

New Richmond Exempted Village School District March 2020 Levy Basics

Voters in the New Richmond Exempted Village School District will consider a 9.4-mill tax levy for operations on the March 17 ballot.

The last time district voters considered an operating levy was 1977, 43 years ago.

A 9.4-mill operating levy will generate about \$4.3 million annually and will help fund daily school operations including staffing, utilities, supplies, and busing. The request includes .5 mills that will be earmarked for three key areas (curriculum, safety/security, and technology) that respondents to a recent district survey identified as "very important."

A significant decrease in revenue, \$8 million annually, is driving the need for an operating levy. Changes in local power plants are the cause of the huge drop in district revenue, specifically the closure of Beckjord, multiple sales of Zimmer, and electricity deregulation.

The district cut over \$3 million from its operating costs for the 2019-2020 school year which included the loss of over 25 employees and redistricting hundreds of students following a decision to close an elementary building. Even with the passage of a levy, another \$1 million in reductions/efficiencies are planned.