

The Warrensburg R-VI Board of Education and the Warrensburg R-VI School District administration made the decision on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, that should the debt-service levy increase on the **June 2, 2020**, ballot be successful, the district will **delay** the \$.10 cent increase in the debt-service levy until the **2021 tax year**.

How can this be done? The Warrensburg R-VI School District has a sufficient debt-service levy (currently \$.72 cents) that would allow the District to begin construction/renovations sometime in late June 2020 and still be on schedule for completion of all projects in the fall of 2021.

The Board of Education would not increase the debt-service levy (\$.10 cents) until August of 2021 and taxpayers would not be assessed the increase until their 2021 tax bills are due. At that time, the debt-service levy would be increased to \$.82 cents and would then generate the additional monies needed to make payments on the bonds to complete the construction/renovation projects.

The school district and the Campaign Committee will be communicating this message to all patrons and continue to encourage everyone to **vote on June 2, 2020**.

On October 7, 2019, the Board of Education approved the need to place a debt service (bond) issue on the April ballot. The following information was compiled to provide district patrons an explanation of why the board decided to propose an increase in the district levy.

**1. Why does the district need to issue bonds and raise the debt service levy?**

The bond money generated would pay for the construction of (1) the addition of cafeteria, gymnasium, stage, and classroom space at the middle school, (2) the installation of a new elevator and restrooms, and the implementation of Phase 1 of the District Activities Site Plan to include a new stadium with turf field for band, physical education, soccer, and football, as well as a new track and practice fields, at the high school, and (3) the addition of four classrooms at Ridge View Elementary, restrooms and four classrooms at Maple Grove Elementary, and a secure entryway at Martin Warren Elementary. This decision is based on the 2019 District Facility Plan developed from the 2019 Facility Advisory Committee Report.

**2. Why do we need additional space in our schools?**

District enrollment has grown by over 5.6% since 2014-15 and the states addition of low socioeconomic preschoolers to average daily attendance has created space constraints in our primary elementary buildings. The middle school which was expanded in 2015 to accommodate 750-775 students has reached an all-time high enrollment of 828 with no indications of decreasing.

**3. What happens if the levy does not pass?**

The district would have to increase class sizes.

**4. What will the new tax levy be and how does it compare with other districts?**

The current levy is \$5.2664, which includes the operating levy of \$4.5464 + debt service of \$0.72. As annual Assessed Valuation of property increases, the operating levy must be lowered per the Hancock Amendment so that district revenues do not grow at a rate greater than the Consumer Price Index. The new levy with a \$0.10 increase would total \$5.3664, which is **\$0.03 less** than the voter approved levy in 2014.

*Present School District Levies Operating + Debt Service		
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Center	\$6.61	
Fort Osage	\$6.37	
Blue Springs	\$5.73	\$6.17
Independence	\$5.50	\$5.80
Belton	\$5.41	
Lone Jack	\$5.35	
Chilhowee	\$5.37	
Excelsior Springs	\$5.27	
<b>Warrensburg</b>	<b>\$5.27</b>	
Oak Grove	\$5.04	
Harrisonville	\$5.08	
Grain Valley	\$5.02	\$5.42
Odessa	\$4.69	
Pleasant Hill	\$4.49	\$4.73

\*Source - Missouri Comprehensive Data

**5. How much of a tax increase would the bond/levy issue create?**

The issue proposes a debt service increase for the General Obligation Bonds of ten cents per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation based on the most recent calculation.

**6. How much will my taxes increase if the levy passes?**

For every \$100,000 in value for a home or residence, the increase would be \$19.00 per year or approximately \$1.58 a month.

Warrensburg R-VI School District Effect of \$0.10 increase in levy			
<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Annual Tax Increase</u>	<u>Monthly Tax Increase</u>	<u>Daily Tax Increase</u>
Residential			
\$100,000	\$19.00	\$1.58	\$0.05
\$152,000*	\$28.88	\$2.41	\$0.08
Agricultural			
\$100,000	\$12.00	\$1.00	\$0.03
Commercial			
\$100,000	\$32.00	\$2.67	\$0.09

\*Average (median) home value in Warrensburg R-VI School District

**7. What percentage of the vote is needed to pass the increase?**

A four-sevenths (4/7) majority or slightly in excess of 57% "yes" votes are needed for the debt service (bond issue) to pass.

**8. How will the ballot read?**

Debt Service (Bond Issue) Ballot Language: *Shall the Board of Education of Warrensburg R-VI School District of Johnson County, Missouri, issue general obligation bonds in the amount not to exceed \$17,200,000 for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, renovating, improving, furnishing, and equipping school facilities including without limitation (1) the addition of cafeteria, gymnasium, stage, and classroom space at the middle school, (2) the installation of a new elevator and restrooms, and the implementation of Phase 1 of the District Activities Site Plan to include a new stadium*

*with turf field for band, physical education, soccer, and football, as well as a new track and practice fields, at the high school, and (3) the addition of four classrooms at Ridge View Elementary, restrooms and four classrooms at Maple Grove Elementary, and a secure entryway at Martin Warren Elementary? The approval of the general obligation bonds will authorize the levy and collection of an annual tax in addition to the other taxes provided for by law sufficient to pay the interest and principal of the Bonds as they fall due and to retire the same within twenty years from the date thereof, and the adjusted debt service levy of the District is expected to increase from \$0.72 per one hundred dollars assessed valuation of real and personal property to \$0.82 per one hundred dollars assessed valuation of real and personal property.*

**Voter Information**  
**Voter Registration Deadline is March 11, 2020**

**Absentee Voting**

Absentee voting begins on February 25<sup>th</sup> and ends on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Ballots may be obtained at the voter registration office, 300 N. Holden, or by mail. Call 660-747-6161 for information or contact Diane Thompson, Election Authority.

**For additional information, contact the District office at 660-747-7823 or visit the District web site at [www.warrensburgr6.org](http://www.warrensburgr6.org).**

Questions? Access the email directory on the District web site listed above to contact an administrator.