

New Ulm Schools 2022 Referendum Vote Nov. 8



Solid. Stable. Strong.
NewUlmReferendum.org

We're Proud!

Zero-Tax Increase
Big Benefits

93% Graduation rate

is greater than the state average.

Ranked 2nd in the state

for the College Success Award
by Greatschools.org.

Enrollment

is steadily increasing; 11% increase
over the past 10 years.

Updated and well-maintained facilities

that accommodate increasing enrollment.

Stable Finances

position the District well to meet
future challenges.



Supportive Community by the numbers

\$1 million

donation to the high
school auditorium.

\$250,000

for CTE Center equipment.

\$225,000

from Athletic Boosters for improved
student athlete experiences.

\$1.8 million

property donation for Career and
Technical Education (CTE) Center.



Solid. Stable. Strong.

Dear New Ulm Community Members:

You spoke and we listened. Last year's tax increase was not approved. Today, we are asking our community to simply renew what you have already approved.

Keep New Ulm's Solid Schools Strong

Read on to learn more about our great schools, what's new, what's in the future, and one thing we need from you to keep a great thing going.

What Does Answering One Question Do for the Schools?

We need you to vote on a one-question operating levy referendum on Election Day, November 8, or by absentee ballot up until November 7.

Referendum funds invest in our students' future:

- Maintain low class sizes.
- Expand college prep and career and technical education.
- Support student technology and technology infrastructure.

What will it cost?

If the levy passes, it won't cost taxpayers more, but it will reap big benefits in our schools. If the levy does not pass, we'll face some tough decisions, including filling a \$1.8 million budget hole.

Solid. Stable. Strong. New Ulm Schools.

The New Ulm area is a great place to live and raise a family. We have excellent schools, dedicated staff, highly engaged parents/caregivers, and a generous community.

Sincerely,

New Ulm Public Schools' Board of Education

Steve Gag, Chair
Jonathan Schiro, Vice-Chair
Matt Ringhofer, Treasurer
Amanda Groebner, Clerk

Christie Dewanz, Board Member
Melissa Sunderman, Board Member
Denny Waloch, Board Member



New Ulm Public Schools operating levy expires this year and programs are not fully funded

Promises were made by the state and federal government to fund certain programs in schools. Unfortunately, they have not fulfilled their promise and schools are using general fund dollars to maintain necessary programs.

Here is a list of those current programs:

- Special education
- English learners
- Required transportation for care and treatment
- Preschool programs
- Gifted and talented
- Out-of-district or state student placements



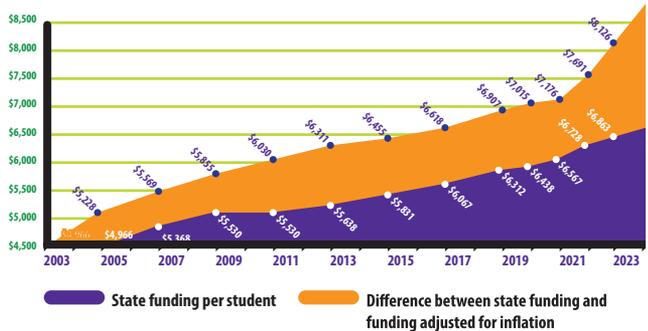
The state and federal requirements continue to increase each year, but are not funded at the levels to sustain them without additional local support.

Referendum dollars are spent on staff and student programs

Over the life of the last 10-year operating levy referendum, levy dollars were used to maintain low class sizes, maintain current programs for college prep and technical education, and to provide student technology and infrastructure. We're proposing to continue this investment for the next 10-year operating levy.

The Basic Education Formula Continues to Lag Behind Inflation

Had state funding increased by the rate of inflation each year since 2003, 2023 funding would be \$8,126 per student, \$1,263 more than actual.



Source: MDE June 2022 Inflation Estimates

New Ulm Public Schools is asking voters to consider a one-question operating levy referendum renewal on the November 8 ballot.

You spoke and we listened.

Last year's tax increase was not approved. We heard you. Our request this year is to maintain what we have now.

The school board of New Ulm Public Schools voted unanimously to ask voters to consider a proposal to renew its existing referendum revenue authorization of \$779 per pupil, which is scheduled to expire after taxes payable in 2022.

The proposed referendum revenue authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation and be applicable for ten years beginning with taxes payable in 2023.

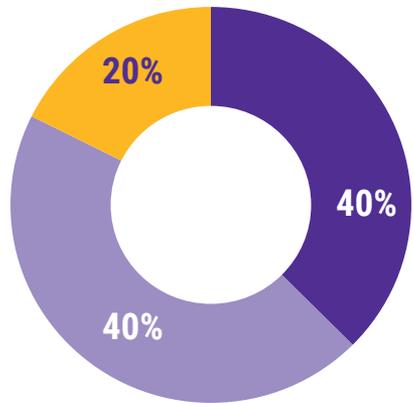
Here is a breakdown of how the funds will be spent:

Maintain low class sizes

Our relatively low class sizes are a result of our ability to hire enough teachers to decrease the number of students in each classroom.

Maintain current programs for college prep and technical education

Continue support of college prep courses and career readiness courses, additional career and technical education programs, and train students with workforce ready skills.



Provide student technology and infrastructure

Technology is used every day by nearly all of us in Minnesota. Students need electronic devices and the technology infrastructure to use them to be prepared for the workforce.

When schools are strong the community is strong. Strong Schools = Strong Community!

The New Ulm area is a great place to live and raise a family. We have excellent schools, dedicated staff, highly engaged parents/caregivers, and a generous community.

Renewing the operating levy would be a huge boost to New Ulm's schools and would have lasting effects on our students and the future of our community

Do you know how referendum dollars are spent? On staff and student programs.

Renewing the existing question will allow the district to continue to raise \$779 per pupil, or a total of \$1.8 million annually.

Over the life of the last 10-year operating levy referendum, levy dollars were used to maintain low class sizes, maintain current programs for college prep and technical education, and to provide student technology and infrastructure. We're proposing to continue this investment for the next 10-year operating levy.

If the referendum is not approved, the district will have a \$1.8 million hole to fill by dipping into its savings account and making budget reductions.

Does the quality of schools really affect property values?

Yes. According to a National Alliance of Business report, "The second most often cited reason for a business selecting a particular location is the quality of the schools." Good schools are also shown to attract and retain families. A community that attracts families and businesses tends to have a stronger tax base, higher home values, and a tax burden that is spread more widely.



Learn More About the 2022 Referendum



Website: NewUlmReferendum.org

Facebook: facebook.com/NUPSeagles

Twitter: twitter.com/nupseagles

Questions? Contact Superintendent Jeff Bertrang

Email: jbertrang@newulm.k12.mn.us

Phone: (507) 233-6180

What will it cost me?

The cost is Zero. But is indexed to inflation.

For the past 10-years, The New Ulm Schools' operating levy has been indexed to inflation. This means that voters approved the school district to collect more funds each year by the amount of the increase in inflation, typically around 2-3% more each year. While the increase to the taxpayer is not large, it allows the buying power of referendum revenue to remain at the same level as it was in the year it was approved. We're proposing to maintain an operating levy indexed to inflation for the next 10 years, as well.

Independent School District No. 88 New Ulm, Minnesota
New Ulm Public Schools

Estimated Tax Impact for Referendum Levy

Prepared:

	Actual		Estimated	
	Pay 2022	Pay 2023	Pay 2023	Pay 2023
	Expiring Authority	Renewed Authority	Renewed Authority	Net Change
Referendum Market Value	\$779.00	\$779.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	0.12118%	0.12407%	0.00000%	
50,000	60.59	60.59	0.00	0.00
75,000	90.89	90.89	0.00	0.00
100,000	121.18	121.18	0.00	0.00
125,000	151.48	151.48	0.00	0.00
150,000	181.77	181.77	0.00	0.00
175,000	212.07	212.07	0.00	0.00
200,000	242.36	242.36	0.00	0.00
250,000	302.95	302.95	0.00	0.00
300,000	363.54	363.54	0.00	0.00
350,000	424.13	424.13	0.00	0.00
400,000	484.72	484.72	0.00	0.00
500,000	605.91	605.91	0.00	0.00
750,000	908.86	908.86	0.00	0.00
1,000,000	1,211.81	1,211.81	0.00	0.00

Tax rate is derived by dividing the voter approved RMV levy by the total referendum market value, and does not inc. The dollar increase in taxes payable is derived by multiplying the rate increase and the referendum market value by. Residential seasonal recreational property and all but one acre and buildings of agriculture land are excluded from it. Calculations are based on current law and will require revision in the event of legislative changes.

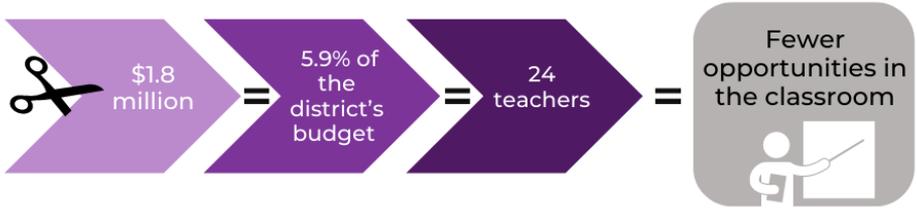
70% Tax Credit for farm owners on the 2014 school bond levy in 2023 and beyond

Q: What is the effect of the operating levy on farms? Do we pay on all our property?

No, farm owners pay on the homestead and one acre for operating levies. Farmers pay on all property for bond levies, however farm property taxes on the New Ulm bond levy from the 2014 referendum are going down again in 2023 due to the Ag2School tax credit program. This credit was approved several years ago and was phased in over time from 40% to 60% for taxes payable in 2022 and will be a 70% tax credit for farm owners on the school bond levy in 2023 and beyond. This will be noted on your property tax statement in December.

What if the referendum is not renewed?

The district will have a \$1.8 million hole to fill and will need to pull from its fund balance or “savings account” and make budget reductions. No decisions have been made by the school board as to where the budget would be reduced. It’s likely that cuts would be spread across many departments, student programs and activities. For illustration purposes, \$1.8 million is equal to 24 teachers.



Q: Didn't the school get additional money from the state/federal government for COVID?

Yes, we received funds to pay for:

- Additional teachers.
- Additional medical staff, school nurse, mental health support for students.
- Additional support staff (custodians, cooks, etc.).
- Technology for distance learning; systems in classrooms; devices and wi-fi hot spots for families. Upgrades to technology infrastructure to make it work.
- Additional HVAC system updates; including more air filters to replace the old system and move more air.
- Safety equipment and dividers; cleaning equipment and supplies.
- More food service equipment and supplies to feed in more locations as we spread students out for social-distancing.
- More busing for athletics – spreading out students to provide a safe social-distance.
- Additional summer school programs, busing, and staffing to get to more students.
- Staff to help with learning loss requirements from the state.

These dollars are not intended for ongoing staff or programming, which the operating levy fund. The COVID relief funds end in two years and we plan to continue with programming that meets state and federal requirements.



Q: How do New Ulm Public Schools benefit private school students?

The most direct benefit for private school students is cooperative agreements that allow students to play on New Ulm athletic teams - gymnastics, tennis, hockey, wrestling, and soccer - along with classes they can take at our high school and Career Technical Education Center. New Ulm Public School also provides the nursing and counseling services for our non-public school students and all of the special education services for non-public school students.

Many other benefits to students, families and the community come from a strong partnership among the New Ulm area's public and private schools. These opportunities make our area a regional hub and contribute to our regional success. Put simply, good schools draw families to move to New Ulm.

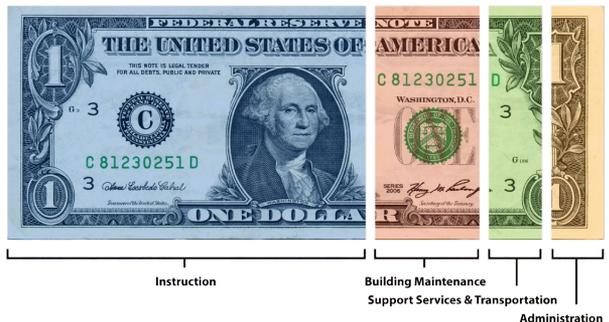


Q: Can I trust the district to spend taxpayer dollars wisely?

Yes, New Ulm Public Schools is proud to be recognized for wise use of funds. In 2021, Moody's Investors Service upgraded the district's bond rating to Aa3 from A1, meaning the District qualifies for lower interest rates when we borrow funds for operations or buildings.

And 65 cents of every dollar goes to student instruction, while just 8 cents goes to administration.

How the District Spends its Money



Where and when do I vote?

Vote early by mail

You can vote early with an absentee ballot September 23-November 7.

Fill out an absentee ballot request form at the Minnesota Secretary of State's website (sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting) and follow instructions.

Vote early in-person

Voters in Brown County can vote at the Brown County Courthouse, 14 S. State St., 2nd Floor, Room 206, New Ulm, MN 56073 during regular business hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday. Voting in Cambria and Butternut Valley Townships in Blue Earth County are mail ballot only. You should have already received a ballot in the mail. If you did not, contact the Blue Earth County Elections Office at 507-304-4341.

Election Day Voting on Tuesday, November 8

Polls are open 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

To find your polling place, please visit the following link: pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us

Registering to vote

You can register at the polls on election day with proof of residence.

New Ulm Public Schools serves the following communities:

Cambria, Courtland, Essig, Hanska, Klossner, Lafayette, New Ulm, St. George, and Searles.



Learn More About the 2022 Referendum



Website: NewUlmReferendum.org

Facebook: facebook.com/NUPSeagles

Twitter: twitter.com/nupseagles

Questions? Contact Superintendent Jeff Bertrang

Email: jbertrang@newulm.k12.mn.us

Phone: (507) 233-6180

VOTE November 8

Special Election Ballot

Independent School District No. 88
(New Ulm Public Schools)

November 8, 2022

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 Expiring School District Referendum Revenue Authorization

The board of Independent School District No. 88 (New Ulm Public Schools) has proposed to renew its existing referendum revenue authorization of \$779 per pupil which is scheduled to expire after taxes payable in 2022. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation and be applicable for ten years beginning with taxes payable in 2023, 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. 88 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.**

Operating Levy Renewal

Zero-tax Increase

\$779 Per Pupil

This is the amount the school district will
collect per pupil, not the amount you will pay.



New Ulm District Offices
414 S Payne St.
New Ulm, MN 56073
(507) 233-6180

2022 Referendum
Every Vote Counts - Vote November 8
NewUlmReferendum.org

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