



# Our Kids. Our Community. Our Future.

District taxpayers will be asked to replace an expiring operating levy on November 2, 2021, as well as consider new funding to help maintain quality learning and invest in technology for kids and classrooms.

## The Challenge

### Time is running out on operating levy

The operating levy, which was originally passed in 2013, expires at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. If a new levy is not approved this November, the district will lose between \$11 and \$12 million (based on enrollment) in annual funding.

### Funding gap is growing

State funding has not kept pace with inflation for more than 15 years, resulting in a significant funding gap. At the same time, our students' needs are also increasing which creates even more demand for educational services.

## The Ballot Questions

### Question 1: Replacement levy

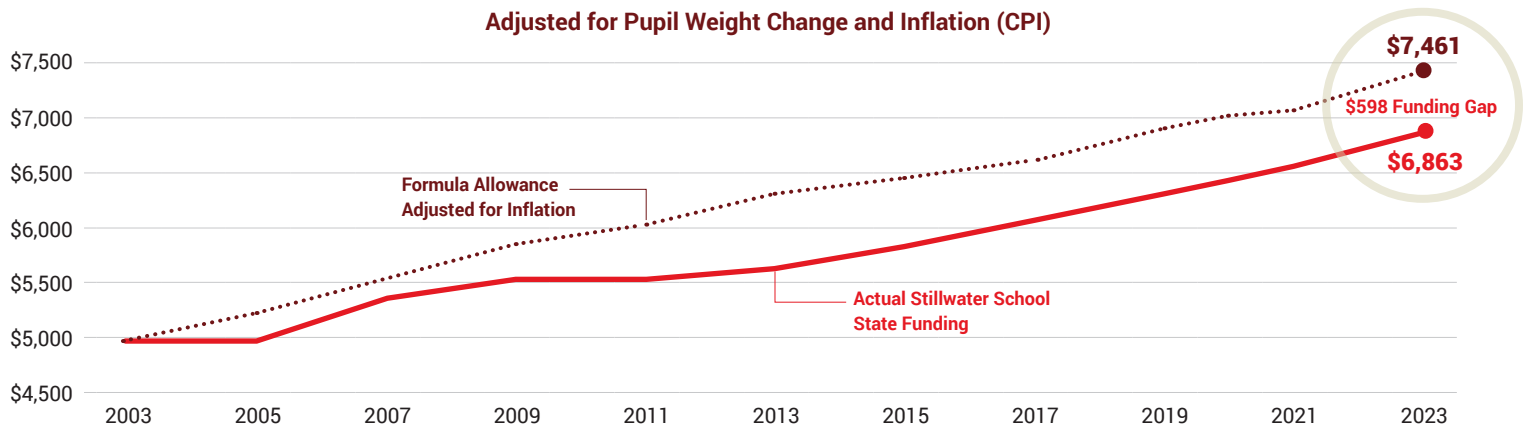
Renew the expiring levy and provide additional revenue to address the state funding gap, inflation and rising costs. It's all about maintaining the quality learning our community expects.

### Question 2: Technology levy

Provide technology for kids and classrooms and ensure a dedicated funding source for ongoing technology needs. It's all about providing kids the tools they need to learn.

## General Education Formula Allowance, 2003-2023

Adjusted for Pupil Weight Change and Inflation (CPI)

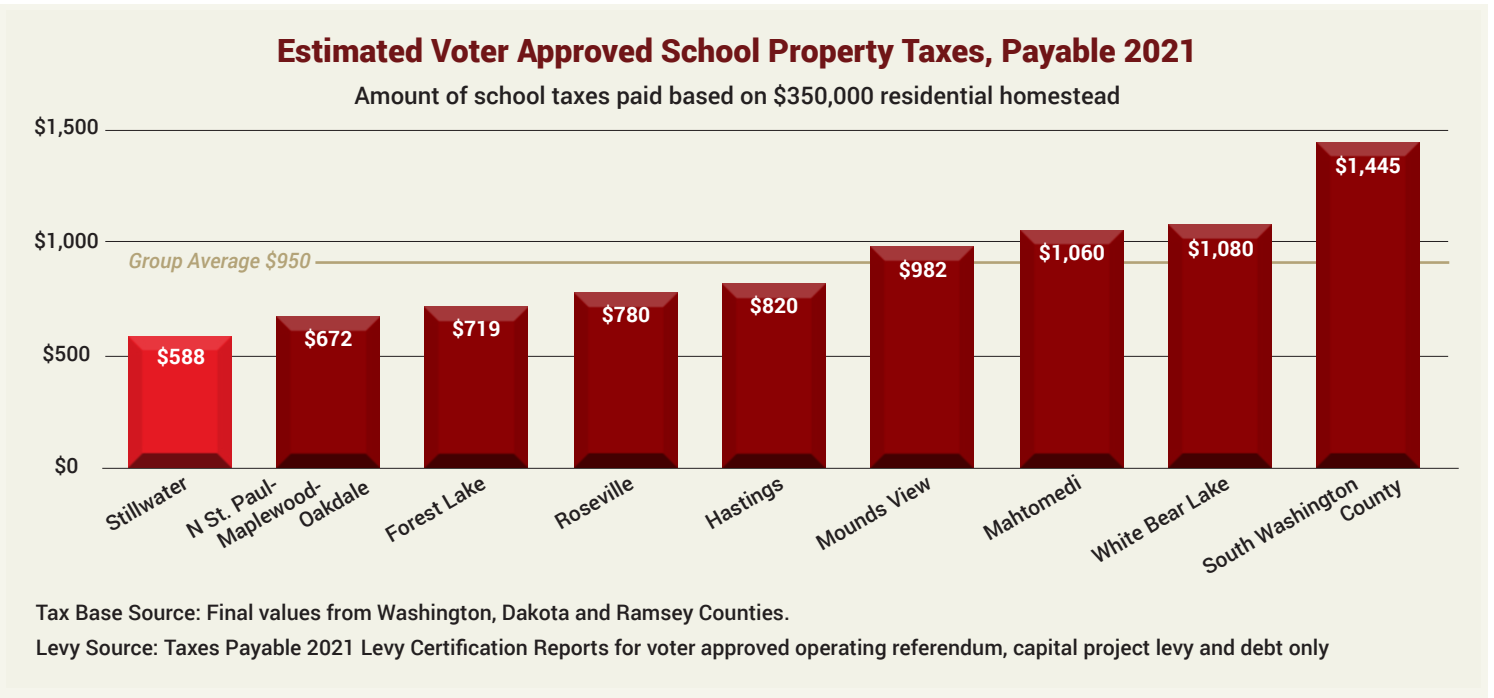


If state funding had kept up with inflation since 2003, our schools would receive \$598 more per student - for a total of \$4.2 million more this year.

Source: Minnesota Department of Education and the Association of Metropolitan School Districts 2021 Inflation estimates

# Our residents pay less in school taxes than residents in comparable districts.

If you could pick up your home and move it to any other school district in the county, you'd pay more in school taxes. That's because the tax rate in Stillwater is lower than our neighboring districts as well as many other comparable districts.



## Operating Levy Facts

Question 1, if approved, would renew the expiring levy and provide additional revenue to help stabilize the budget; retain teachers and support staff; continue to support academic achievement for all students; maintain existing programs and services; and minimize future budget cuts.

## Technology Levy Facts

Question 2, if approved, would ensure stable funding to provide up-to-date classroom devices, teacher and student computers; give students reliable access to technology tools at school and at home; provide students and staff with technology support and training; and support infrastructure, software and security needs.

## What If Funding Isn't Approved?

Without a levy in place, the district would have to reduce its budget by about \$12 million in 2022-2023 and more in future years. This would result in:

- Higher class sizes; loss of more than 100 teachers, paras and support staff
- Loss of elective classes, specialized programs (like GATE and Spanish Immersion), music, arts and athletics
- Less academic, social and emotional support for students

## Tax Impact

Request	Annual Increase	Tax Impact*
<b>Q1: Replacement Levy</b>	An additional \$390 per student or about \$2.7 million per year	\$0.17 more per month
<b>Q2: Technology Levy</b>	\$4.7 million per year	\$11.50 more per month
<b>Total net tax impact of both questions*</b>	\$7.4 million per year	<b>\$11.67 more per month</b>

\*Estimated tax impacts are based on district's \$350,000 average value home.



**VOTING INFORMATION:** Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 2, 2021. Absentee/early voting begins September 17, 2021 and can be done in-person at various locations or by mail. Learn more at [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org).

[stillwaterschools.org/Levy2021](http://stillwaterschools.org/Levy2021)

This publication was prepared and paid for by Stillwater Area Public Schools and is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot question.