



SPRING LAKE PARK SCHOOLS

November 5, 2019 Levy Renewal

BLAINE | FRIDLEY | SPRING LAKE PARK

On Tuesday, November 5, the Spring Lake Park Schools community will be asked to renew two levies. There is no tax increase to renew these existing levies.

Question 1 Levy for Learning

No-tax-increase renewal

Question 1 is a **no-tax-increase renewal** of an expiring operating levy, or **Levy for Learning**.

- This levy funds teachers and educational support staff positions, generating \$1.28 million annually.
- This levy was first approved by voters in 2002, and was renewed in 2011.

Question 2 Capital Projects Levy

No-tax-increase renewal

Question 2 is a **no-tax-increase renewal** of the expiring capital projects levy.

- This levy funds essential technology systems for classrooms, school operations and the district's safety and security systems, generating \$1.325 million annually.
- This levy was approved by voters in 2011.



Each levy is an important part of the overall budget, and allows the district to:

- maintain current programming and ongoing stability in class sizes.
- provide innovative, personalized learning and programs.
- provide for and maintain current and reliable technologies for classrooms, operations and security.

BY THE NUMBERS

17

The district hasn't increased the operating levy in 17 years - since 2002.



13

The district has received the Association of School Business Officials International's Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting award for 13 consecutive years.



\$0

These levy renewals will provide no increase in money for the school district and no increase in taxes for district residents.



\$1K+

The district's voter-approved levies are below the metro average by \$1,132 per student.



38

Our district's voter-approved levies rank 38th out of 40 metro school districts for amount of school taxes.

RENEWAL MAINTAINS ESSENTIALS

These levies fund essential functions throughout the district. If not renewed, the district would have to look at all operations and over time would need to make decisions that could result in actions like:

- Eventually increasing class size.
- Elimination of programs.
- Increases in walking distances to school as a result of transportation reductions.
- Increases in fees for student activities and athletics.

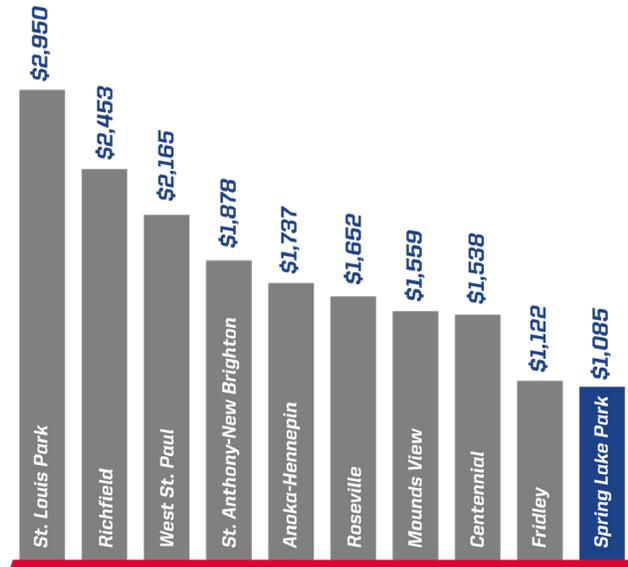
If not approved, the district would need to come to the voters again to ask for critical funding.

DID YOU KNOW?

Our Funding Requests Are Among the Lowest

Compared to other metro school districts, our funding from district residents is among the lowest.

- Of 40 metro districts, 38 have approved higher funding per student through their voter-approved levies than our district.
- Our combined levies are *below* the metro average by **\$1,132 per student**.



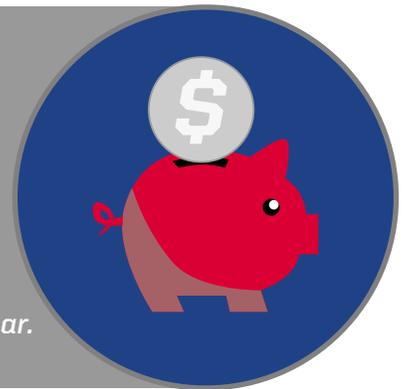
Property Taxes Reduced by \$13 million

The SLP School Board has approved five bond refundings since 2010 that saved district taxpayers *more than \$13 million*.

Which means, for owners of a

\$250K

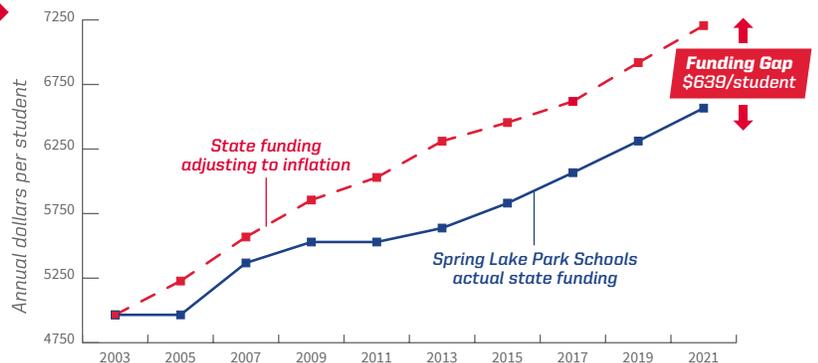
taxes have been reduced by **\$120 per year**.



School Funding is Not Keeping Pace with Inflation

For years, inflation has grown while state and federal school funding has remained the same. If school funding had kept pace with inflation, we would have received *more than \$3.9 million* in additional funding during the last school year alone. This funding gap is projected to grow.

While the gap between inflation and funding has grown, our district has maximized its use of resources while maintaining a balanced budget and appropriate fund balance.



Levies Fund Learning, Bonds Fund Building

The levy for learning funds teachers and helps keep class sizes small. The capital projects levy funds technology for classrooms, operations and safety and security. These levies are separate from bond dollars approved in 2016. We've put bond funds to good use in our facilities, opening Centerview Elementary School last year and completing renovations at each of our schools to provide necessary, additional space, flexibility and engaging learning environments.



VOTING INFORMATION

Voting BEFORE November 5

Busy Tuesday, November 5? Absentee voting will be available so you don't miss your opportunity to vote.



In-Person

Voting is available beginning Friday, September 20 at:

- **District Services Center**
1415 81st Avenue NE, Spring Lake Park
Open during regular business hours
- **Anoka County Government Center**
2100 3rd Ave, Anoka, MN 55303



By Mail, Fax or Email

Request an absentee ballot at the Anoka County Elections website at www.anokacounty.us/224/Absentee-Voting.

Paper applications can be returned via:

- **Email:** send to elections@co.anoka.mn.us
- **Mail:** Anoka County Elections, 2100 3rd Avenue, Suite W130, Anoka, MN 55303
- **Fax:** 763-324-1160

Voting ON Tuesday, November 5

Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5.



Blaine Residents

New! Those living in the city of Blaine vote at The Welcome Center at the National Sports Center located at 1705 105th Ave NE, Blaine MN. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Fridley and Spring Lake Park Residents

Those living in the cities of Spring Lake Park or Fridley vote at Woodcrest Elementary Spanish Immersion, 880 Osborne Road, Fridley. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.



LEARN MORE



VISIT

SpringLakeParkSchools.org/levy2019



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CALL

763-600-5545



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**REMEMBER
TO VOTE ON
TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 5!**