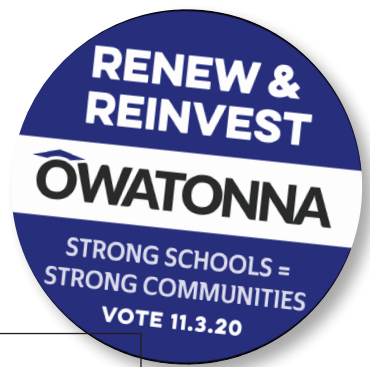


SAMPLE BALLOTS

On November 3, 2020, residents will be asked to vote on two school funding requests: one to renew the existing levy (Q1) and one to increase the levy (Q2). Q2 can only pass if voters first approve Q1.



SCHOOL DISTRICT QUESTION 1

Renewal of School District Expiring Referendum Revenue Authorization

The board of Independent School District No. 761 (Owatonna Public Schools), Minnesota has proposed to renew the existing referendum revenue authorization of \$482.90 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation, that is scheduled to expire after taxes payable in 2020. The renewed referendum revenue authorization would be first levied in 2020 for taxes payable in 2021 and applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

Shall the renewal of the expiring referendum revenue authorization proposed by the Board of Independent School District No. 761 (Owatonna Public Schools), Minnesota be approved?

☐ YES

☐ NO

BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING TO EXTEND AN EXISTING PROPERTY TAX REFERENDUM THAT IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE

This levy was approved by voters in 2013 and is about to expire. If not approved, the district would face a total of \$8.5 million in cuts through 2022-23, affecting all schools.

If approved, it would simply continue funding that is already in place with only a minor tax impact due to inflation adjustments.

The majority of Minnesota school districts rely on voter-approved operating levies to help fund their educational programs.

If voters renew the levy, the state will match every three local dollars with one state dollar through state equalization aid. This additional money will only come to Owatonna Public Schools if voters renew the levy.

The additional funds would help the district to maintain quality programming and activities, appropriate class sizes and career-technical education programs, while providing financial stability for the next several years.

Because the levy increase would not take place until 2022, there would be no tax increase in 2021.

Question 2 is contingent on Question 1 — which means that Question 1 must pass before Question 2 can be approved by voters.

SCHOOL DISTRICT QUESTION 2

Approval of New School District Referendum Revenue Authorizations

The board of Independent School District No. 761 (Owatonna Public Schools), Minnesota has proposed to increase the School District's referendum revenue authorization by the following amounts per pupil for taxes payable in the years specified:

- \$300 per pupil, subject to an annual levy increase at the rate of inflation, for taxes payable in 2022 through 2024
- an additional \$300 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation, for taxes payable in 2025 through 2030

The proposed new referendum revenue authorizations would be applicable for nine (9) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

If School District Question 1 is approved, shall the new referendum revenue authorizations proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 761 (Owatonna Public Schools), Minnesota be approved?

☐ YES

☐ NO

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

Owatonna's voter-approved levy is currently in the bottom third of Big 9 school districts — and is not sufficient to maintain current educational programs.

By phasing in the increase over time, the tax impact is also phased in. This fiscally conservative approach asks for only what is needed when it's needed.

The average homeowner (\$175,000 value home) would see a \$10 per month increase in 2022 and in 2025, with no increases from this levy in other years.

Learn more — including how to vote early in-person or by mail:

Visit: isd761.org/levy

Email: levy@isd761.org

Call: 507.444.8650