

2014 Levy Referenda

Worlds of opportunity for every learner

Creating College and Career Ready Graduates

Columbia Heights Public Schools **create worlds of opportunity for every learner** in partnership with supportive small-town communities by challenging all to discover their talents, to unleash their potential and to develop tools for lifelong success.

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Community
Excellence
Collaboration
CORE VALUES
Integrity
Respect
Courage
Innovation

Overview

The Columbia Heights Public School Board is presenting two levy questions to district voters on the Nov. 4, 2014 ballot:

- Renewal of an expiring Operational Levy
- Request for a new Capital Project Levy



Question 1 Operational Levy Renewal

- Voters approved 10-year levy in 2005, payable in 2006
- Provides \$2.1 million annually for operations, including curriculum, programs, services, class sizes, staffing and student achievement.
- The renewal of this levy **does not** raise property taxes.

SPECIAL ELECTION BALLOT

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 13
(COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS)

NOVEMBER 4, 2014

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 RENEWAL OF SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION

The board of Independent School District No. 13 (Columbia Heights Public Schools) has proposed to renew the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization of \$608.93 per pupil which is scheduled to expire after taxes payable in 2015. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten years, beginning with taxes payable in 2016, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

☐

YES

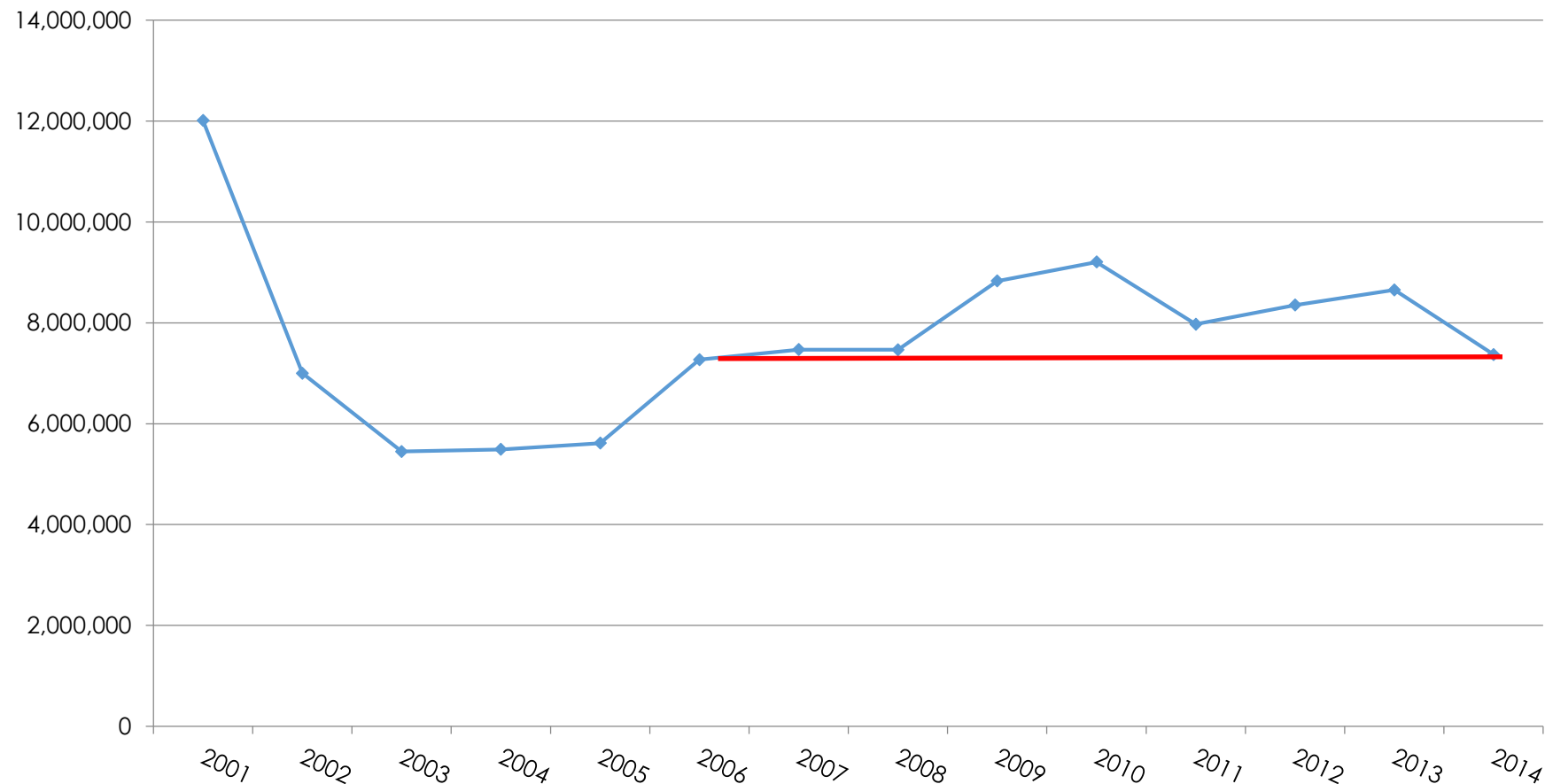
Shall the increase in the revenue proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 13 be approved?

☐

NO

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

Columbia Heights Public Schools' levy history



Columbia Heights Public Schools **create worlds of opportunity for every learner** in partnership with supportive small-town communities by challenging all to discover their talents, to unleash their potential and to develop tools for lifelong success.

Question 2 Capital Project Levy

- If approved by voters, this Capital Project Levy will provide approximately \$1 million a year over a 10-year period (2016-2025).
- The last time District voters were asked and approved capital funding was 18 years ago (1996).
- This Capital Project Levy **does include** a tax increase

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SCHOOL DISTRICT QUESTION 2 APPROVAL OF SCHOOL DISTRICT CAPITAL PROJECT LEVY AUTHORIZATION

The board of Independent School District No. 13 (Columbia Heights Public Schools) has proposed a capital project levy authorization in the amount of 5.670% times the net tax capacity of the school district.

The proposed capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$1,000,000 for taxes payable in 2015, the first year it is to be levied. The proposed authorization would be applicable for ten years and the estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$10,000,000.

The money raised by the proposed authorization will be used to cover the following costs:

- deferred maintenance projects at various district facilities, including tuckpointing; repair and replacement of casework, windows and doors; track improvements; roof repair and replacement; plumbing repair and replacement; parking and driveway improvements; repair of water damage and siding repair and replacement; and mechanical and signage improvements; and
- acquisition, installation, replacement, support and maintenance of software, improved technology, technology systems, networks and infrastructure, and related training.

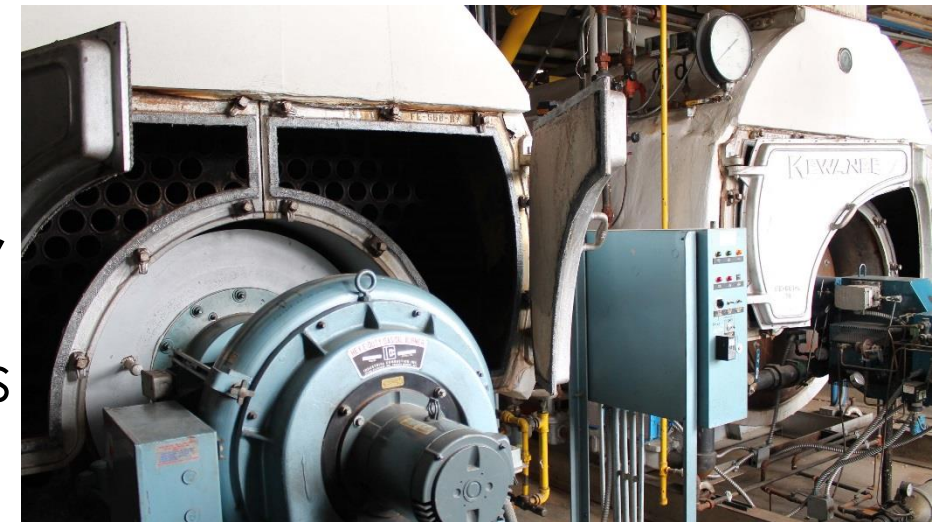
The projects to be funded have received a positive review and comment from the Commissioner of Education.

☐ YES Shall the capital project levy authorization proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 13 be approved?
☐ NO BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

Question 2 Capital Project Levy

Examples of current facility needs:

- Replacing and/or repairing roofs, windows, doors, plumbing and casework
- Replacing or repairing furnaces and boilers
- Repairing water damage and siding, brick tuck-pointing
- Improving signage
- Repairing parking and driveways



Facility needs by building

• Highland Elementary	\$1,271,280
• Valley View Elementary	\$1,791,052
• North Park Elementary	\$2,693,204
• Family Center	\$271,000
• Columbia Academy	\$1,408,244
• Columbia Heights High School	\$4,053,872

Capital Projects Levy funding

- 10-year facility needs: \$11,488,652
- District available funds: \$5,500,000
- Amount requested of taxpayers: \$5,988,652



Question 2 Capital Project Levy

Technology needs:

- Improving safety and security systems
- Increasing Internet bandwidth and technology systems
- Improving parent and student portal technology systems



Question 2 Capital Project Levy

Technology needs:

- Expanding networks and infrastructure capacity for wireless access
- Acquiring technology devices
- Installing, replacing, supporting and maintaining software and related training



Total for technology and security: \$4 million (10-year period)

Question 2 Capital Project Levy tax effect

Estimated Home Market Value	Estimated annual tax increase	Estimated monthly tax increase
\$50,000	\$25	\$2.08
\$100,000	\$59	\$4.91
\$150,000	\$104	\$8.66
\$200,000	\$149	\$12.41

If Question 1 is not renewed

- \$2.1 million in budget cuts for the 2015-2016 fiscal year can include **reductions or eliminations** in:
 - Up to 34 staff (teachers, support, administrators), leading to increased class sizes
 - E-12 curriculum offerings
 - K12 activities/athletics
 - Transportation services
 - Programs and services

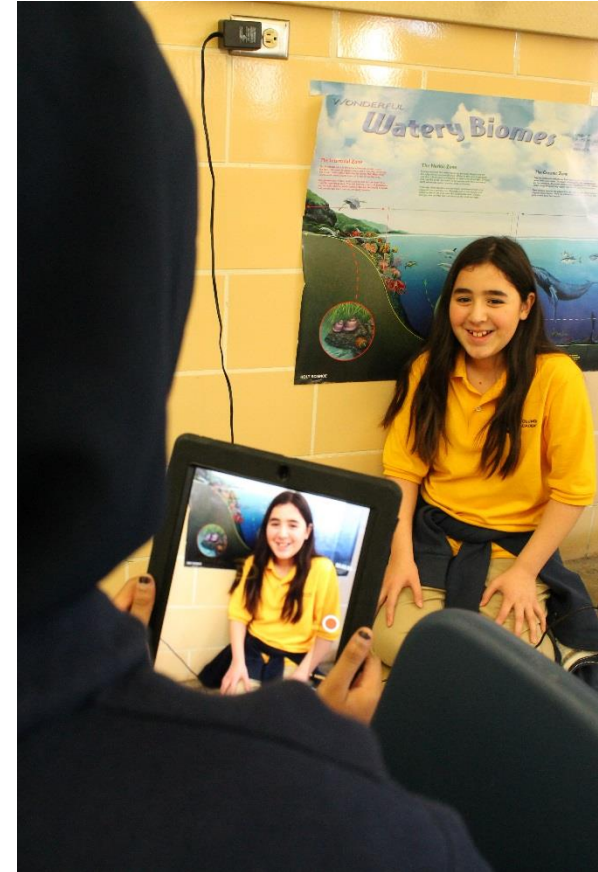
If Question 2 does not pass

- Access and quality of technical services will be reduced
- Facilities and grounds will deteriorate, adding to future maintenance cost
- 21st Century technology learning will not be fully accessed or implemented at the same rate as surrounding districts



If Question 2 does not pass

- Internet bandwidth will not be expanded to meet educational needs
- Personalized student technology devices will be delayed until funding is available, putting the expansion of the Personalized Learning Initiative on hold.



www.colheights.k12.mn.us/2014levy

Bill Holmgren
Director of Finance and Operations
763-528-4411

Bryan Hennekens
Director of Technology and Security
763-528-4479

Questions?