



Vote November 3rd

STRONG SCHOOLS. STRONG COMMUNITY.

Fast Facts

2015 Operating Levy and Bond Referendum Informational Guide

What is Proposed?

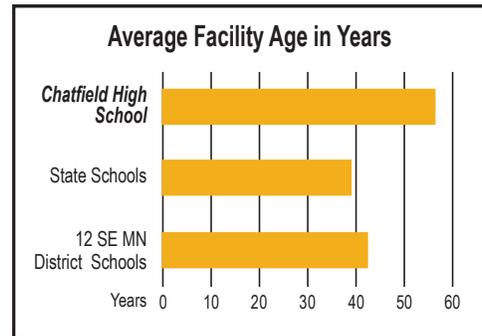
The Chatfield School Board unanimously approved an operating levy and building bond referendums for the November 3 ballot. *These questions if passed would situate the school district on firm financial ground with updated facilities for the foreseeable future.*

Why an Operating Levy?

School districts rely on state and local funds to operate and maintain their schools. State revenue has not kept pace with the level of inflation for the last decade (1.4% revenue increases vs. 3% expense increases). The district is in need of additional operating revenue to stop future budget reductions. For 2014-2016, the district cut approximately \$450,000 in programming and staffing. Passage of question #1 raises the possibility of reversing some of these cuts.

Why Bond Referendums?

A good portion of the high school is nearing 60 years of age. While additions were made in 1967 and a few more were made during the last building project in 2008, the sections that were built in 1958 have maintenance needs that must be addressed now to prolong its usefulness for years to come and bring it up to current learning environment standards.



What is the Plan?

There are 3 key areas proposed:

Support Students First: The operating levy will increase spending by \$476 per student providing long-term budget stability. It will allow the district to avoid further budget cuts next year and support growth of successful programs.

Maintain our Facilities:

- The \$19.75 million bond encompasses updating, renovating, and building academic areas to support 21st century learning as well as long-term internal and external maintenance issues including roof repair phase 1.
- The second \$3 million bond addresses improvements and updates to our athletic field areas, track, and grounds at both the elementary and high school as well as roof repair phase 2.

Build a Thriving Community: Schools are for the whole community – for youth and adult programs and activities as well as for resident fans cheering on students at athletics and fine arts performances. An investment in schools is a community investment that builds pride and keeps property values robust.

Why Now?

Portions of our high school are nearly 60 years old. Deferred maintenance and modernization needs have been identified, interest and construction costs are still low, and investing today will deliver future operational savings.

Bond Revenue Devoted to These Areas:

- 47% - Classroom Updates; Media, STEM, Science, Industrial, & Ag
- 27% - Physical Education, Performance & Community Activity Space
- 13% - Cafeteria, Commons, & Kitchen
- 7% - Deferred Maintenance (roof repair)
- 3% - Site Parking, Drives, Signage
- 2% - Storage
- 1% - Finance Costs

What will it Cost Me?

The cost of this investment on a \$140,000 home (average Chatfield property value) is less than \$7 per week.

Rates vary for residents, businesses, agricultural property, and seasonal recreational homes.

Visit <http://www.ehlers-inc.com/custom/taxinformation/Chatfield/> to find taxes for your property.

For taxes on agricultural property call Ehlers at 1-800-552-1171 or email to: mnschools@ehlers-inc.com

Tax Impact on Three Home Values if all Three Questions Pass		
Home Value	Per Month	Annual
\$85,000	\$14.58	\$175
\$140,000	\$27.50	\$330
\$175,000	\$35.75	\$429

What if the Levy Fails?

- The district may need to make an additional \$200,000 in cuts on top of the \$450,000 already made in 2014 - 2016 impacting class sizes, programming, staffing levels, and operations.
- With staff reductions, class sizes would increase from low 20's to 30 at certain grade levels. Staff would be limited to the amount of attention they can provide individual students.
- There is potential for further reduction of the award-winning elementary Reading Research Program. The district could lose the ground it has gained in reading success.
- There could be further reduction in classroom technology integration support and office staff support resulting in increased workload for remaining staff.

What if the Bonds Fail?

- Major maintenance issues will not go away – interior and exterior facility components will continue to age and deteriorate. The district doesn't have funds to go beyond routine maintenance to fix these problems in a timely manner. We will patch and mend as best we can but at some point we will be overrun with facility needs that are too expensive to address without the support of the community.
- Construction costs will continue to rise – these critical project and maintenance needs will become more expensive over time.
- Chatfield has the most outdated high school within the immediate Rochester area. Facilities and educational environments influence parents when they choose where to enroll their kids.
- Aging facilities can negatively impact the quality of the learning environment and the educational program overall.
- New resident growth could be lost to other districts with more competitive facilities and programs.

Vote Tues. Nov. 3

The referendum election is Tuesday, November 3.

There is one polling place: Chatfield Elementary Media Center.
11555 Hillside Dr SE, Chatfield, MN 55923-1099.

Polls are open 7 AM - 8 PM.

Early voting/absentee ballots are available beginning Friday September 18.
Call 507.867.3240 or visit the district website for ballot instructions.

More Information?

- **Visit:** www.chatfield.k12.mn.us look for Nov 3 school referendum information
- **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/ChatfieldPublicSchools

Open House & Tour

Join us for an open house and guided tour to learn more about the three referendum questions and proposed building upgrades: September 21 and October 19 at 6 PM.

Who Can I Contact?

Feel free to call Edward Harris, Superintendent Chatfield School District at 507.867.4210 x 5011 or email him at: EHarris@chatfield.k12.mn.us.