

West Central Area School District #2342

November 7, 2023

Operating and Capital Project Levy

Frequently Asked Questions



Did the state recently increase funding for education?

State lawmakers did increase school funding during the 2023 legislative session. However, this funding still falls short of the funding schools received 20 years ago when accounting for inflation. Legislators also added many new mandates that limit the flexibility of school districts to meet their individual needs.

What challenges are our schools facing?

The funding formula used to fund Minnesota school districts has not kept pace with the rate of inflation for the past 20 years. Funds provided during the pandemic were used to cover the expenses for additional mental health services, technology, and supplies. These funds are phasing out this year, but the need for these services and equipment remains.

Questions about the Plan

What is this vote for?

On Tuesday, November 7, voters in West Central Area School District #2342 will consider two ballot questions that plan to maintain the current programs in our schools.

Question #1

is to renew the \$1,551 levy with an increase accounting for the rate of inflation. The renewal would maintain taxes at the same level previously approved by voters and would increase by the rate of inflation that is set by the Minnesota Department of Education for taxes payable in 2026 and beyond.

Question #2

is seeking \$300,000 annually to fund capital project levy for technology for taxables payable in 2024. The tax impact on taxes payable is estimated to be \$34 per year for a home valued at \$200,000 and \$0.47 per acre for an Agricultural Homestead valued at \$5,000 per acre.

Why are these questions on the ballot?

West Central Area Schools are committed to providing innovative programming to attract students and improve student readiness. The district is also committed to investing in and attracting staff that help create an exceptional learning environment for our students.

Questions about the Impact

How would this investment impact our students?

Question #1

would ensure the district maintains the funding that is needed to provide the programs and learning environment that are necessary for our students to be successful. Currently, these funds help maintain small class sizes in the elementary school, provide free preschool programming to families, increase mental health support for all students, enhance Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses, and offer college-level courses at the high school.

Question #2

is requesting \$300,000 annually for a capital project levy that will be spent on technology for 10 years to ensure our students and staff have access to the technology that is essential for learning. The capital project levy will also be spread over a larger tax base in the school district to reduce the overall burden to our taxpayers.

Questions about the Cost

How would the levies impact my taxes?

The tax impact for **Question #1** is to renew the \$1,551 levy with an increase for the rate of inflation. The renewal would maintain taxes at the same level previously approved by voters and would increase by the rate of inflation that is set by the Minnesota Department of Education for taxes payable in 2026 and beyond. The tax impact on taxes payable is estimated to be \$34 per year for a home valued at \$200,000 and \$0.47 per acre for an Agricultural Homestead valued at \$5,000 per acre.

How long would these levies be in place?

Both of these levies would remain in place for a 10-year period.



Questions about Voting

**When and where can I vote? Election Day is
Tuesday, November 7.**

**In-person voting on Election Day will be as
follows:**

**Combined Polling Place: Elbow Lake Community Building
Goetzinger Room (south end of the building)
117 Central Avenue, Elbow Lake, MN**

**This combined polling place serves all territory in Independent
School District No.2342 located in the following:**

Precinct 26, Grant County, MN

City of Barrett	Lien Township
Delaware Township	North Ottawa Township
City of Elbow Lake	Pelican Lake Township
Elbow Lake Township	Pomme De Terre Township
Erdahl Township	Sanford Township
Lawrence Township	Stony Brook Township
Lien Township	City of Wendell

Precinct 56, Ottertail County, MN

Aastad Township
Tumuli Township
Western Township



**Combined Polling Place: Kensington Community Center
19 Central Ave N, Kensington, MN 56343**

**This combined polling place serves all territory in
Independent School District No.2342 located in the following:**

Precinct 21, Douglas County, MN **Precinct 26, Grant County, MN** **Precinct 61, Pope County, MN**

Holmes City Township	City of Hoffman
City of Kensington	Land Township
Moe Township	Roseville Township
Solem Township	Elk Lake Township
Urness Township	

Ben Wade Township
Nora Township

**Precinct 75, Stevens
County, MN**

Swan Lake Township

Early voting begins on Friday, September 22 and ends on Monday, November 6.

Early voting can be done with an absentee ballot, either through the mail or in person at the District Office during the times noted below.

An application needs to be completed for an absentee ballot before the ballot can be issued.

NOTICE OF ABSENTEE VOTING LOCATION

ISD 2342 (West Central Area Schools) will be conducting a special election on November 7th, 2023.



ABSENTEE VOTING LOCATION:

West Central Area Schools

District Office

301 Co Rd 2

Barrett, MN 56311

320-528-7300



DATES/TIMES: September 22nd - November 6th, 2023

Monday - Friday, 8:30AM - 3:00PM*

***Closed Thursday, October 19th (MEA)**

***Closed Friday, October 20th (MEA)**

If you need to register to vote, have not voted in the past four years, have changed your name or address, please stop by your County Auditor's office or go online to register to Vote!!

<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/>