



Question: [Why is the district making this request now?](#)

Answer: Lower enrollment over the last couple of years, coupled with cost inflation has put strain on the district’s budget. Even after reducing the operational budget by 5% for fiscal year 2025, the district faces an estimated general fund budget deficit of about \$300,000. To cover this deficit, the district must backfill the general fund account with its fund balance. For fiscal year 2025, the unassigned general fund balance is expected to be \$180,000.

Question: [If successful, how much will these referendum questions raise for the district?](#)

Answer: If both questions were to pass, it would provide \$600,000 of additional revenue annually to be used to provide future stabilization of the district’s operational budget (\$300K for Question #1 and \$300K for Question #2).

Question: [What if the referendum questions do not pass?](#)

Answer: Without the additional operational dollars from the two referendum questions, the next round of expenditure reductions for fiscal year 2026 and thereafter will dramatically re-shape Wheaton’s educational program offerings and services.

Question: [What will this cost me?](#)

Answer: Please see the summary table below, which uses multiple property types and values to provide the estimated annual and monthly tax impact of both Question #1 and Question #2. If successful, the new levy from these referendum questions will commence with taxes payable in 2025 / fiscal year 2026.

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.

In addition, the district has provided a parcel specific referendum tax calculator, located on the district website. Taxpayers are highly encouraged to input their parcel identification number(s) to see the estimated property tax impact for their specific property.

Question: [What is Ballot Question #2 asking for?](#)

Answer: At a high level, Ballot Question #2 creates a dedicated funding source for existing technology, machinery/equipment, curriculum, and facilities maintenance items currently being paid by the district’s general fund. If Question #2 is successful, these existing expenditures will be shifted out of general fund, freeing up those dollars to be used for programming and personnel, and reduce the need for future deficit spending.

Question #2 contains a capital projects levy component along with a bond component. The bond component would be used for capital improvements to our school facilities and technology infrastructure. The capital projects levy would be used as a dedicated funding source for other technology and curriculum needs shown in the picture below.

Taxes Certified Year	Taxes Payable Year	Fiscal Year	Expenditure Type				Funding Source
			Technology Curriculum /Software	Curriculum	Contracted IT Services	Textbooks / Supplies	Cap. Proj Levy
2024	2025	2026	35,000	40,000	73,189	26,811	175,000
2025	2026	2027	35,000	40,000	73,189	26,811	175,000
2026	2027	2028	35,000	40,000	73,189	26,811	175,000
2027	2028	2029	35,000	40,000	73,189	26,811	175,000
2028	2029	2030	35,000	40,000	73,189	26,811	175,000
2029	2030	2031	35,000	40,000	73,189	26,811	175,000
2030	2031	2032	35,000	40,000	73,189	26,811	175,000
2031	2032	2033	35,000	40,000	73,189	26,811	175,000
2032	2033	2034	35,000	40,000	73,189	26,811	175,000
2033	2034	2035	<u>35,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>73,189</u>	<u>26,811</u>	<u>175,000</u>
TOTAL			350,000	400,000	731,890	268,110	1,750,000



Please see the summary below of the proposed expenditures funded by the bonds:

Taxes Certified Year	Taxes Payable Year	Fiscal Year	Expenditure Type				Funding Source
			Technology Devices	Machinery / Equipment/ Vehicles	Safe Schools & Security Equipment	Facility Maintenance Items (Roof, Boiler, Tuck-Pointing, etc..)	Bond
2024	2025	2026	88,000		10,000	102,000	200,000
2025	2026	2027	88,000	35,000	10,000	67,000	200,000
2026	2027	2028	98,000	40,000	10,000	52,000	200,000
2027	2028	2029	98,000	35,000	10,000	57,000	200,000
2028	2029	2030	158,000		10,000	32,000	200,000
2029	2030	2031	88,000		10,000	102,000	200,000
2030	2031	2032	28,000	40,000	10,000	122,000	200,000
2031	2032	2033	98,000		10,000	92,000	200,000
2032	2033	2034	98,000		10,000	92,000	200,000
2033	2034	2035	<u>148,000</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>
TOTAL			990,000	185,000	100,000	725,000	2,000,000

Question: [Would it not be simpler to just ask for the entire amount as a capital projects levy only, and not have a bond portion as part of Question #2?](#)

Answer: Yes, only using a capital projects levy for Question #2 would be the “easier” in terms of messaging and communication. However, a capital projects levy is not eligible for the Ag2School tax credit, and school building bonds are eligible for the Ag2School tax credit. By maximizing the amount of eligible expenditures applicable to the bond portion, the district (and the taxpayers) is taking advantage of this credit to its fullest extent. Because the district’s tax base is composed of 86% agricultural property, **60%** of the bond payments of Question #2 will be paid by the state.

Question: [I still have questions regarding this referendum, what can I do to get them answered?](#)

Answer: The district will be holding two community meetings to discuss the referendum. The first will be held on September 18th at 7:00 PM at the Wheaton High School Auditorium. The second will be held on October 2nd at 7:00 PM at the Wheaton High School Auditorium. If you are unable to attend the meetings and would like to reach out directly to the district, please contact Superintendent Posthumus at dposthumus@wheaton.k12.mn.us

Question: [Where can I vote?](#)

Answer: The precincts and polling places and voting hours for this special election are the same as those used for the state general election. Absentee voting is available from September 20th – November 4th.