

**Orono
Independent
School District
Proposed Four
Tax & Debt
Referendums**



**Tuesday
November 8
7:00am - 8:00 pm**
Orono School
District Office
(Corner of Hwy 12 &
Old Crystal Bay
Road). Independence
voters vote at Inde-
pendence City Hall.

Orono CARE says Vote No-No-No-No Tuesday November 8!

The Largest Referendum In Orono's History. What Do You Really Know About it?
Does the Orono School District really NEED a 40% increase in School Property Taxes?

As long time residents of Orono, many whose children have attended and graduated from the school district, we are not in favor of the proposed referendum. We have grave concerns about the excessive amounts of the two 20 year bond referendums totaling \$31.2 million dollars (Ballot Q.'s 3 & 4) and \$1.54 million (avg.) per year for 10 years' in revenue and technology levies (Ballot Q.'s 1 & 2). It is more than twice the amount of the largest referendum we have ever passed. It will increase our school tax amount by 40% for the next 20 years.

If all four ballot questions would pass, we taxpayers will be responsible to pay **\$70+ million¹ dollars total over the next 20 years** in order to pay off the principal and interest. When added to the already-existing \$29 million dollars owed on previous bonds including interest, our total repayment obligations will be at least \$98.4 million dollars. Given today's economic stressors and our steadily increasing taxations, this will be a significant burden for many of the area's residents.

Please read our newsletter to learn of the many concerns that present themselves. Check out the references provided, then use your good judgment to vote on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8.**

Referendums Keep Coming. When Will This End?

This is the 4th referendum in the past 6 years that the school district has proposed; the last three have passed. A \$4 million general maintenance and technology levy passed in 1992. Two building bonds passed in 1998 & 99 for the middle school, etc. totaling \$19.1 million. This is the 3rd referendum asking for technology money. The 2002 technology referendum authorized the spending of \$230,000 per year (with 7 years left). If this referendum passes our total tax liability will equal \$98.4 million over 20 years.

In 2004 a new 10 year school tax of approximately \$3,000,000 was approved by a narrow margin. This levy was indexed with the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Recently the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that the increase in CPI effective 1/1/06 will be 4.1%. This means that the tax levy approved last year automatically will go up by 4.1% next year. It also means that the tax levy will increase each of the next nine years by a minimum of 4.1%. It probably will be even higher because inflation probably will not be zero. At this rate by 2014 this annual levy amount will have grown to at least \$4.3 million.

While the administration and board of education should carefully weigh the needs and related financial costs in providing an excellent education to our children, it also has an obligation to be financially responsible and to limit the taxation of our citizens.

What Are Some of The Facts of This Referendum?

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

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. Nor does it address the rising fuel costs and proposed 77% increase in natural gas this winter. What will the referendum cost you if passed? School taxes on residences are as follows.

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