



St. Clair Public School  
**RENEWAL**

2013 OPERATING REFERENDUM

Tuesday, November 5, 2013

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 75

# 2013 Operating Referendum

- The operating levy approved in 2008 will be expiring at the end of this fiscal year.
- The School Board unanimously approved an amount for the referendum that will **keep the tax rate on local residents the same** as it has been the previous 5-year period.
- A legislative change occurred this spring to provide districts with an additional amount of state revenue in coming years at **no cost** to the taxpayers, meaning: “equalized” or matched by the State.

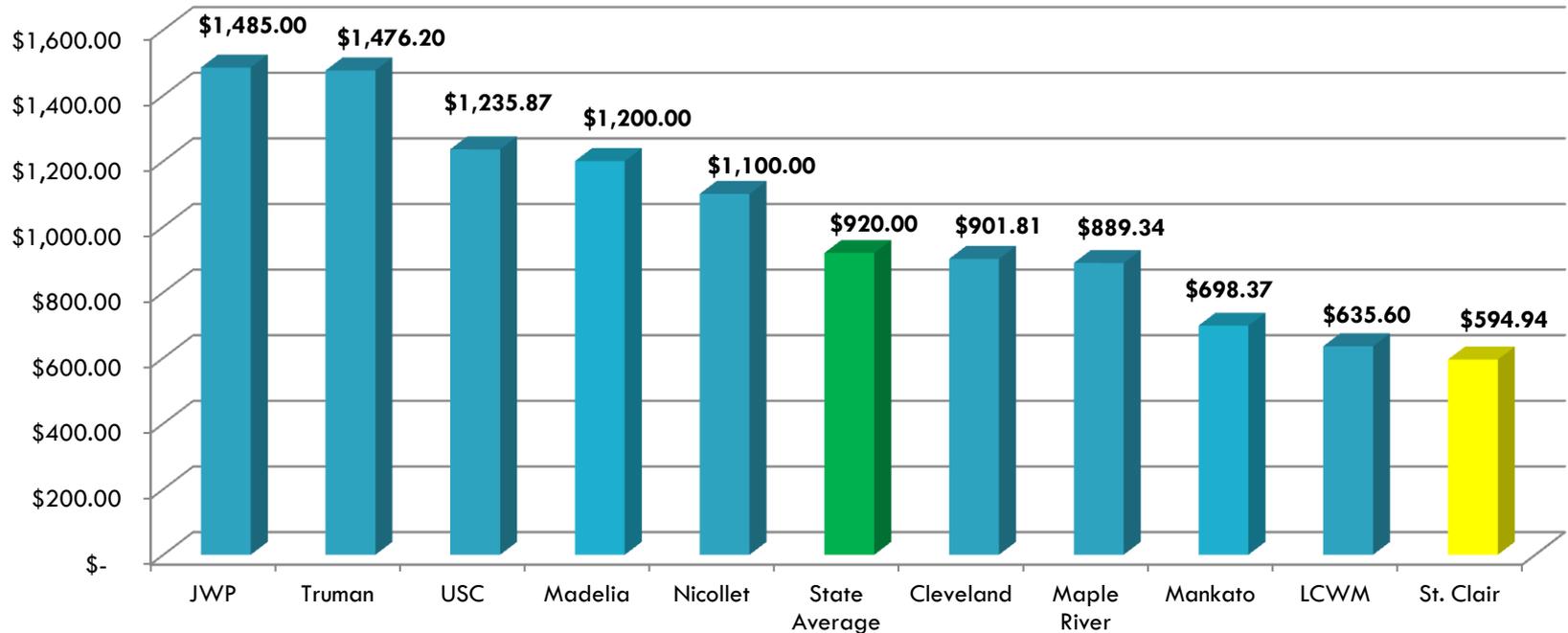
# 2013 Operating Referendum

- 90% of Minnesota School Districts depend on operating levies to help cover basic education costs.
- The St. Clair School Board was committed to renewing rather than increasing the existing tax rate for resident taxpayers.
- Minnesota's expected average referendum amount is \$920 per pupil, while St. Clair will be asking for much less at \$601.66 per pupil.

\*\*See next slide for comparison to other local districts\*\*

# How Does St. Clair Compare ?

## Allowance Per Pupil Unit - FY14



# Operating Levy ~ What's the Cost?

**SIMPLE! Nothing!**

- The renewal of the existing operating levy will not cost the taxpayers any more than their current level of school tax. In fact, less.

**\*\*See next slide for tax impact\*\***

# TAX IMPACT

Type of Property	<u>Market Value</u>	Pay 2013 Expiring <u>Authority</u>	Pay 2014 New <u>Authority</u>	Net <u>Change</u>
Residential	\$50,000	(\$64)	\$45	(\$19)
Homesteads,	\$75,000	(\$96)	\$68	(\$28)
Apartments,	\$100,000	(\$128)	\$91	(\$37)
and Commercial-	\$125,000	(\$160)	\$113	(\$47)
Industrial Property	\$150,000	(\$192)	\$136	(\$56)
	\$175,000	(\$224)	\$158	(\$66)
	\$200,000	(\$256)	\$181	(\$75)
	\$225,000	(\$288)	\$204	(\$84)
	\$250,000	(\$320)	\$226	(\$94)
	\$275,000	(\$352)	\$249	(\$103)
	\$300,000	(\$385)	\$272	(\$113)
	\$325,000	(\$417)	\$294	(\$123)
	\$350,000	(\$449)	\$317	(\$132)
	\$375,000	(\$481)	\$340	(\$141)
	\$400,000	(\$513)	\$362	(\$151)
	\$425,000	(\$545)	\$385	(\$160)
	\$450,000	(\$577)	\$407	(\$170)
	\$475,000	(\$609)	\$430	(\$179)
	\$500,000	(\$641)	\$453	(\$188)
	\$550,000	(\$705)	\$498	(\$207)

**Passage of this referendum would result in additional revenue for the District and a decrease for the tax payers.**

# Recent changes in the State Referendum Laws

Additional revenue allotted for the St. Clair School District with referendum approval.

## Recent State Aid Changes

- Only with passage of the referendum, the St. Clair School District would receive an additional **\$78,000** in state revenue.

# The Ballot - SAMPLE

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 75  
(ST. CLAIR)  
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 75 (St. Clair), State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, November 5, 2013, for the purpose of voting on the following question:

**SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION 1  
RENEWAL OF PORTION OF EXPIRING  
REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION**

The board of Independent School District No. 75 (St. Clair) has proposed to renew \$301.66 per pupil of the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization of \$594.94 per pupil which is scheduled to expire after taxes payable in 2013. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation and be applicable for five years, beginning with taxes payable in 2014, 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. 75 be approved?

NO  **BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.**

**This statement was a legislative oversight that is required to be printed by law, even in our district's case, where the taxes are slightly decreasing.**

# - Operating Referendum Revenue – How will it be used?

The School District will continue to use the referendum funds similar to how the 2008 operating referendum funds were used.

- Keep elementary class sizes at manageable numbers with paraprofessional support where needed to maximize student achievement.
- Maintain our elementary Title I program to provide additional support for students in reading and math.

# - Operating Referendum Revenue – How will it be used?

- Continue to offer required and elective courses at the high-school level that best meet the needs of our students. These courses include our College-in-School courses where students earn both high school and college credit as well as the High-Step-Academy courses in health occupations and agriculture.
- Continue to provide our students with the technology and digital learning opportunities that they need now and will need in their post-secondary plans, including the workforce.

# - Operating Referendum Revenue – How will it be used?

- ❑ Maintain our general fund balance at the auditor-recommended level of 30-60 days of operating expenses.
- ❑ Building security improvements.
- ❑ On-going building and facility maintenance.
- ❑ Offset the cost of roof repairs and replacement on portions of the 1995 building addition.

# How do I vote?

November 5th



- ❑ In order to be eligible to vote on Tuesday, November 5, 2013:
  - ❑ 18 years of age or older
  - ❑ A citizen of the United States
  - ❑ A resident of St. Clair School District
  - ❑ Maintain residence in Minnesota for a minimum of twenty (20) days

# Where do I vote?



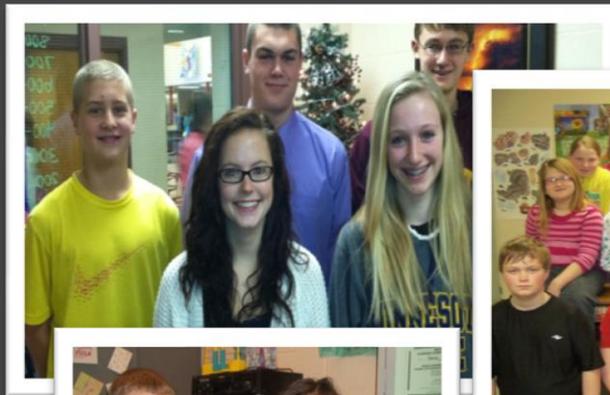
- ❑ This is a Special Election
- ❑ The ONLY place to vote is at the combined polling place of:

**ST. CLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOL  
121 MAIN STREET WEST  
ST. CLAIR, MN 56080**

- ❑ *The polls will be open Tuesday, November 5, 2013 from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.*
- ❑ *The only mail-in ballots will be those of the absentee-voter*

# How do I get an absentee ballot?

- <http://isd75.k12.mn.us> –Click on the VOTE button
- Contact: Katie Nicolai
  - [knicolai@stclaircyclones.org](mailto:knicolai@stclaircyclones.org)
  - (507) 245-3501



## 2013 Operating Referendum

Special Election – Tuesday, November 5, 2013

Combined Polling Place – St. Clair Public School, 121 Main Street West, St. Clair, MN

4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.