe the school district has many frills, identify each item that you consider a frill.

Deadline: Please return this form to the district office, principals' office, or your immediate supervisor ASAP but no later than ____

1. _____

2. _____

Note: Use the back of this form for the identification of more deficit reduction suggestions.

Identifying Respondent by Classification (optional): Some respondents may have more first-hand information regarding the possibility of reducing expenses for specific programs. For example, a bus driver may have more relevant information regarding the reduction of expenses for student transportation than a food service employee. Therefore, please identify yourself by placing a check next to the most appropriate group:

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pupil Transportation Employee | <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings & Grounds Employee | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Service Employee | <input type="checkbox"/> Instructional Aides |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office Employee | <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary Teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary Teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education Teacher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent | <input type="checkbox"/> Student | <input type="checkbox"/> Resident of School District | |

Slide as presented during March 16, 2020 regular school board meeting and as published in *The Chomper* (student newspaper delivered district-wide in April 2020)

511/2020 Work Session meeting: Input Suggestions for Proposed Reductions to 2020-2021 Budget.

| Item | Board Remarks 05/11/2020 | General Summary of Budget Reductions & Comments | Program Area Affected | Estimated Increase for Receipts | Estimated Decrease for Expenditures | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|---|--------------------|
| 11 | | Dues reduction for MREA membership (15% reduction) | Annual Memberships | | | |
| 12 | | Cut English Teacher. Due to shifting student enrollment | Instructional: High School | | | |
| 13 | | Cut Spanish Teacher. Spanish is not the foreign language to be taught by Chinese. Find school who can deliver virtual Chinese instruction. | Instructional: High School | | | |
| 14 | | Do not replace Special Education Teacher. Move one from High School or Elementary Regular Ed. to Elementary Special Ed. Lack of enrollment should justify this move. | Special Education | | | |
| 15 | | Offer an attractive buyout plan for teachers | Instructional | | | |
| 16 | | For any teacher leaving, try to shuffle present staff to fill the vacancy. | Instructional | | | |
| 17 | | Reduce classroom supplies | Instructional | | | |
| 18 | | Reduce supplies in other program areas (eg: Food Service, Buildings & Grounds) | Support Programs | | | |
| 19 | | Cut The Chomper. Move Chomper articles to GMR Online and student write articles for their English Class assignments. | Student Activity | | | |
| 20 | | Adjust (reduce) hours of kitchen dishwasher | Food Service | | | |
| Brd. | BA Yes | Board Agreement to implement as a Budget Reduction item | | | Page 2 of 4.... | EXHIBIT 5.1 |
| Remarks | BD No | Board Disagreement NOT to implement as a Budget Reduction item | Defer | Deferred for additional information or consideration | | |

511/2020 Work Session meeting: Input Suggestions for Proposed Reductions to 2020-2021 Budget.

| | | | | | | |
|---------|--------|--|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----|
| 21 | | In terms of students enrollment, GMR is moving toward one (1) section school Why do we have 3 social studies teachers, 2 science teachers and 2 English teachers? | Instructional | | | |
| 22 | | Move 6th grade to high school | Instructional | | | |
| 23 | | Only One (1) office secretary in each office. | Administration | | | |
| 24 | | Eliminate foreign language classes. Cutting a position. Many other surrounding schools our size to not offer foreign language. | Instructional | | | |
| 25 | | Have 7-12 subject teachers share duties of Careers & College, Librian/ Media specialist and computers eliminating mutliple positions. | Instructional & Student support | | | |
| 26 | | Cut teacher(s) with large salaries | Instructional | | | |
| 27 | | Teachers need to teach more classes and less preparation / study halls | Instructional | | | |
| 28 | | Cut Staff | Instructional | | | |
| 29 | | Do a comparison of student to teacher ratios in NW MN and then cut staff | Instructional | | | |
| 30 | | Cut Para Staff | Student support | | | |
| | | Page 2 | Total page #2 (this page) | | \$0 | \$0 |
| Brd. | BA Yes | Board Agreement to implement as a Budget Reduction item | | | Page 3 of 4.... EXHIBIT 5.1 | |
| Remarks | BD No | Board Disagreement NOT to implement as a Budget Reduction item | Defer | Deferred for additional information or consideration | | |

511/2020 Work Session meeting: Input Suggestions for Proposed Reductions to 2020-2021 Budget.

| Item | Board Remarks 05/11/2020 | General Summary of Budget Reductions & Comments | Program Area Affected | Estimated Increase for Receipts | Estimated Decrease for Expenditures | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|
| 31 | | Cut Social Worker position to one (1) | Counseling - Mental Health | | | |
| 32 | | Is it time for the GMR school district to approach Badger or Karlstad to combine school districts? | Instructional | | | |
| 33 | | Seek a increase in the existing school operating levy via referendum | Instructional | | | |
| 34 | | | | | | |
| 35 | | | | | | |
| 36 | | | | | | |
| 37 | | | | | | |
| 38 | | | | | | |
| Brd. | BA Yes | Board Agreement to implement as a Budget Reduction item | | | | Page 4 of 4.... EXHIBIT 5.1 |
| Remarks | BD No | Board Disagreement NOT to implement as a Budget Reduction item | Defer | Deferred for additional information or consideration | | |

TIMELINE FOR LEVY REFERENDUMS - NOVEMBER 3, 2020

1. Have the board adopt the resolution calling the special election at least seventy-four (74) days prior to the election date (no later than August 21, 2020).
2. Notify the Commissioner of Education and the County Auditor of each county, in which the school district is located in whole or in part, of the date of the special election and of the question(s) to be voted on at least seventy-four (74) days prior to the election date (no later than August 21, 2020).
3. Coordinate the printing of the ballots for the special election and of the various absentee voting materials and have absentee ballots available at least forty-six (46) days prior to the date of the special election (no later than September 18, 2020).
4. Obtain from the County Auditor of each county, in which the school district is located in whole or in part, a list of each taxpayer in the district and mail the required referendum notice to each taxpayer at least fifteen (15) but no more than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the special election (no earlier than October 4, 2020 and no later than October 19, 2020).
5. Submit a copy of the required referendum notice to the Commissioner of Education and to the County Auditor of each county in which the school district is located in whole or in part at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the special election (no later than October 19, 2020).
6. Post the Notice of Special Election at the administrative offices of the district at least (10) days prior to the date of the special election (no later than Friday, October 23, 2020).
7. Publish the Notice of Special Election in the official newspaper for two (2) consecutive weeks with the last publication being at least one (1) week prior to the date of the special election (October 20, 2020 is the last day for publication of the first notice and October 27, 2020 is the last day for publication of the second notice).
8. Post the sample ballot at the administration offices of the district at least four (4) days before the date of the special election (no later than October 30, 2020) and post two sample ballots at each polling place on election day. The sample ballots shall not be printed on the same color paper as the official ballot.
9. Have the board canvass the results of the special election between November 6, 2020 and November 13, 2020 (between the 3rd and 10th day following the election) and notify the County Auditor of each county in which the school district is located in whole or in part of the results of the election.
10. Notify the Commissioner of Education of the results of the referendum revenue authorization election within fifteen (15) days (no later than November 18, 2020) after the results of the referendum have been certified by the school board or, in the case of a recount, after the results of the recount have been certified by the canvassing board.

THE ABOVE TIMELINE IS BASED UPON MINNESOTA STATUTES 2019. FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THESE TIMELINES MAY RESULT IN A NEGATED ELECTION.