

Learn more about Minneapolis Public Schools' 2016 referendum

On Nov. 8, Minneapolis voters will be asked to renew the school district's current operating referendum authorization, which expires after the 2016-17 school year. If passed, funding would help Minneapolis Public Schools manage class sizes and provide supportive services and activities for students. The request would authorize the referendum for nine years and be annually adjusted for inflation. Property taxes are not projected to increase if the referendum renewal passes.

Vote

7 a.m. to 8 p.m Nov. 8.

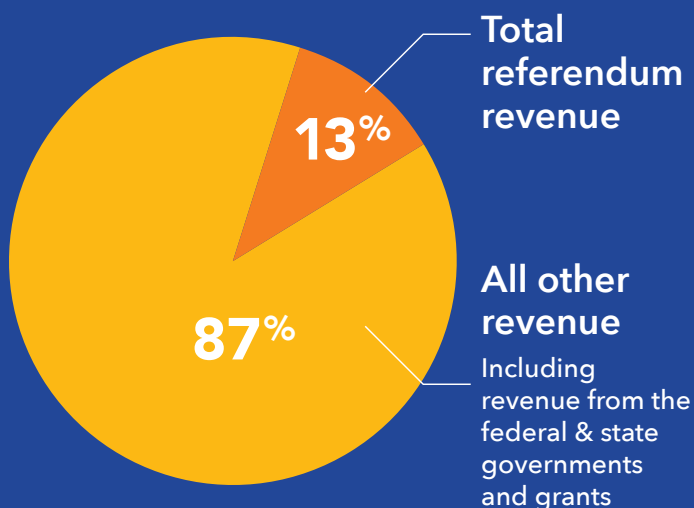
To locate or polling place or get information about absentee voting or voter registration, visit vote.minneapolismn.gov.

What is an operating referendum?

Operating referendum questions ask voters to authorize a specific amount of funding per pupil that comes from property taxes to fund the operations of school districts. Nearly all school districts in Minnesota receive referendum revenue. For MPS, the expiring amount is \$1,604.31 per pupil. For the 2016-17 school year, the total referendum revenue, including the Board approved "Local Optional Revenue" of \$424 per pupil, is approximately \$74 million. This represents about 13 percent of the operating budget.

Minneapolis Public Schools is committed to using its resources in the most effective way to impact student achievement.

Budgets are posted online so community members can see how funds are used.



*Based on the 2016-17 budget

We use referendum funds to directly impact student achievement.

In order to ensure the referendum dollars have the greatest impact on students, the funding would be used to pay for:

- The positions of teachers, counselors, social workers, behavioral or academic support staff;
- Opportunities for students such as tutoring, leadership development, and mentoring programs, after-school activities; and/or;
- Professional development and curriculum that supports and integrates academic and social and emotional learning.

In the 2016-17 budget, operating referendum revenue provides funding for:

591 classroom teachers to manage class sizes across the district

82 academic and behavioral specialists

81 teachers and support staff for English Learners

Math, science, and early literacy curriculum and materials

Classroom technology

If the referendum fails, Minneapolis Public Schools will have to make difficult decisions about how to operate the district without a substantial portion of the budget. This may change the current services and opportunities we provide students and families, including class sizes.

More resources and information are available at www.mpls.k12.mn.us/referendum2016, including the official ballot language, property tax information and links to district budgets.

"Prepared and paid for by the Minneapolis Public Schools. This publication is for informational purposes only and is not meant to advocate for or against a ballot question."