

Wheaton Area Schools

ISD #803

November 5, 2024 School District Referendum

Two referendum questions each raising \$300K of new revenue, will be used to provide future stabilization for the district's operational budget.

QUESTION #1

New Operating Levy

Will be used towards educational programs and personnel.

QUESTION #2

Bond & Capital Projects Levy

Will provide a predictable revenue stream for:

- ☐ Technology, Curriculum, Textbooks, and Supplies
- ☐ Machinery, Equipment, and Vehicles
- ☐ Safe Schools & Security Equipment
- ☐ Facility Maintenance Items (Roof, Boiler, Plumbing, Electrical, etc..)

**Questions about the Referendum?
Join us on the below dates!**

COMMUNITY MEETING INFORMATION

**Wheaton High School Auditorium
1700 3rd Ave. South
Wheaton, MN 56296**

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Wednesday, October 2, 2024

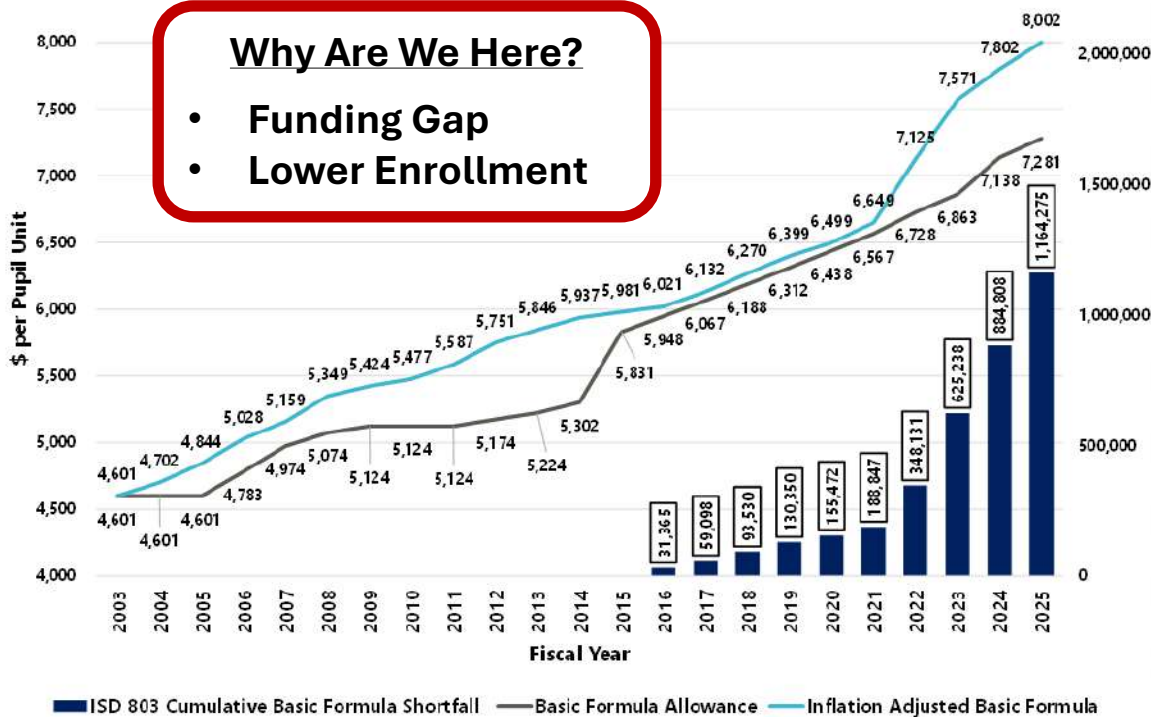
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

**EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 5TH.
EARLY & ABSENTEE VOTING BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 20TH.**

Minnesota's Educational Basic Formula Allowance (Lines) and ISD 803 Funding Shortfall (Bars)

Why Are We Here?

- Funding Gap
- Lower Enrollment



Although voters approved a new \$200K operating levy request in 2021, these additional dollars do not cover the gap between state funding and inflation.

What has the District been doing?

For Fiscal Year 2025, the district has reduced their operational expenditure budget by over 5%.

Without these two referendum questions, the next round of expenditure reductions for Fiscal Year 2026 will dramatically re-shape Wheaton's educational program offerings and services.

SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION 1 APPROVAL OF SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION

The School Board of Independent School District No. 803 (Wheaton Area Schools), Minnesota has proposed to increase its general education revenue by \$830.06 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be first levied in 2024 for taxes payable in 2025 and would be applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced by law.

- ☐ YES Shall the increase in general education revenue proposed by the Board of Independent School District No. 803 (Wheaton Area Schools), Minnesota be approved
- ☐ NO

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION 2 APPROVAL OF SCHOOL DISTRICT CAPITAL PROJECT LEVY AND BOND ISSUE

The School Board of Independent School District No. 803 (Wheaton Area Schools), Minnesota has proposed a capital project levy authorization of 1.673% times the net tax capacity of the school district. The proposed capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$175,000 for taxes payable 2025, the first year it is to be levied, and would be authorized for 10 years. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$1,750,000. The proposed capital project levy will provide funds for technology curriculum, software, contracted IT services, textbooks, and supplies. The projects to be funded have received a positive review and comment from the Commissioner of Education. In addition, the school board of Independent School District No. 803 (Wheaton Area Schools) has proposed to issue its general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$1,740,000. The proposed bonds will provide funds for the acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities, including but not limited to the acquisition, installation, replacement and maintenance of technology hardware & software, computers, mobile devices, networks, infrastructure, vehicles, machinery, and equipment.

- ☐ YES Shall the issuance of general obligation bonds and the capital project levy proposed by the school board of Independent School District No. 803 (Wheaton Area Schools) be approved?
- ☐ NO

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

What Will This Cost Me?

The below table shows the estimated tax impact of Question #1 and Question #2 on various types and values

Property Type	Estimated Market Value	Annual Tax Impact Commencing Taxes Payable 2025			Total Est. Monthly Tax Impact Commencing with Taxes Payable 2025
		Q1 - New Op. Levy Authority - \$830.06 per Pupil Unit for a new \$300K	Q2 - Bond/Capital Projects Levy	Q1 + Q2 Total	
Homestead Residential Property	100,000	196.86	19.34	216.20	18.02
	200,000	393.72	53.07	446.79	37.23
	300,000	590.58	86.80	677.38	56.45
Commercial / Industrial	100,000	196.86	46.42	243.28	20.27
	200,000	393.72	100.57	494.29	41.19
	300,000	590.58	162.46	753.04	62.75
Apartments	100,000	196.86	38.68	235.54	19.63
	200,000	393.72	77.36	471.08	39.26
	300,000	590.58	116.04	706.62	58.89
Seasonal Rec	100,000	0.00	30.94	30.94	2.58
	200,000	0.00	61.89	61.89	5.16
	300,000	0.00	92.83	92.83	7.74
Ag Dwelling Value of HSTD Only (house, garage and 1 acre)	100,000	196.86	19.34	216.20	18.02
	200,000	393.72	53.07	446.79	37.23
	300,000	590.58	86.80	677.38	56.45
Remainder of Ag HSTD assessed value per acre	4,000	0.00	0.40	0.40	0.03
	5,000	0.00	0.49	0.49	0.04
	6,000	0.00	0.59	0.59	0.05
Remainder of Ag Non-HSTD assessed value per acre	4,000	0.00	0.79	0.79	0.07
	5,000	0.00	0.99	0.99	0.08
	6,000	0.00	1.19	1.19	0.10

NOTE:

Seasonal rec property and agricultural land beyond dwelling value (home, garage and one acre) are exempt from Question #1.

The Capital Projects Levy Portion of Question #2 is not eligible for the Ag2School Tax Credit.

Qualifying Agricultural Properties are eligible for the Ag2School Credit for the bond portion.

Parcel Specific Tax Impact estimates can be found on the District's website at: <https://wheaton.k12.mn.us/>

Tax Relief Measures

- There are available tax relief measures that can reduce the impact of the two questions for Minnesota residents.

Regular Residential Property Tax Refund

- Annual Refund for Eligible Households
- A Homeowner with a household income of up to \$135,410 is eligible for a property tax refund of up to \$3,310. A renter with a household income of up to \$73,270 is eligible for a property tax refund of up to \$2,570.

Special Residential Property Tax Refund

- If you are a homeowner, you may be eligible for a special property tax refund. This refund has no income limit, and the maximum refund is \$1,000. You may qualify if your net property tax increased by more than 12% between 2024 to 2025, and the increase is at least \$100.

District Contact Information:

Dan Posthumus, Superintendent

Phone: 320-563-8282

Email: dposthumus@wheaton.k12.mn.us

**Wheaton Area Schools
1700 3rd Ave. South,
Wheaton, MN 56296**

- The precincts, polling places and voting hours at the polling places for this special election shall be the same as those for the state general election.
- Any eligible voter residing in the School District may vote at said election at the polling place designated for the precinct in which they reside.
- A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on election day.

Questions Regarding Absentee, Early, or Election Day Voting?

Please use the link below for additional information:

<https://www.co.traverse.mn.us/departments/departments/auditortreasurer/elections/>

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