

Kingsland School District FAQs

Answers regarding the November 6th Operating Referendum Levy Ballot

General

What is an Operating Referendum Levy?

An operating referendum levy is a procedure which allows school districts to raise additional funds to supplement regular state education funding.

Why do districts ask for additional funds?

Although state education funding provides for basic educational needs, it does not provide nor compensate for decreased enrollment, additional programs offered, and cost of living (inflation) increases.

What can an Operating Referendum be used for?

- Instructional supplies (textbooks, paper, etc.)
- Curricular enhancements/new programming
- Reduce class sizes
- Basic building maintenance/operational costs

What will a “yes” mean for our students?

The increase funding authorization will provide \$350,000 in additional revenue.

District Statistics

- General Fund Budget: Approximately 6.2M
- Full-time/Part-time Employees: 55 FT/40 PT
- Number of Students: 543

Why does the District find itself in this position, and are we alone?

Kingsland is on the losing end.

Loss in state aid buying power (2003-2019)

- In Minnesota, state aid for 309 school districts did not keep up with inflation.
- Kingsland, along with approximately 60 other districts, saw the greatest loss in buying power.

Change in local levy buying power (2003-2019)

- In Minnesota, 325 school districts saw an increase in buying power, meaning their local levy rose faster than inflation.
- Kingsland, along with approximately 60 other districts, saw the greatest loss or lowest increase in buying power.

Reference: <http://www.mreavoice.org/inflation-outpaces-state-aid-for-minnesota-schools/>

From the North Star Policy Institute, [The School Aid Backslide: Digging into District-by-District Details](#):

“Nearly every school district saw a drop in real per pupil state operating aid during the period from FY 2003 to 2014. In constant FY 2019 dollars per pupil, these losses range from under \$500 in districts such as Minnewaska (west central Minnesota) to over \$3,000 in district such as Kingsland (southeast Minnesota). “

Reference: <https://northstarpolicy.org/the-school-aid-backslide-digging-into-district-by-district-details>

How do we compare?

Kingsland’s local ranking (per pupil dollars) for operating referendum levy (includes \$424 LOR*):

- LeRoy Ostrander—\$2,062
- Southland—\$2,032
- Glenville-Emmons—\$2,030
- Mabel Canton—\$1,937
- Grand Meadow—\$1,296
- Chatfield—\$1,200
- Fillmore Central—\$1,188
- Kingsland—\$852 (\$428 + \$424* = \$852)
- Stewartville—\$742
- Lyle—\$724

* Local Option Revenue (LOR) are dollars all school district can levy without voter approval.

Reference: <http://maps.mnrea.org/Map/Index?id=d3f30baa-9c80-4f13-a4a7-541B94e7e2cb>

What are the details?

The request?

Kingsland is asking its district voters to revoke the existing \$428 per pupil unit and replace it with a new \$1042 per pupil unit on November 6, 2018.

The promise we kept.

In 2010, the Kingsland Community gifted their district with \$428 per pupil unit. We promised and delivered:

- STEM Education—Kingsland implemented Project Lead the Way (PLTW), a national science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) curriculum.
- Technology—Kingsland invested in 1-to-1 technology for our students.

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What are the details?

The promise we kept (continued).

- More Instructional Time—Small class-sizes and all-day, every-day kindergarten.
- CIS Opportunities—Kingsland provided the most robust College in the Schools (CIS) programming in SE Minnesota. Students have the opportunity to earn over 40-college credits during their last two years in high school without leaving the Kingsland Campus.

Our promise to you!

If the voters gift their district with the \$1,042 per pupil unit on November 6, 2018, we promise to focus the use of these dollars on:

- Maintaining what was delivered in 2010.
- Career Education—Kingsland must meet the needs of our students planning careers requiring certification (e.g. Construction, medical/dental services, agriculture, welding, etc.). Preparing students for high skill/high paying jobs is vital in Minnesota's economy.
- Technology—Kingsland must remain current with its technology. The world isn't going backwards, nor are the future career fields. Your students and school must remain competitive, secure and real-world relevant.

What is the financial impact of voting “yes?”

- The estimated impact on a home with a market value of \$100,000 is approximately \$150.51 per year, approximately \$12.54 per month.
- The State of Minnesota does provide some state aid (equalization) to offset costs.
- Agricultural property beyond the dwelling (home, garage and 1-acre) and seasonal recreational properties are exempt from this levy.

To see the financial impact, go to: https://levyinfo.com/LevyInfo/ISD2137_2018_2.php

What is the District facing without the levy?

Kingsland's loss of buying power, coupled with decreasing enrollment will:

- Exhaust our current fund balance by School Year 2020-21.
- Place the district in Statutory Operating Debt (SOD). The state will become involved with the district to develop a plan to get the district out of debt. Local control is surrendered to the state.
- Increase class sizes.
- Reduce programming offered at both the elementary and secondary schools.

What are the misconceptions?

Fund balance realities.

The reality is (2.5X Rule*):

Most people think:

- Beginning fund balance—\$1,000,000
- Year 1—Deficit spend \$100,000
- Year 2—Deficit spend increases to \$200,000
- Year 3—Deficit spending increases to \$300,000
- Result is \$400,000 fund balance after 3-years

The reality is (2.5X Rule):

- Beginning fund balance—\$1,000,000
- Year 1—Deficit spend \$100,000
- Year 2—Deficit spend increases to \$250,000
- Year 3—Deficit spending increases to \$625,000
- Result is \$25,000 fund balance after 3-years

The choice is up to the voters. Do you want your district to survive? Simple question to ask yourselves.

* The 2.5X Rule accounts for inflation, cost of living, contractual wage increases, etc.

For more information

Informational Meeting:

Kingsland will host an informational meeting on Monday, October 29, 2018. The meeting will be held in the school cafeteria at 7:00 PM.

Internet:

Please visit our referendum calculator at Kingsland Public Schools Website: <https://www.kingsland.k12.mn.us/page/4483>

Phone calls/Emails:

James N. Hecimovich, Superintendent, 507-696-8612 or hecimovich.james@kingsland2137.org.

Disclaimer:

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