# 2018 Operating Levy Referendum
# Frequently Asked Questions

➔ **What is a Levy? Bond?**
Levies are for learning; bonds are for buildings.

An operating levy is for funds that the district uses to run and operate its schools. Levies are for running the educational programs at the school and funds go to the district's general fund.

Bond levies are for funds that the school district uses for new construction, updates to existing facilities, and other additions to school properties.

➔ **Why are we having this operating referendum now?**
◆ We want to sustain the programs and plan for future facility needs
◆ Provide financial stability
◆ We value smaller class sizes
◆ We value electivies
◆ It's better to take action now and not wait until our reserves are exhausted. It's important to balance our budget

➔ **What is the plan?**
◆ **Phase 1:** Renew the operating levy this fall to make sure the operating levy is renewed as this guides us into Phase 2.
◆ **Phase 2:** Planning for future program and facilities needs for our students :
➔ **How will my taxes be affected?**
◆ $0 dollar New tax increase on your taxes

➜ **What will be on the ballet?**
   Voters will be asked to approve:
   ◆    A Renewal of Operating Levy at current rate.
        which generates 1.8 million ( 1.4 in levy and $400,000
        in state aid) for operations.  These dollars are needed
        to maintain current programs.
   ◆ The November election is the first opportunity for the
        district to put the renewal on the ballot allowing for a
        seamless transition and collection of monies.  This will
        allow for proper planning and budgeting.
   ◆ The district will begin collecting the monies from the
        renewal of this Operating Levy in 2020.

➜ **What if the referendum passes?**
   ◆ We can sustain more of the programs and positions we value,
        e.g., smaller class sizes
   ◆ We can maintain more electives and activities
   ◆ There may still be some cuts, depending on last year's
        financial audit results

➜ **What happens if it doesn't pass?**
   ◆ Planning for Future Facility Plans will be on hold: Expenses
        for building Maintenance will increase
   ◆ Academic program changes will happen at a slower rate
   ◆ Budget cuts,which includes things such as: Raising class
        sizes

➜ **When are the public meetings?**
   ◆ **All public meetings will start at 6:30 pm**
        Wendell : September 10th @ Wendell Community Center
        Elbow Lake : September 12th @ Community Center
        Barrett : September 17th at the WCSS
        Hoffman: September 26th @ Hoffman Community Center

Kensington : September 27th @ Kensington Community Center

➔ **Where are the polling places?**
  ◆ The polling places are located at your regular voting precincts

➔ **What are the hours at the polling places?**
  ◆ Please check your specific polling location as to the times your precinct will be open on Tuesday, November 6th.

➔ **Can I register to vote on the day of election?**
  ◆ Yes, you may register to vote at the various polling sites. To register you will need to provide proof of a physical address, which can be a driver's license, a utility bill, a phone bill or a registered district resident can vouch for you that you live in the district.
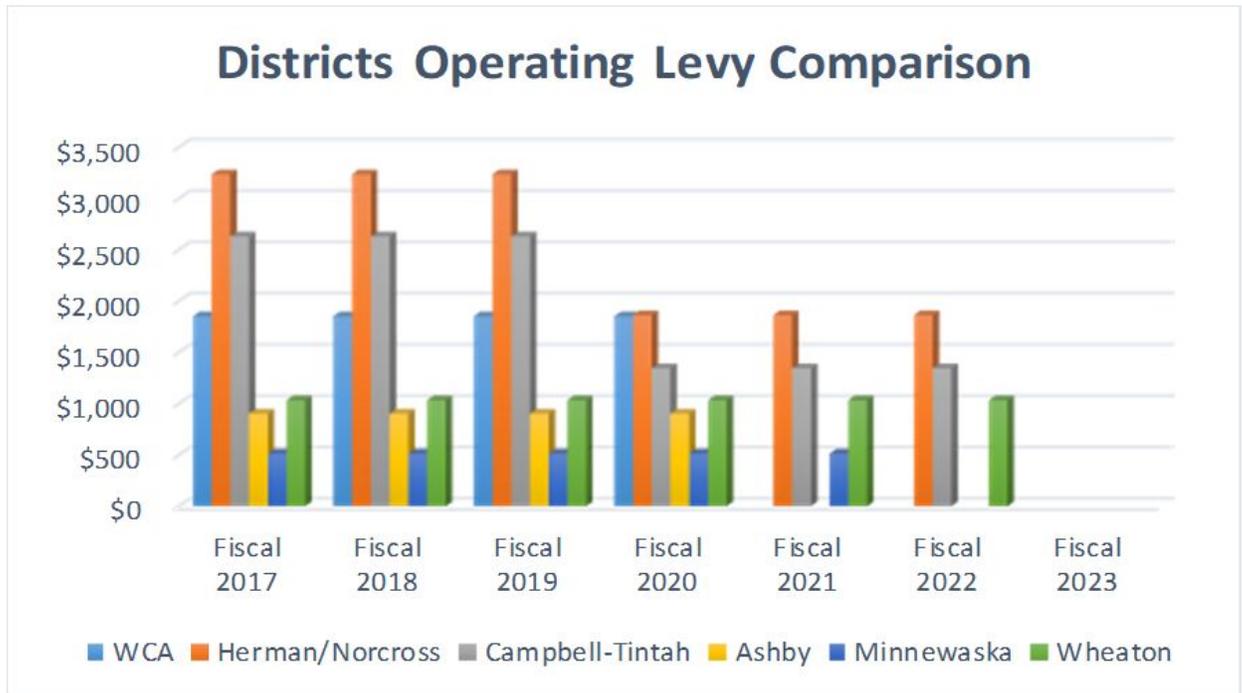
➔ **How do I get an absentee ballot?**
  ◆ You can request an absentee ballot by contacting your county auditor

➔ **What happens to the levy money if the referendum passes and the State increases funding for education?**
  ◆ Each year, the School District has the option to levy the full amount or to levy a percentage of the full amount.  In this unlikely scenario, the District would have the flexibility to not levy the full amount of these voter-approved dollars

➔ **How does the WCA levy referendum compare to other schools?**



Districts Operating Levy Comparison

➔ **If I have more questions, who can I talk to?**
   ◆ Please contact Barry Schmidt, Superintendent, or any
     School Board member:
     Barry Schmidt, ph. 320.528.7301
     Jeremiah Ulrich, Chair, ph. 320.293.2119
     Jill Beuckens, Vice Chair, ph. 320.808.3199
     Michelle Nessman, Clerk, ph. 320.304.0988
     Terry Christenson, ph. 218.770.4110
     Chad Biss, ph. 218.731.6827
     Sara Strunk, ph. 612.386.3861
     Gary Sabolik, ph. 320.808.3251