

Fact Sheet on Orono Levies

Vote NO on November 8, 2005

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If Approved, Our Total Future Obligations Will Exceed \$70 Million

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What will it cost you? School taxes on residences are listed below. This is the proposed school tax increase and does not include the upcoming increase in Hennepin County and most cities' property taxes, along with the additional fees.

Taxable Market Value	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000
School Taxes Payable 2005	\$529	\$1,058	\$2,264	\$ 4676
Increase School Tax 2006	\$215	\$429	\$943	\$ 2010
Percent Increase In One Year	40.6%	40.6%	41.7%	43%
Total of New Taxes over 20 yrs	\$ 4,300	\$ 8,580	\$18,860	\$40,200

(which will then be combined with the \$ 27.9 million already owed by taxpayers)

- With existing revenue and building bond levies, **Orono taxpayers already owe \$27.9 million** in repayment obligations through 2020. **If all four ballot questions are voted in, we will add an additional \$70.7 million in repayment obligations (principal + interest) for total repayment obligations of \$98.4 million.**

\$70.7 Million Break Down

1. **Ballot Q. 1 would generate approx. \$787,000 year** in new revenue to be used on general expenses each year for 10 years (**7.87 million**).
2. **Ballot Q. 2 would generate approx. \$750,000/year** for technology for 10 years. (**7.5 million.**) During the first three years of this levy \$368,000 each year is budgeted for payroll and training of staff. 49% of Q. 2 is for payroll and training each year. This will be \$1 Million/yr for 7 years when added to the previous referendum of \$230,000/yr.
3. **Ballot Q 3 & 4 - The maintenance and upgrade "needs" are mostly a glorified wish list** that can be found at www.orono.k12.mn.us/ref2005.html The real needs of the district are buried in the details of 159 pages of items costing \$31.2 million (in today's money) for 20 years. Keep in mind architects often receive 7%+ of these projects and Wold & Assoc., who drew up this wish list, could stand to gain over \$2 million in fees if these pass. (**\$31.2 million plus \$21.6 million interest, plus \$2.5 million in excess levy, totals \$55.3 million**) To receive an excellent education do students *have to have* self flush urinals, air conditioning in every classroom, new outdoor signage for all buildings, matching concrete, new clock systems and faster lights??

Overall annual operating expenses have increased from \$16.8 million in 1996-97 to \$19.6 million in 2003-04. Yet during the same time Adj ADM (Average Daily Membership) **enrollment fell from 2,564 to 2,460 students.** If we leave out the open enrolled students and count Orono resident students only we fell from 2,192 to 2,027 during this time.) Even with the district's aggressive recruitment for open enrolled students, we still have significant declining enrollment. Operating expenses are going up rapidly while our enrollment is going down. Who runs a business this way? And now with Q. 1 the board wants an average of \$787,000 million more each year to spend on general expenses.

What Can You Do?

Tell others of your concerns about the referendum and *Vote NO-No-No-No.*

When and Where Do you Vote?

Tuesday, November 8 School District Office (Corner of Hwy 12 and Old Crystal Bay Road). Independence residents vote at Independence City Hall. 7 am-8 pm.

Some of our committee members include: Cheryl DeSantis, Shari Guimond, Carlton & Marie Hagberg, Mike & Barbara Wigley