



Richfield Public  
Schools,  
ISD 280

Public Hearing for Taxes  
Payable in 2020

DECEMBER 2, 2019

PRESENTED BY:

CRAIG HOLJE,

CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES &  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

# Minnesota State Law Requires:

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## A Public Meeting...

- Between November 24th & December 30th
- After 6:00 PM
- May be part of regularly scheduled meeting
- May adopt final levy at same meeting
- Must allow for public comments

## ...and Presentation of:

- Current year budget
- Prior year actual revenue & expenditures
- Proposed property tax levy including % increase
- Specific purposes & reasons taxes are being increased

# Hearing Agenda

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- Background: School Funding
- District's Budget
- District's Proposed Tax Levy for Taxes Payable in 2020
- Public Comments

# MN Legislature Must Set Funding for Minnesota Public Schools

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Minnesota Constitution ARTICLE XIII

MISCELLANEOUS SUBJECTS

Section 1

**“UNIFORM SYSTEM OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.** The stability of a republican form of government depending mainly upon the intelligence of the people, it is the duty of the legislature to establish a general and uniform system of public schools. The *legislature shall make such provisions by taxation or otherwise* as will secure a thorough and efficient system of public schools throughout the state.”

As a result...

## Funding is Highly Regulated

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State Sets:

- Formulas which determine revenue; most revenue based on specified amounts per pupil
- Tax policy for local schools
- Maximum authorized property tax levy (districts can levy less but not more than amount authorized by state, unless approved by voters)

State also authorizes school board to submit referendums for operating and capital needs to voters for approval

# Challenge: State Set Basic General Education Formula Lags Inflation

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Since 2002-03, state General Education Revenue formula has not kept pace with inflation

For Fiscal Year 2019-20, Legislature approved an increase of 2% or \$126 per year, and for Fiscal Year 2020-21 an increase of 2% or \$129 was approved

Per-pupil allowance for Fiscal Year 2020-21 of \$6,567 would need to increase by another \$639 (9.7%) to have kept pace with inflation since 2002-03

# Basic General Education Formula Lags Inflation

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# Underfunding of Special Education

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MDE reports the FY 2018 cost of providing special education programs was underfunded by \$822 million, or an average of 40% underfunded

Translating into a statewide average funding shortfall of \$5,705 per special education student

Underfunding of special education costs requires a transfer from regular program resources to support an underfunded program mandated by state and federal law

Primary options to bridge special education funding gap are to cut regular program budgets or increase referendum revenue, most districts have done both

# Result: Growing Dependence on Referendum Revenue

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In 1992-93, 65% of districts had operating referendum revenue averaging \$332 per pupil

For 2020-21, all Minnesota districts have referendum revenue and/or local optional revenue levy authority averaging \$1,475 per pupil

- Referendum revenue including Local Optional Revenue (LOR) provides 13.2% of General Fund operating revenue
- Of this amount, \$751 is a voter approved operating referendum, and \$724 is Local Optional Revenue (LOR)

# Change in Tax Levy Does not Determine Change in Budget

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1

Tax levy is based on many state-determined formulas plus voter approved referendums

2

Some increases in tax levies are revenue neutral, offset by reductions in state aid

3

***Expenditure budget is limited*** by state-set revenue formulas, voter-approved levies, and fund balance

4

An increase in school taxes does not always correlate to an equal increase in budget

# School District Levy Cycle Differs from City/County Levy Cycle

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## City/County:

- Budget Year same as calendar year
- 2020 taxes provide revenue for 2020 calendar year budget

## Schools:

- Budget year begins July 1st and coincides with school year
- 2020 taxes provide revenue for 2020-21 school fiscal year
- Budget will be adopted in June 2020

# Budget Information

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Because approval of school district budget lags certification of tax levy by six months, state requires only current year budget information and prior year actual financial results be presented at this hearing. The Fiscal 20-21 budget will be set in June 2020.

**All school district budgets are divided into separate funds, based on purposes of revenue, as required by law**

## **Our District's Funds:**

- General
- Food Service
- Community Service
- Building Construction
- Debt Service
- Trust\*
- Internal Service
- OPEB Trust
- OPEB Debt Service

*\*Annual budgets are not prepared for this fund*

**Richfield Independent School District 2889**  
**District Revenues and Expenditures**  
**Actual for FY 2019, Budget for FY 2020**

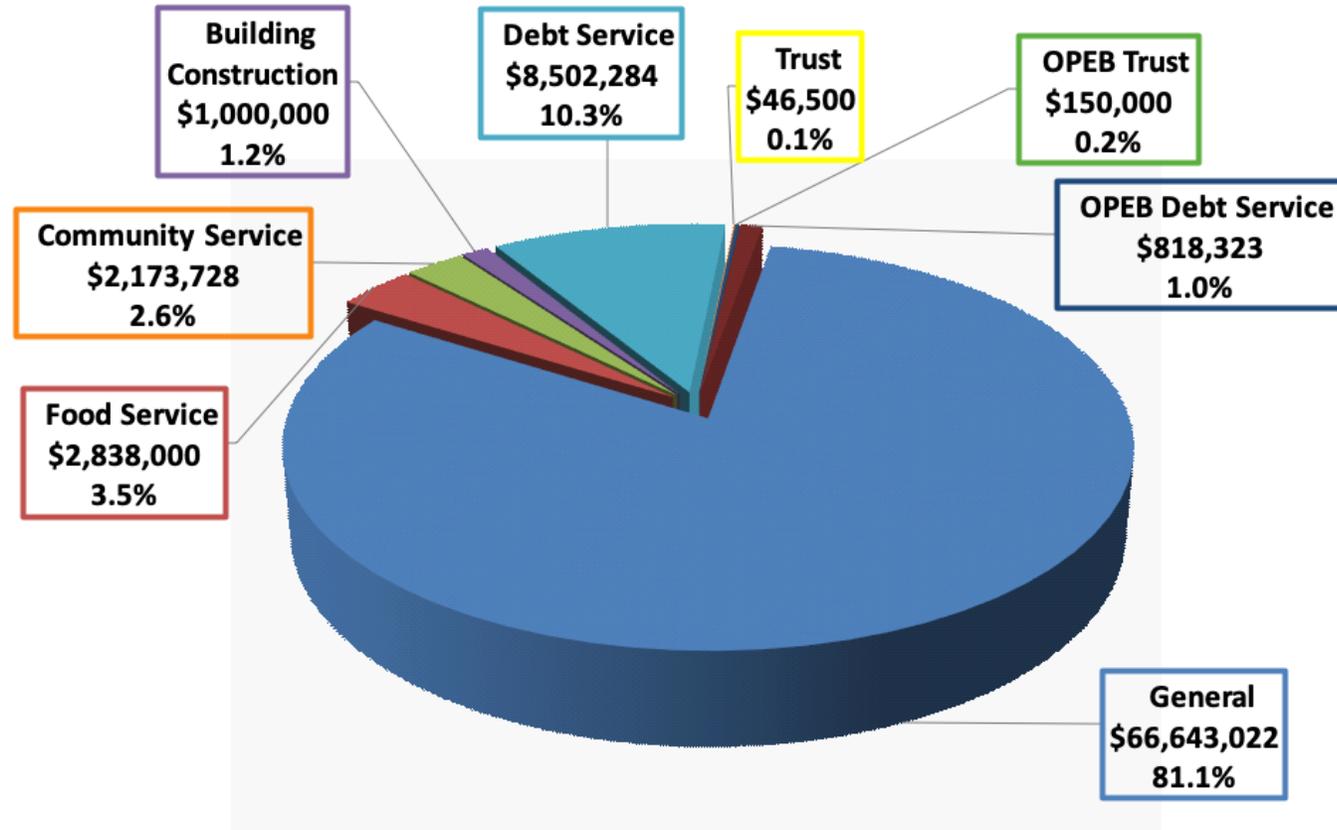
FUND	FISCAL 2019 BEGINNING FUND BALANCES	2018-19 ACTUAL REVENUES AND TRANSFERS IN	2018-19 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES & TRANSFERS OUT	JUNE 30, 2019 ACTUAL FUND BALANCES	2019-20 BUDGET REVENUES AND TRANSFERS IN	2019-20 BUDGET EXPENDITURES & TRANSFERS OUT	JUNE 30, 2020 PROJECTED FUND BALANCES
General/Restricted	\$1,617,119	\$18,426,480	\$17,341,494	\$2,702,105	\$16,109,971	\$15,889,044	\$2,923,032
General/Other	7,535,760	47,997,018	46,950,201	8,582,577	50,533,051	50,523,627	8,592,001
Food Service	431,368	2,838,335	2,736,818	532,885	2,838,000	2,592,341	778,544
Community Service	531,089	1,942,646	1,888,985	584,750	2,173,728	2,168,010	590,468
Building Construction	117,418,610	3,044,448	13,650,859	106,812,199	1,000,000	52,983,255	54,828,944
Debt Service	199,283	8,713,849	7,967,443	945,689	8,502,284	8,105,038	1,342,935
Trust	450,145	48,199	41,908	456,436	46,500	46,500	456,436
Internal Service	4,914,633			5,292,586			5,306,267
OPEB* Irrevocable Trust	9,750,831	203,285	498,893	9,455,223	150,000	735,250	8,869,973
OPEB* Debt Service	180,533	786,209	789,125	177,617	818,323	783,000	212,940
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$143,029,371</b>	<b>\$84,000,469</b>	<b>\$91,865,726</b>	<b>\$135,542,067</b>	<b>\$82,171,857</b>	<b>\$133,826,065</b>	<b>\$83,901,540</b>

\*Other Post Employment Benefits

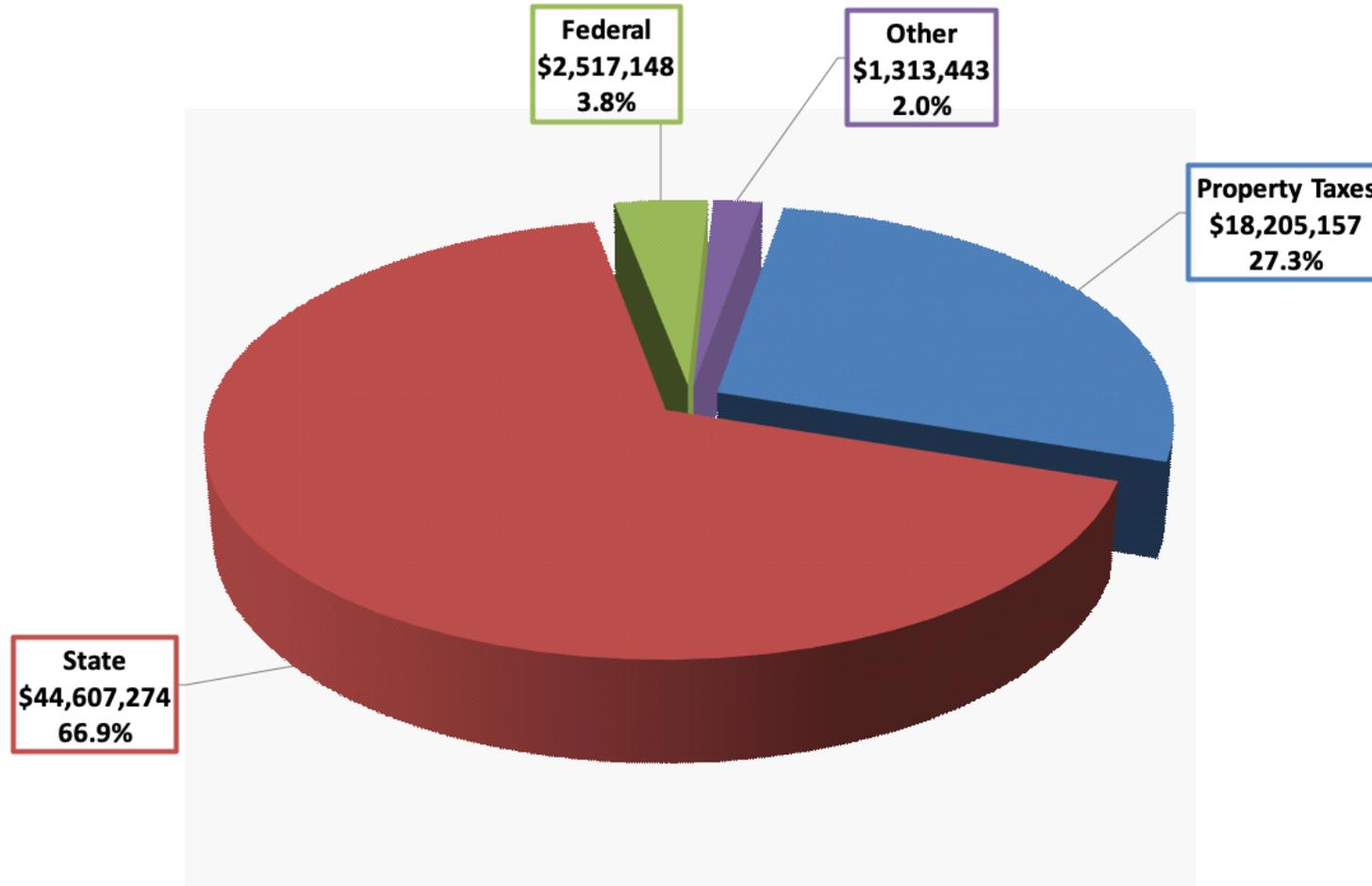
# Richfield Public Schools ISD #280

## Revenue - All Funds

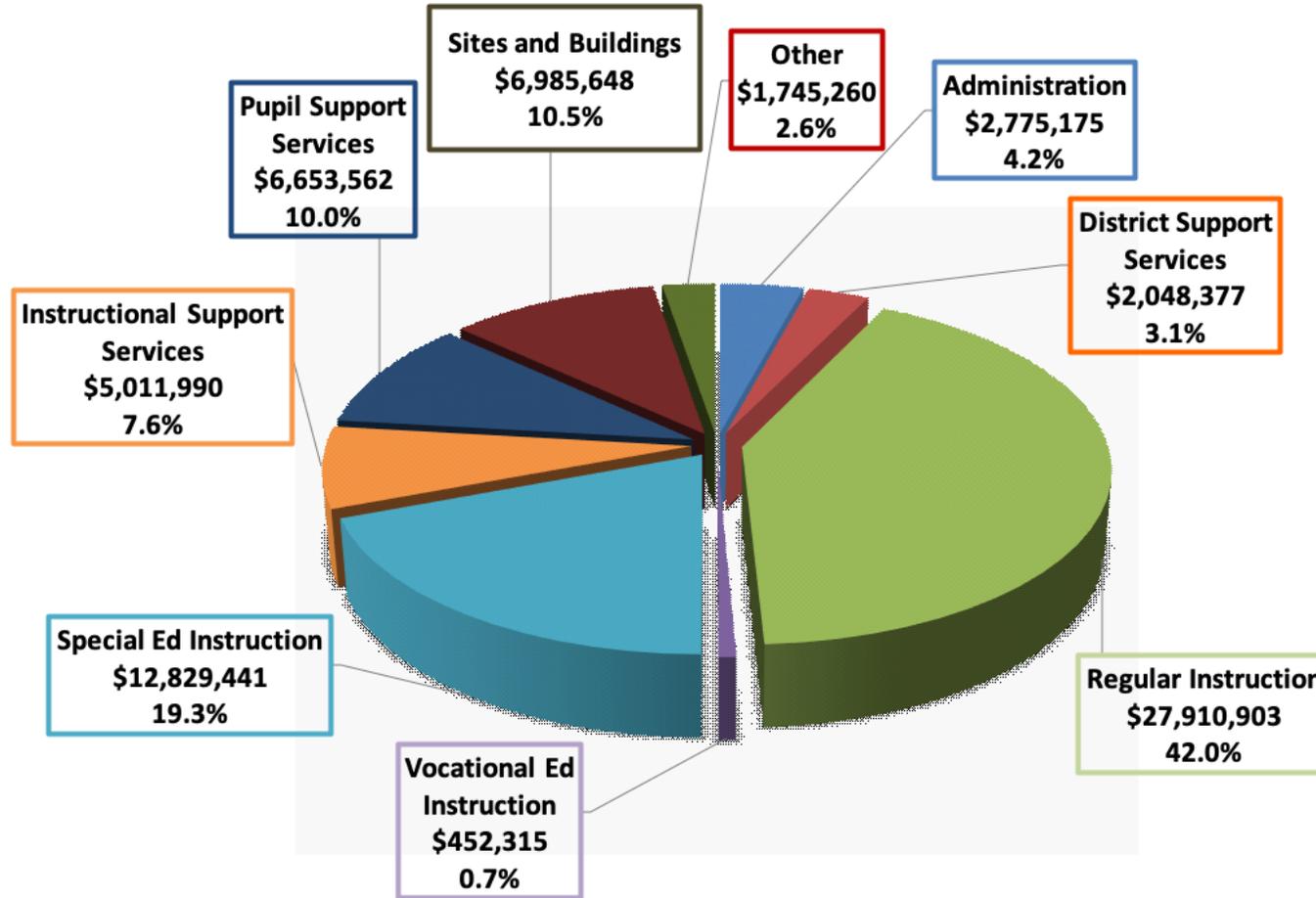
2019-20 Budget \$82,171,857



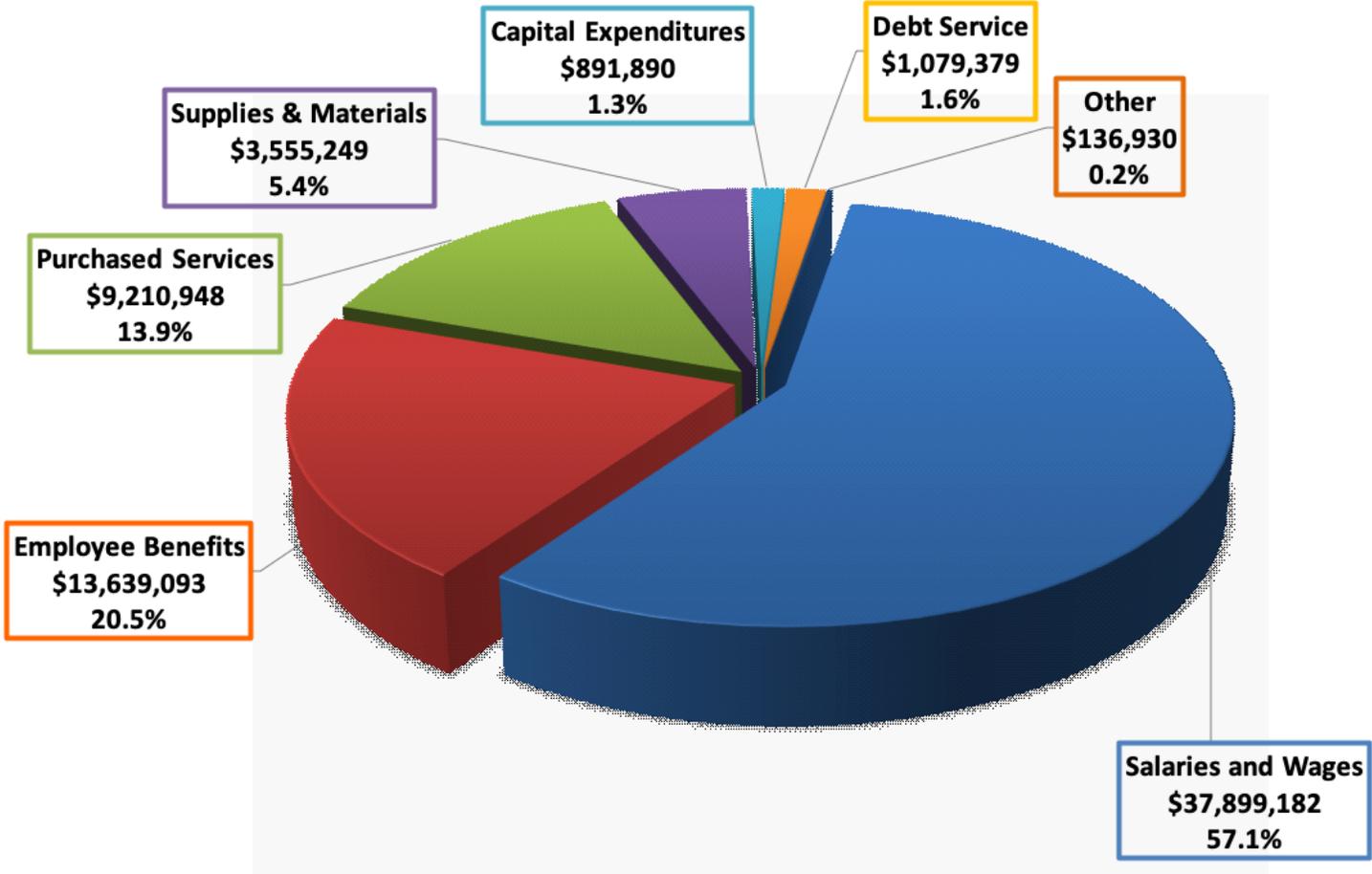
**Richfield Public Schools ISD #280**  
**General Fund Revenue**  
**2019-20 Budget \$66,643,022**



**Richfield Public Schools ISD #280**  
**General Fund Expenditures by Program**  
**2019-20 Budget \$66,412,671**



**Richfield Public Schools ISD #280**  
**General Fund Expenditure by Object**  
**2019-20 Budget \$66,412,671**



# Payable 2020 Property Tax Levy

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- Determination of levy
- Comparison of 2019 to 2020 levies
- Specific reasons for changes in tax levy
- Impact on taxpayers

# Property Tax Background

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Every owner of taxable property pays property taxes to various “taxing jurisdictions” (county, city/township, school district, special districts) in which property is located

Each taxing jurisdiction sets own tax levy, often based on limits in state law

County sends bills, collects taxes from property owners, and distributes funds back to other taxing jurisdictions

## Parcel Specific Notice:

This is a sample of the notice mailed to every property owner between November 11-24 with information on the impact of the Proposed 2020 levy on their property.

### Contents:

- Proposed property tax compared to last year
- By voter approved and other
- By taxing jurisdiction
- Contains time and place of public meeting



**Spruce County**  
Jane Smith, Auditor-Treasurer  
345 12th Street East, Box 78  
Spruceville, MN 55555-5555  
(555) 345-6789  
www.co.spruce.mn.us

**TAXPAYER(S):**  
John and Mary Johnson  
123 Pine Rd S  
Spruceville, MN 55555-5555

#### Property Information

**PIN Number:** 01.234.56.789.R1      **Property Address:** 789 Pine Rd S  
Spruceville, MN 55555

**Property Description:**  
Lot 1, Block 1, Spruce Acres Subdivision

## PROPOSED TAXES 2020

THIS IS NOT A BILL. DO NOT PAY.

VALUES AND CLASSIFICATION			
Step			
1	Taxes Payable Year	2019	2020
	Estimated Market Value	\$125,000	\$150,000
	Homestead Exclusion	\$	\$23,800
	Taxable Market Value	\$125,000	\$126,200
	Class	Res NHmstd	Res Hmstd
PROPOSED TAX			
2	Property Taxes before credits	\$1,562.46	
	School building bond credit	\$ 12.00	
	Agricultural market value credit		
	Other credits		
Property Taxes after credits	\$1,550.46		
PROPERTY TAX STATEMENT			
3	Coming in 2020		
<b>The time to provide feedback on PROPOSED LEVIES is NOW</b>			

Proposed Property Taxes and Meetings by Jurisdiction for Your Property				
Contact Information	Meeting Information	Actual 2019	Proposed 2020	
State General Tax	No public meeting	\$0	\$0	
County of Spruce Spruce County Courthouse 123 Spruce St Spruceville, MN 55555 www.co.spruce.mn.us (555) 123-4567	December 5, 7:00 PM	\$438.06	\$484.18	
City of Spruceville Mayor's Office 456 Spruce St Spruceville, MN 55555 www.ci.spruceville.mn.us (555) 123-7654	December 3, 6:30 PM Spruceville City Hall	\$273.79	\$312.06	
Spruceville School District 999 150 1st St N Spruceville, MN 55555 www.spruceville.k12.mn.us (555) 123-6789	December 10, 7:00 PM Spruceville High School Cafeteria			
Voter Approved Levies		\$289.35	\$296.68	
Other Levies		\$340.11	\$374.60	
<i>Your school district was scheduled to hold a referendum at the November general election. If the referendum was approved by the voters, the school district's voter approved property tax for 2020 may be higher than the proposed amount shown on this notice.</i>				
Metro Special Taxing Districts		\$57.76	\$58.70	
Spruceville Metropolitan Council www.spruce.metrocouncil.org (555) 555-5555 Spruceville, MN 55055	December 12, 7:30 PM Spruce Park Centre 500 Pine St.			
Other Special Taxing Districts	No public meeting	\$12.80	\$13.02	
Tax Increment Tax	No public meeting	\$10.15	\$11.22	
<b>Total excluding any special assessments</b>		<b>\$1,422.02</b>	<b>\$1,550.46</b>	<b>9.0%</b>

# School District Property Taxes

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Each school district may levy taxes in over 40 different categories

“Levy limits” (maximum levy amounts) for each category are set by

- State law
- Voter approval

Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) calculates detailed levy limits for each district

# Property Tax Background

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## **School District Property Taxes**

- Key steps in process are summarized on next slide
- Any of these steps may affect the taxes on a parcel of property, but district has control over only 1 of the 7 steps

## Minnesota School District Property Taxes - Key Steps in the Process

**Step 1.** The **City or County Assessor** determines the estimated market value for each parcel of property in the county.

**Step 2.** The **Legislature** sets the formulas for tax capacity. (E.g., for homestead residential property, tax capacity = 1% of first \$500,000 in value + 1.25% of value over \$500,000.) These formulas determine how much of the tax burden will fall on different types of property.

**Step 3.** The **County Auditor** calculates the tax capacity for each parcel of property in the county (based on values from step 1 and tax capacity formulas from step 2), as well as the total tax capacity for each school district.

**Step 7.** The **County Auditor** divides the final levy (determined by the school board in step 6) by the district's total tax capacity (determined in step 3) to determine the tax rate needed to raise the proper levy amount. The auditor multiplies this tax rate times each property's tax capacity, to determine the school tax for that property.\*

**Step 4.** The **Legislature** sets the formulas which determine school district levy limits. These are the maximum amounts of taxes that school districts can levy in every category.

**Step 5.** The **Minnesota Department of Education** calculates detailed levy limits for each school district, based on the formulas approved by the Legislature in step 4. These limits tell districts the exact amounts that can be levied in every category.

**Step 6.** The **School Board** adopts a proposed levy in September, based on the limits set in step 5. After a public hearing, the board adopts a final levy in December. Final levy cannot be more than the preliminary levy, except for amounts approved by voters.

\* For certain levy categories (referendum, equity and transition levies), tax rates and levy amounts are based on **referendum market value**, rather than **tax capacity**.

# Schedule of Events in Approval of District's 2019 (Payable 2020) Tax Levy

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# Overview of Proposed Levy Payable in 2020

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Total 2020 proposed property tax levy is a decrease from 2019 of \$28,014 (.1%)

State law requires that we explain reasons for major increases in levy

Some decreases in specific levies will also be explained

**Richfield Public Schools, ISD 280**

**Comparison of Actual Tax Levy Payable in 2019 to Proposed Levy Payable in 2020**

<b>Fund Levy Category</b>	<b>Actual Levy Payable in 2019</b>	<b>Proposed Levy Payable in 2020</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>General</b>				
Voter Approved Referendum	\$6,438,471	\$4,977,469	(\$1,461,002)	
Board Approved Referendum	0	0	0	
Local Optional Revenue (LOR)	<u>1,929,878</u>	<u>3,232,944</u>	<u>1,303,066</u>	
Total Referendum and LOR	8,368,349	8,210,413	(157,936)	
Equity	480,820	477,942	(2,878)	
Capital Projects - Technology	3,217,355	3,539,086	321,731	
Operating Capital	578,527	614,042	35,515	
Alternate Teacher Compensation	400,599	410,117	9,518	
Safe Schools	232,132	227,751	(4,381)	
Long Term Facilities Maintenance	1,794,533	1,752,081	(42,452)	
Instructional Lease	709,439	824,594	115,155	
Other	1,404,021	1,290,737	(113,284)	
Prior Year Adjustments	858,149	176,483	(681,666)	
<b>Total, General Fund</b>	<b>\$18,043,923</b>	<b>\$17,523,246</b>	<b>(\$520,677)</b>	<b>-2.9%</b>
<b>Community Service</b>				
Basic Community Education	\$287,666	\$287,666	\$0	
Early Childhood Family Education	160,713	168,473	7,759	
Other	10,017	11,354	1,336	
Prior Year Adjustments	7,123	6,027	(1,096)	
<b>Total, Community Service Fund</b>	<b>\$465,519</b>	<b>\$473,519</b>	<b>\$7,999</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
<b>Debt Service</b>				
Voter Approved	\$3,410,033	\$3,410,033	\$0	
Long-Term Facility Maintenance	5,095,007	4,193,004	(902,003)	
Other Post Employment Benefits	821,678	2,122,365	1,300,687	
Reduction for Debt Excess	(27,531)	0	27,531	
Prior Year Adjustments	(2,756)	64,356	67,112	
<b>Total, Debt Service Fund</b>	<b>\$9,296,430</b>	<b>\$9,789,759</b>	<b>\$493,328</b>	<b>5.3%</b>
<b>Total Levy, All Funds</b>	<b>\$27,805,872</b>	<b>\$27,786,523</b>	<b>(\$19,350)</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>
<b>Subtotal by Truth in Taxation Categories:</b>				
Voter Approved	13,530,712	12,147,517	(1,383,195)	
Other	14,299,337	15,654,518	1,355,181	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,830,049</b>	<b>\$27,802,035</b>	<b>(\$28,014)</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>

# Explanation of Levy Changes

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**Category:** Voter Approved Operating Referendum and Local Optional Revenue (LOR)

**Change:** -\$1,461,002 and + \$1,303,066 (net change -\$157,936)

**Use of Funds:** General Operating Expenses

**Reason for Change:**

- Legislative change subtracted \$300 per pupil from voter approved operating referendum authority and added it to LOR formula
- Voter approved operating referendum authority includes an annual inflationary increase
- Revenues are based on estimated number of students and enrollment is projected to decrease

# Explanation of Levy Changes

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**Category:** General Fund – Capital Projects Levy

**Change:** + \$321,731

**Use of Funds:** Instructional technology software, hardware and support

**Reason for Change:**

- The levy is calculated based on a voter approved tax rate
- An increase in the tax base results in an increase in the total levy based on the approved tax rate

# Explanation of Levy Changes

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**Category:** Instructional Lease Levy

**Change:** +\$115,155

**Use of Funds:** Expenses for leased space and equipment and lease purchase agreements

**Reason for Change:**

- Amount is based on estimated cost of qualifying state-approved instructional lease costs
- Levy based on contracted lease costs for instructional space

# Explanation of Levy Changes

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**Category:** General Fund Adjustments

**Change:** -\$681,666

**Use of Funds:** General Operating Expenses

**Reason for Change:**

- Initial levies are best estimates with prior year levy adjustments calculated by state for up to three years
  - In 2019, the levy adjustments in the general fund were \$858,149 positive
  - In 2020, the levy adjustments in the general fund were \$176,483 positive
  - The net result is a reduction from year to year of \$681,666
- Combination of 11 prior year levy adjustments and abatement levies

# Explanation of Levy Changes

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**Category:** Debt Service – Long-Term Facility Maintenance

**Change:** - \$902,003

**Use of Funds:** Annual required payments of principal & interest on voter approved bonds

**Reason for Change:**

- Decrease in contracted debt retirement and principal and interest payments

# Explanation of Levy Changes

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**Category:** Debt Service – Other Post Employment Benefits

**Change:** + \$1,300,687

**Use of Funds:** Annual required payments of principal & interest on voter approved bonds

**Reason for Change:**

- Increase in contracted debt retirement and principal and interest payments

# Factors Impacting Individual Taxpayers' School Taxes

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Many factors can cause tax bill for an individual property to increase or decrease from year to year

- Changes in value of individual property
- Changes in total value of all property in District
- Increases or decreases in levy amounts caused by changes in state funding formulas, local needs and costs, voter-approved referendums, and other factors

# Four Year School Levy Comparison

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Following are a table and graphs showing examples of changes in school district portion of property taxes from 2017 to 2020

Examples include school district taxes only

All examples are based on a 15.6% increase in property value over this four year period

- Actual changes in value may be more or less than this for any parcel of property
- Intended to provide a fair representation of what has happened to school district property taxes over this period for typical properties

# Impact on Taxpayers

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Examples are for property in City of Richfield

Amounts for 2020 are preliminary estimates, based on best available data – final amounts could change slightly

Estimates prepared by Ehlers, District's municipal financial advisors

## Richfield Public Schools, ISD 280

### Estimated Changes in School Property Taxes, 2017 to 2020

Based on 15.6% Cumulative Changes in Property Value from 2017 to 2020 Taxes

Type of Property	Estimated Market Value for 2017 Taxes	Actual Taxes Payable in 2017	Estimated Market Value for 2018 Taxes	Actual Taxes Payable in 2018	Estimated Market Value for 2019 Taxes	Actual Taxes Payable in 2019	Estimated Market Value for 2020 Taxes	Estimated Taxes Payable in 2020	Change in Taxes 2017 to 2020	Change in Taxes 2019 to 2020
Residential Homestead	\$86,501	\$264	\$92,472	\$396	\$95,057	\$378	\$100,000	\$384	\$120	\$6
	129,752	446	138,708	664	142,586	630	150,000	636	190	6
	173,003	629	184,944	931	190,114	881	200,000	889	260	8
	216,253	811	231,180	1,198	237,643	1,132	250,000	1,142	331	10
	259,504	993	277,416	1,465	285,171	1,383	300,000	1,394	401	11
	302,754	1,176	323,653	1,732	332,700	1,634	350,000	1,647	471	13
	346,005	1,358	369,889	1,999	380,228	1,886	400,000	1,899	541	13
	432,506	1,718	462,361	2,517	475,285	2,369	500,000	2,379	661	10
	519,008	2,075	554,833	3,072	570,342	2,902	600,000	2,936	861	34
648,759	2,678	693,541	3,955	712,928	3,732	750,000	3,772	1,094	40	
Commercial/ Industrial #	\$173,003	\$700	\$184,944	\$1,036	\$190,114	\$1,030	\$200,000	\$1,045	\$345	\$15
	432,506	1,951	462,361	2,861	475,285	2,838	500,000	2,870	919	32
	865,013	4,035	924,722	5,904	950,570	5,852	1,000,000	5,912	1,877	60
	1,297,519	6,118	1,387,082	8,946	1,425,856	8,865	1,500,000	8,954	2,836	89
	1,730,025	8,202	1,849,443	11,989	1,901,141	11,879	2,000,000	11,995	3,793	116
Apartments and Res. Non-Homestead ( 2 or more units)	\$432,506	\$2,011	\$462,361	\$2,946	\$475,285	\$2,765	\$500,000	\$2,787	\$776	\$22
	648,759	3,016	693,541	4,418	712,928	4,148	750,000	4,180	1,164	32
	1,297,519	6,033	1,387,082	8,837	1,425,856	8,296	1,500,000	8,360	2,327	64

# For commercial-industrial property, amounts above are for property in the City of Richfield. Taxes for commercial-industrial property in other municipalities may be slightly different, due to the impact of the Fiscal Disparities Program.

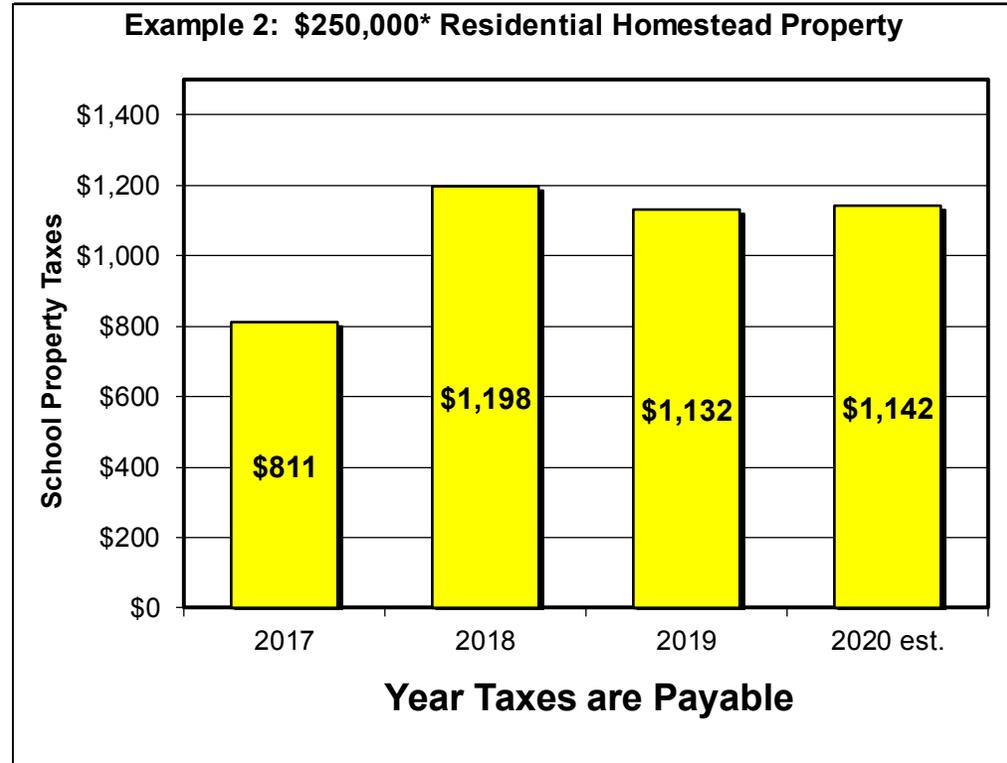
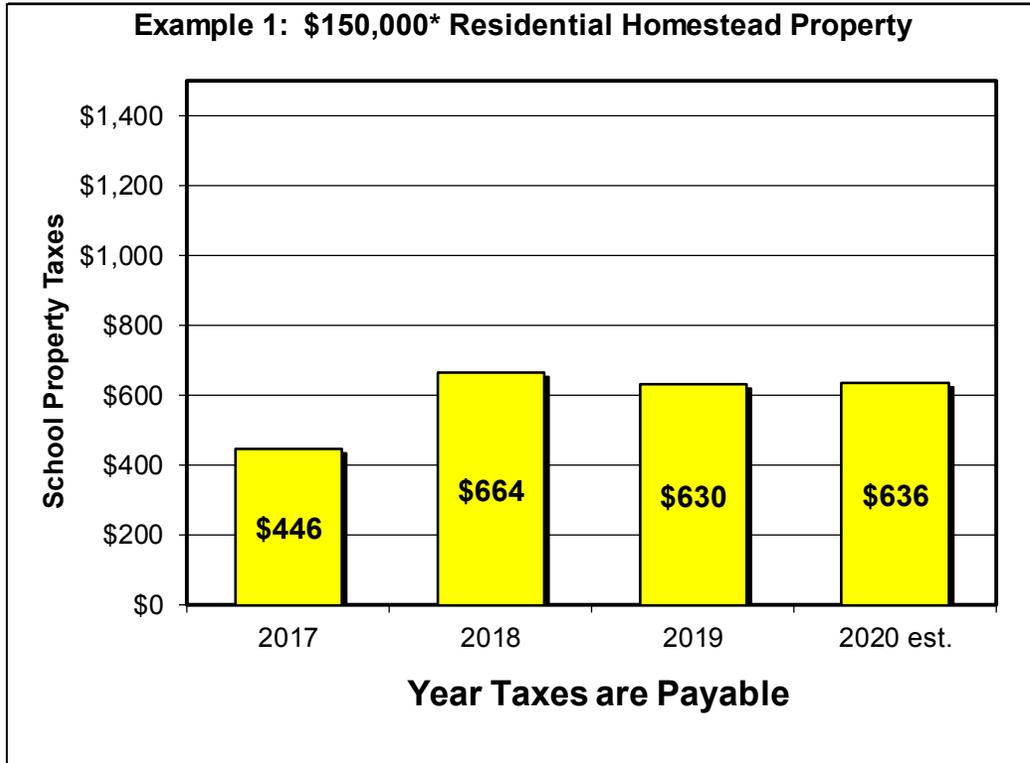
#### General Notes

1. Amounts in the table are based on school district taxes only, and do not include taxes for the city or township, county, state, or other taxing jurisdictions.
2. Estimates of taxes payable in 2020 are preliminary, based on the best data available.
3. For all property examples, taxes are based on changes in estimated market value of 6.9% from 2017 to 2018 taxes, 2.8% from 2018 to 2019, and 5.2% from 2019 to 2020.

**Richfield Public Schools, ISD 280**

**Estimated Changes in School Property Taxes, 2017 to 2020**

*Based on 15.6% Cumulative Changes in Property Value from 2017 to 2020 Taxes*

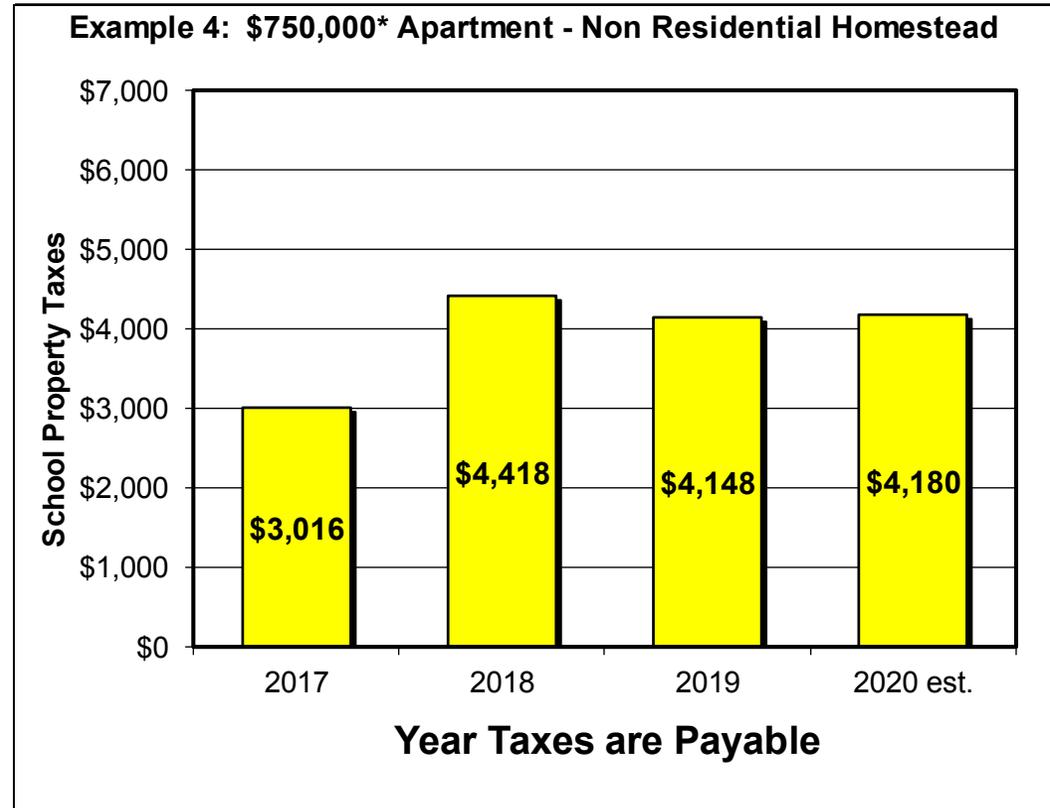
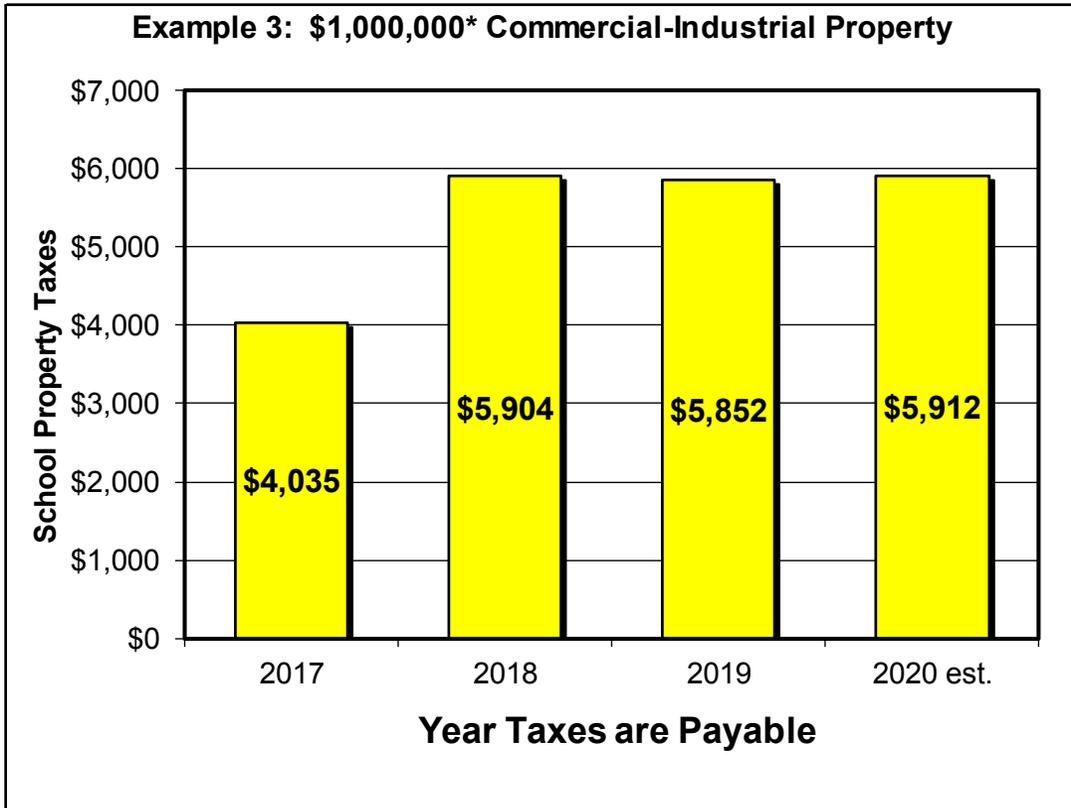


\* For all four examples of properties, the value shown in the title of the chart is the estimated market value for taxes payable in 2020. Taxes are calculated based on changes in market value of 6.9% from 2017 to 2018 taxes, 2.8% from 2018 to 2019, and 5.2% from 2019 to 2020.

## Richfield Public Schools, ISD 280

### Estimated Changes in School Property Taxes, 2017 to 2020

*Based on 15.6% Cumulative Changes in Property Value from 2017 to 2020 Taxes*



\* For all four examples of properties, the value shown in the title of the chart is the estimated market value for taxes payable in 2020. Taxes are calculated based on changes in market value of 6.9% from 2017 to 2018 taxes, 2.8% from 2018 to 2019, and 5.2% from 2019 to 2020.

# Minnesota Homestead Credit Refund “Circuit Breaker”

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Has existed since 1970s

Available **each year** to owners of homestead property

(applies to taxes paid on house, garage and one acre for ag homestead property)

Annual income must be approximately \$113,150 or less

(income limit is higher if you have dependents)

Sliding scale - refund based on income and total property taxes

Maximum refund for homeowners is \$2,770

Also available to renters

Complete state tax form M-1PR ([www.revenue.state.mn.us](http://www.revenue.state.mn.us))

# Minnesota Special Property Tax Refund

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Available each year to owners of homestead properties with a gross tax increase of at least 12% and \$100 over prior year

Helpful in first year after referendum

Refund is 60% of amount by which tax increase exceeds greater of 12% or \$100, up to a maximum of \$1,000

No income limits

Complete state tax form  
M-1PR  
([www.revenue.state.mn.us](http://www.revenue.state.mn.us)  
)

# Senior Citizen Property Tax Deferral

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Allows people age 65 and older with household income of \$60,000 or less to defer a portion of property taxes on their home

You have lived in, owned your home, and had it homesteaded for the last 15 years

Limits maximum amount of property tax paid to 3% of household income

Additional taxes are deferred, not forgiven

Provides predictability; amount of tax you pay will not change for as long as you participate in the program

Deferred property taxes plus accrued interest must be paid when home is sold or homeowner(s) dies

# Next Steps

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1

Board will accept public comments on proposed levy

2

Board will certify 2020 property tax levy



# Public Comments

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