

MAINTAIN, IMPROVE, INVEST

VOTE MAY 23, 2017

North Branch Area Public Schools



On May 23, North Branch Area Public School District residents will be asked to vote on **three** school funding requests:

- Q1** **Maintain** our schools
- Q2** **Improve** athletic spaces
- Q3** **Invest** in classroom technology

WE LISTENED

The School Board's unanimous decision to bring these requests to voters was based on extensive research on how best to meet students' needs and maintain district facilities. To develop funding requests that meet our educational needs while aligning with community values, we gathered input from hundreds of staff, parents, students and community members through surveys, discussions and the comprehensive and transparent ThoughtExchange process.



BALLOT QUESTIONS

Question 1: Funds to maintain our schools with safety and security improvements, deferred maintenance and updates to classrooms and other district facilities.

- Upgrade security cameras and radios
- Add fire sprinklers
- Repair or replace boilers, electrical/heating controls, roofs and windows
- Improve traffic flow and safety
- Upgrade auditorium seating, lighting, sound
- Update Education Center for early learning programs
- Upgrade outdoor facilities
- Remodel classroom spaces to meet 21st century learning needs
- Update equipment in classrooms such as home-ec and vocational education

Question 2: Funds to improve athletic spaces with a gym addition to the high school and updates to both the middle school and high school gyms.

(NOTE: Q2 is contingent on Q1 – Q2 can only pass if voters approve Q1.)

- Build a two-station gym addition connected to the high school to alleviate crowding
- Increase space for physical education classes
- Build a new weight room to improve safety
- Improve air quality in both the middle school and high school gyms
- Increase athletic storage space
- Expand opportunities for community events and activities

Question 3: Funds to invest in classroom technology to support student learning in a rapidly changing world.

- Maintain up-to-date, high quality instructional technology and resources
- Provide students access to digital tools and learning resources, creating equity across all grade levels
- Support teachers with the tools and resources required for effective instruction and learning
- Provide a stable source of funding for technology teaching tools which will free up operating funds to pay for instructional staff

BACKGROUND

NBAPS voters have not approved a property tax increase to fund school needs for nearly 15 years. In the meantime, district facilities are aging and in need of repair, classroom equipment and furniture are outdated and athletic space is limited. In addition, advances in classroom technology make it increasingly difficult to keep up without additional dedicated funds.

While the state of Minnesota provides minimal funds each year for building maintenance, by law school districts pay for major updates and additions by asking voters to approve bond funding. A Facilities Study Group met several times over two years to assess district facilities and identify needs, which were then prioritized and refined based on staff and community input into the three ballot questions. NBAPS takes its job as stewards of the community's tax dollars very seriously and refinances its debt whenever possible to save taxpayer money.

COST

The estimated tax impact for the average homeowner (\$175,000 value home) if all three questions are approved is less than \$9.50/month.

	Ballot Question	Funding Request	Tax Impact on Average Homeowner
	Maintain our schools	\$59.225 million 25-year bond	\$0.83 per month
	Improve athletic space	\$10.94 million 25-year bond	\$4.42 per month
	Invest in classroom technology	\$500,000 per year 10-year technology levy	\$4.08 per month
		Total, if all three questions are approved by voters	\$9.33 per month

WHAT IF THE REQUESTS ARE NOT APPROVED?

If voters do not approve the funding requests, the cost of critical building repairs and classroom upgrades would compete with dollars used to support classroom learning and teachers. Safety and deferred maintenance projects would not occur or would be phased in over several years. Physical education classes would remain crowded, and athletic activities would continue to compete for needed space, both during the school day and after. The school district would struggle to provide updated computers and other teaching technology for students and staff, affecting a wide range of classes as well as research resources for classrooms and media centers.

HOW TO VOTE

The election will be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2017, 7am to 8pm, at one polling location: North Branch Area Education Center, 38705 Grand Avenue, North Branch. To vote early using an absentee ballot, call the district office at (651) 674-1011 or visit the school district office. All absentee ballots must be received no later than May 23, 2017.

LEARN MORE

- o Visit www.isd138.org/referendum
- o Email referendum@isd138.org
- o Call 651-674-1082
- o Attend a community meeting:
Monday, April 24, 5:30pm
North Branch Education Center,
38705 Grand Avenue, North Branch