



# FARMINGTON AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

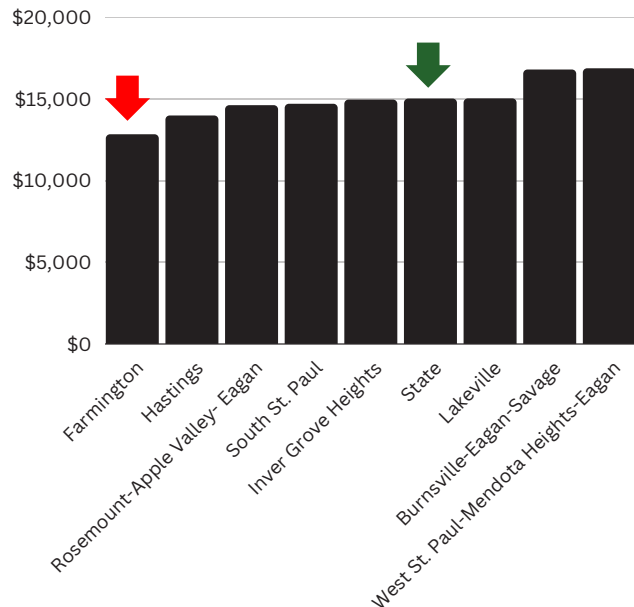
## HERE ARE IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT THE FARMINGTON AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPERATING LEVY ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023:

The decision by the school board to schedule the operating levy election came after months of consideration and discussion. The district has reduced the budget for the past three years. The amount of reductions for each year are listed below:

- 2021-2022 - \$700,000
- 2022-2023 - \$1,050,000
- 2023-2024 - \$2,400,000

Along with these reductions, the district is projecting a budget deficit of approximately \$3.5 million for the 2024-2025 school year. Because of past reductions and projected deficit, it was important to offer district residents the opportunity to consider increasing funding for the district rather than facing additional reductions in the next few years.

Due to the differences in voter approved local operating referendums, ISD 192 is limited in the amount we can spend per student compared to neighboring districts and is about \$2,000 below the state average:



## WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT

### The proposal on the ballot will ask voters to:

- Revoke the district's existing operating levy of \$677 per pupil and replace it with a new levy in the following amounts per pupil for taxes payable in the years specified:
  - \$1,239.92 per pupil for taxes payable in 2024 which will provide \$9 million (\$5 million from previous levy and \$4 million from new levy) per year for the first three years of the new levy; and
  - An additional \$562.95 per pupil for taxes payable in 2027 which will provide an additional \$4 million per year for the remaining seven years of the new levy.

### If approved, the revenue from the new levy will help the district to:

- Maintain excellent learning opportunities, programs and services for district students.
- Offset a portion of the costs associated with new literacy and learner support initiatives required by the state.
- Stabilize funding.

# TAX IMPACT INFORMATION

The district is choosing to bring the ballot question to the community at this time because of the following factors that will **significantly minimize the tax impact on local property owners**:

- The first of two building bonds will be paid off in 2024-2025
- The tax impact for the first three years of the levy will be \$13.25 per month on an average valued home in ISD 192 (\$350,000)
- The district will receive \$9 million in revenue for the first three years of the levy (\$5 million of the current levy and \$4 million from the new levy)
- The second of two building bonds will be paid off in 2027-2028
- The tax impact for the remaining seven years of the levy will be reduced by \$14.83 per month in a tax payment, which is about \$1.58 less in school property taxes
- The district will receive \$13 million in revenue for the remaining seven years of the levy (\$5 million of the current levy and \$8 million from the new levy)

**Through the “stepped in” approach, the district will receive additional operating levy funds while limiting the tax impact for our residents.** School property taxes for district residents with a home valued at \$350,000 will increase by about \$13.25 per month for the first three years and then be reduced by \$14.83 per month for the remaining seven years of the levy, resulting in a lower tax payment of \$1.58 per month. Thanks to strong financial planning from the district, we are taking advantage of these upcoming changes to our tax base and finding ways to maximize the impact on our learners and schools while minimizing the tax burden on our community.

**If the operating levy is not approved,** the district will need to make additional budget reductions for the 2024-2025 school year and beyond. Budget adjustments would include discontinuing educational programs and reducing learning opportunities for students. As noted above, the district is currently projecting a budget deficit of about \$3.5 million for 2024-2025.

**LEARN  
MORE  
ABOUT  
THE TAX  
IMPACT  
ON OUR  
WEBSITE:**



## HOW TO VOTE

- **Absentee voting begins - September 22, 2023**
  - Locations are ISD 192 District Office, Dakota County Western Service Center - Apple Valley, Dakota County Government Center - Hastings, and Dakota County Northern Service Center - West St. Paul
- **Direct balloting begins - October 20, 2023**
  - Locations are ISD 192 District Office, Dakota County Western Service Center - Apple Valley, Dakota County Government Center - Hastings, and Dakota County Northern Service Center - West St. Paul
- **Election Day - November 7, 2023**
  - 4 Combined polling locations. The district is required to send a postcard notifying all voters where their combined polling location is located.

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE 2023 OPERATING LEVY, PLEASE VISIT OUR DISTRICT WEBSITE AT: [HTTPS://WWW.FARMINGTON.K12.MN.US/REFERENDUM](https://www.farmington.k12.mn.us/referendum).**