


Greenbush Middle River School District voters to have two ballot questions in November 3rd General Election

General Election Ballot

Independent School District No. 2683
Greenbush Middle River School District

November 3, 2020

Instructions to Voters:

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

School Board Member Vote for Up to Three

- Laurie Stromsodt
- Joseph Melby
- Brandon Kuznia
- Brandon Ignaszewski
- _____
write-in, if any
- _____
write-in, if any
- _____
write-in, if any




**School Board Election:
Vote for up to three (3)
seats, each with a four
(4) year term**

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 \$1306.05 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.**

**Special Election Ballot
Question to Revoke the
existing GMR operating
referendum and Replace it
with a new operating
referendum amount**

ABOUT THE GREENBUSH MIDDLE RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Despite being a small, rural school, the Greenbush-Middle River School District offers big-school opportunities for students and provides the opportunities to reach the goals of the GMR Mission Statement.

Greenbush-Middle River staff meets the needs of students in all areas. Regular classroom teachers and special education teachers work to create the best learning opportunities and environments for students. Support staff, licensed social workers and skilled paraprofessionals round out a staff dedicated to students.

Parents, community organizations and members invest in the GMR school district, providing generous scholarships to graduates and donations to classrooms, activities, and sports. GMR students enjoy a special connection with the local nursing home community providing valuable inter-generational relationships with GMR classes and Gator teams.

Students at GMR are fortunate to have 1:1 devices with Chromebooks and iPads, providing technology opportunities for study and research as well as access for all learners during the current COVID pandemic.

High school students are offered a wide variety of elective credits in addition to core classes. Industrial Technology, Family & Consumer Science, Fine Arts, Computer Education, and other courses provide a well-rounded education for students. Valuable, in-person college credits with GMR teachers are offered through Northland Community & Technical



College and University of Minnesota - Crookston, as well as Online College in the High School credits.

GMR students experience life outside of the classroom with robust extracurricular activities that serve many interests. Gators have enjoyed success in advanced competition at MSHSL Section & State Tournaments in sports and activities. Volleyball, Football, Basketball, Wrestling, Cheer Team, FCCLA, Art Club, Math League, Concert Band & Choir, Knowledge Bowl, Robotics, Close Up Travel, Trap Club, Drama, Track & Field, Golf, Softball, Baseball, Target Team, National Honor Society, and other opportunities are valued and promoted at GMR to offer opportunities for students to meet the goals set forth in their mission.



Mission Statement:

The Mission of the Greenbush Middle River School is to provide quality education which will prepare all students to meet success by developing self-directed thinkers who are productive, responsible, respectful, and accountable to themselves and others.

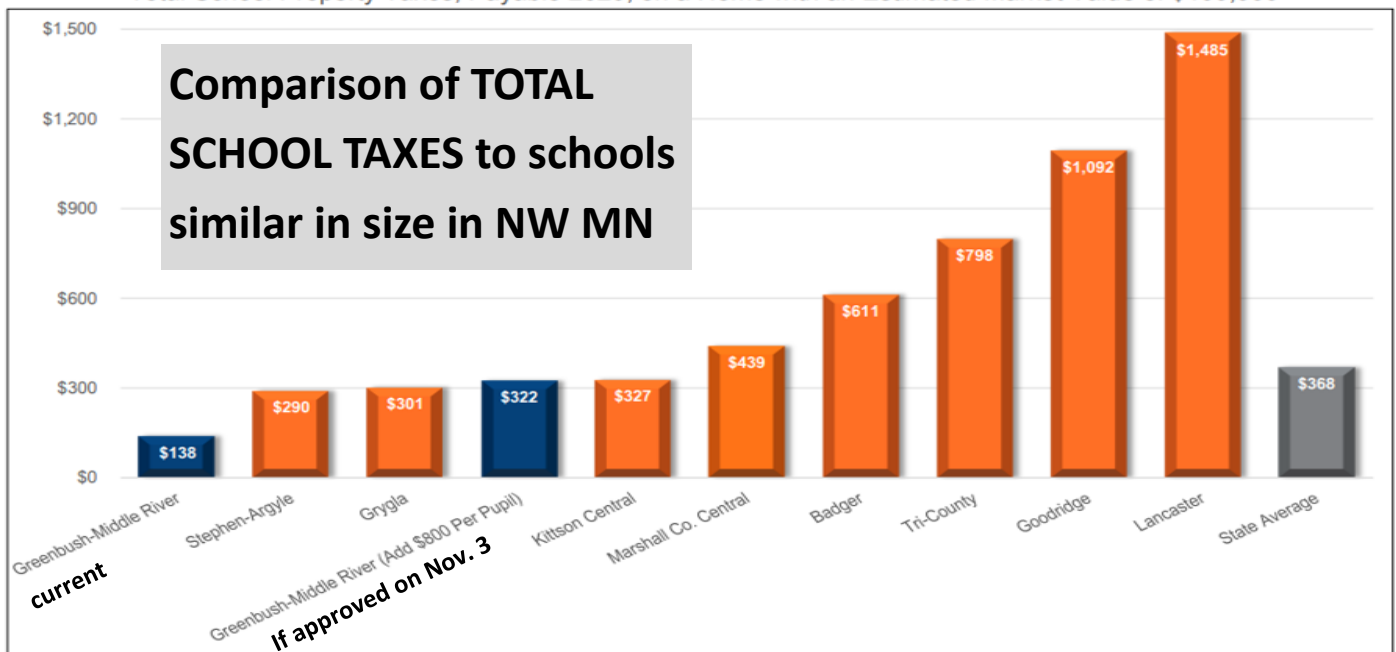
In addition to selecting school board members, residents within the Greenbush Middle River School District will have an additional decision to make on their ballot during the November 3rd General Election. In August, the Greenbush Middle River School Board voted 7-0 to approve asking voters to revoke the existing referendum of \$506.05 per pupil unit and replace that with a referendum of \$1,306.05 per pupil. If approved, this measure will revoke the district's existing referendum authority of \$506.05 per pupil and enact a new one for \$1,306.05 per pupil through local property taxes. The tax would be first levied for taxes payable in 2021 and applicable for 10 years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

The existing referendum of \$506.05 per pupil is slated to expire after the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Voter approval of the referendum would allow the GMR district to address its budget issues while being able to continue to provide quality opportunities for our students and our community. The ballot question will ask voters to consider approving an \$800 per student levy increase, which would generate nearly \$221,000 in additional revenue for this effort. The decision to pursue a levy increase is part of necessary efforts and to restore school district finances. In recent years, the district has been deficit spending using cash reserves for continued operations of the school. This is not a remedy for on-going financial stability. A combination of additional revenue through an operating referendum and budget reductions is the path for more stable school district finances.

The additional operating referendum revenue would help in replacing revenue lost from a declining enrollment trend while at the same time address rising costs in transportation, food service, utilities, instructional supplies, and compensation and benefits for licensed and non-licensed employees. The current GMR per pupil operating levy is one of the lowest in NW MN and, in-fact, total school taxes for the GMR school district are considerably less than other NW MN schools similar in size and below the state average. Even if approved by voters, the increase in school tax levy would be just below average of total school taxes for schools similar in size in NW MN. Voter-approved levies are one way local communities support their schools by providing funding for staff, classroom supplies, student activities and other critical school operating costs.

Greenbush - Middle River School District

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



**SCHOOL TAX
IMPACT OF
PROPOSED
REVOKE &
REPLACE
OPERATING
REFERENDUM**

Greenbush-Middle River School District, ISD 2683

Analysis of Tax Impact for Potential Referendum Levy
August 6, 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
Est. Market Value Tax Rate	-0.06875%	0.25272%	0.18397%

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.

For agricultural property (both homestead and non-homestead), the taxes for the proposed referendum will be based on the value of the house, garage and surrounding one acre of land only. There will be no referendum taxes paid on the value of other agricultural lands and buildings. For seasonal residential recreational property (i.e. cabins), there will be no taxes paid for the proposed referendum.

Greenbush - Middle River School District

Voter Approved Referendum Authority Per Pupil Unit FY 20-21

