



OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM // FACT SHEET

WHAT IS ON THE BALLOT TUESDAY APRIL 5th?

The Monona Grove School District has proposed an **OPERATIONAL FUNDING REFERENDUM** asking district taxpayers for up to an additional \$2.6 million for each of the next five school years. Funds would be used for costs associated with sustaining or updating **curriculum, technology, personnel, equipment purchases, and facility maintenance.**

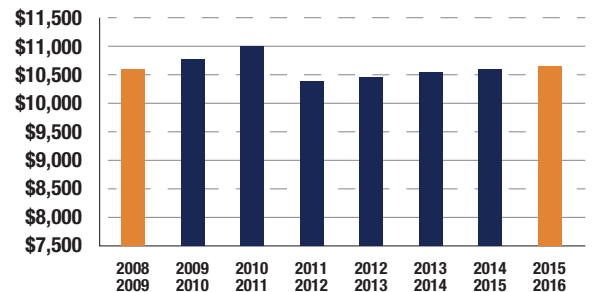
If approved by voters on April 5th, residents would pay an additional \$137 per year for every \$100,000 of property value for five years.

WHAT IS AN OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM?

An operational referendum asks voter permission to exceed the state imposed revenue limit for the purpose of funding annual school operations. It is not a referendum to incur debt for construction of new schools.

WHY IS THE DISTRICT PROPOSING AN OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM?

- ▶ Our community values quality schools, retaining highly qualified teachers to support student achievement, and protecting a tradition of excellence.
- ▶ The District has already reduced expenses, cut \$2.9 million in the last five years, and saved \$3.3 million by refinancing debt. We cannot continue to provide essential programs and curriculum, effective class sizes, upgrades for technology infrastructure and equipment, and attract/retain teachers *within the District's allowable revenue limit.*
- ▶ The state limits the amount of revenue we can raise annually. Our allowable revenue has not kept pace with inflation since 2011 and state per pupil funding is at 2008-2009 funding levels.



State Per Pupil Funding
(Revenue with Exemptions Per Member Allowed)



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WHAT WILL THE OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM PAY FOR?



- ▶ Teaching positions to support critical learning for students of all abilities, including those seeking Advanced Placement (AP) courses and students with special needs
- ▶ Effective class sizes to contribute to optimal learning environments for all students
- ▶ Curriculum and updated course materials to support our educational goals and alignment to current standards in our neighboring districts and state
- ▶ Upgraded technology infrastructure and equipment now essential to teaching and learning
- ▶ Building maintenance and safety upgrades in our existing schools

WHAT WILL THE REFERENDUM COST?

If the operational referendum is approved on April 5th by a majority of district voters, the school portion of resident's property tax would increase by approximately \$137 per year for every \$100,000 of property value for five years.

Estimated Tax Increase Per Year for Five Years (2016/2017 to 2020/2021)	Operational Referendum \$2,600,000 Per Year (Average Increase of \$1.37 per \$1,000 of Property Value)	
	Per Year	Per Month
\$ 100,000 of property value	\$ 137	\$ 11.42
\$ 200,000 of property value	\$ 274	\$ 22.83
\$ 300,000 of property value	\$ 411	\$ 34.25

*For individual tax calculator visit: www.mononagrove.org/referendum2016

WHAT IF THE REFERENDUM FAILS?

Although the district has cut \$2.9 million in the last five years, additional cuts will be required to close the budget gaps. This may result in:

- ▶ **Reduction** of staff, resulting in increased class size and elimination of some programs and services
- ▶ **Reduction** in the ability to attract and retain the best teachers, especially in "hard-to-fill" areas
- ▶ **Reduction** in curriculum offerings and essential course materials to meet higher standards and goals
- ▶ **Reduction** in extra-curricular opportunities
- ▶ **Reduction** in expenditures for technology infrastructure and equipment upgrades
- ▶ **Reduction** in expenditures for building maintenance and safety improvements

MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION ON APRIL 5th!

- ▶ **LEARN MORE** at www.mononagrove.org/referendum2016
- ▶ **EMAIL** questions to mgreferendum@mgschools.net
- ▶ **SCHEDULE** an informational presentation for neighbors or community groups at 608-316-1917
- ▶ **ATTEND** a Referendum Information Open House:
 - Tuesday, March 15, 6PM-7:30PM, Glacial Drumlin School- IMC
 - Wednesday, March 16, 6PM-7:30PM, Monona Community Center



Operational Referendum | www.mononagrove.org/referendum2016

VOTE
April 5th!