

W. Aurora gets financial aid from voters  
By Josh Stockinger  
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For the first time in nearly two decades, voters on Tuesday supported a tax increase request to operate and staff schools in West Aurora District 129.

With all 59 precincts reporting, the 50-cent operating fund rate increase passed with 51 percent of the vote, according to unofficial results.

Superintendent Jim Rydland, celebrating at a rally in Sugar Grove, was ecstatic over the favorable outcome and said voters made the right choice.

"It's so exciting to be able to plan for the short and long term," Rydland said. "We are pleased to have so much support for our students."

The increase will cost owners of a \$300,000 home about \$500 in additional taxes in the first year. The increase was pitched to voters as all-inclusive, not only addressing needs at existing facilities, but also the staffing and operation of any new buildings in coming years.

That message apparently was heard. "We've been out, communicating with and listening to our community, and I believe it made a significant difference," Rydland said.Â

The last tax increase to operate schools passed in 1988, and voters turned down similar measures twice after that.Â

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