

Special Election

Ballot Question 1 & Ballot Question 2

**Tuesday, November 8, 2011
Polls Open
7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Combined Polling Place # 1:

Albany Elementary School, 10 Forest Avenue, Albany, MN 56307. This combined polling place serves all territory in Independent School District # 745 located in: Albany Township, Holdingford Township, Krain Township, Oak Township, City of Albany and City of St. Anthony.

Combined Polling Place # 2:

Avon Elementary School, 410 Avon Avenue North, Avon, MN 56310. This combined polling place serves all territory in Independent School District # 745 located in: Avon Township, Collegeville Township and City of Avon.

Combined Polling Place # 3:

Farming Community Center, 23801 County Road 42, Richmond, MN 56368. This combined polling place serves all territory in Independent School District # 745 located in: Farming Township, Munson Township, St. Martin Township and City of St. Martin.

**Albany Area Schools
Superintendent Steven Dooley
PO Box 40
Albany, MN 56307
320-845-2171 ext. 5050**

Albany Area Public Schools



**November 8, 2011
Levy Vote**

On November 8th Albany Area School District residents will be asked to revoke the current levy of \$405/student and replace it with a levy of \$700/student. They will also be asked to vote on a second question that would raise an additional \$150/student for projects such as technology, transportation and deferred maintenance.

THE BALLOT

SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION 1: REVOKING EXISTING REVENUE AUTHORIZATION AND APPROVING NEW REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION

The Board of Independent School District No. 745, Albany Area, has proposed to revoke its existing referendum revenue authorization of \$405/pupil, which is scheduled to expire in 2013, and replace that authorization with a new authorization of \$700/pupil. The amount shall increase annually by the rate of inflation. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

NOTE: Needed to reduce yearly budget deficits that increase by \$400,000 per year. Additional revenue will provide funds for All Day, Every Day Kindergarten for all children and will provide stable funding to continue with manageable class sizes and the current programming that exists in the school district.

SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION 2: APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION

Provided that Ballot Question 1 is approved, The Board of Independent School District No. 745, Albany Area, has proposed to increase its referendum revenue authorization by an additional \$150/pupil. The amount shall increase annually by the rate of inflation. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

NOTE: Ballot Question 1 must pass for this question to pass. These funds would be used to upgrade our technology and bus fleet, and also take care of deferred maintenance needs such as roof and parking lot repairs and general building maintenance.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Levy Referendum and how is that different from a Bond Referendum?

A Levy Referendum is a vote by district taxpayers to provide funds for the daily operations of the school district when the funding from the state is not adequate. A Bond Referendum is a vote by the district taxpayers to provide funds for the construction of facilities. A good way to keep the two straight is to understand that Levies are for Learning and Bonds are for Buildings. *The District is NOT seeking a Bond for Buildings at this time, only a Levy for Learning.*

Why is the district seeking to revoke the \$405 Levy and replace it with a \$700 Levy?

At the current level of \$405/student the District continues to have increasing deficits. In 2013, the budget deficit will be \$280,000; in 2014, it grows to \$680,000 and by 2015 the budget deficit grows to \$1,080,000. Furthermore, the District feels it is imperative to offer All Day, Every Day Kindergarten to ALL children.

How will this impact my taxes?

The chart reflects the tax increase on a yearly basis.

Market Value	Impact of Ballot Question 1	Impact of Ballot Question 2
\$75,000	\$46.48	\$32.64
\$100,000	\$61.98	\$43.51
\$125,000	\$77.46	\$54.39
\$150,000	\$92.96	\$65.27
\$175,000	\$108.45	\$76.15
\$200,000	\$123.95	\$87.03
\$225,000	\$139.44	\$97.91
\$250,000	\$154.94	\$108.78
\$275,000	\$170.43	\$119.66
\$300,000	\$185.93	\$130.54
\$500,000	\$309.87	\$217.57

How does Albany compare to neighboring districts in voter approved levy dollars?

Albany Area	\$405	Melrose	\$700
Paynesville	\$415.60	EV-W	\$712.11
ROCORI	\$486.54	BBE	\$837.76
Holdingford	\$500	Sauk Centre	\$1,030
St. Cloud	\$555	State Average	\$863

Didn't the State give school districts additional funding this past legislative session?

Yes, the state generously provided an additional \$50 dollars per pupil over the next two years. This additional revenue is very welcomed and reduces the deficit spending of the district by \$100,000 in 2012 and \$300,000 in 2013. However, we continue to have the aforementioned deficits because the 2% increase in State Aid does not make up for the 3.7% inflationary increases in expenses we incur.

Why have so many Minnesota schools struggled financially in the last ten years?

Between 2003 and 2011 school funding in Minnesota has increased from \$4,601 to \$5,124/student, an increase of 11.4%. At the same time inflation was 20.6%. This results in a decrease in purchasing power of 9.2% or \$352/student.

How is farm land taxed in a levy referendum?

Only the value of the house and one acre of land is taxed in a Levy Referendum. The rest of the acreage is EXEMPT from taxes in a Levy Referendum.