

Stability and Technology for our Kids

South Washington County Schools (SoWashCo Schools) faces inadequate state funding, increasing educational costs, continued budget cuts and the need for enhanced technology as a tool for learning. To help, SoWashCo Schools is asking voters to consider a school funding increase on the Nov. 2, 2021 ballot.

Why now?

- Our savings account is below board policy at 4.7%
- Cuts of \$9.4 million for the 2021-22 school year
- Federal, state and local funding is not keeping pace with inflation or the educational needs of our students
- Expanded dependence on educational technology for personalized learning
- Devices for every student require modern and reliable technology infrastructure

What's on the Ballot?



QUESTION 1 - STABILITY

Operating Levy

Operating levies are voter-approved and provide funding for classrooms, instruction and other school operating costs.

- SoWashCo Schools is asking voters to consider revoking the 2015 and 2017 operating levies to create a new levy that increases funds from \$1,536.60 to \$1,886.60 per student.
- The operating levy would generate an additional \$6.9 million per year.
- The funds would include an annual increase at the rate of inflation for 10 years.



QUESTION 2 - TECHNOLOGY

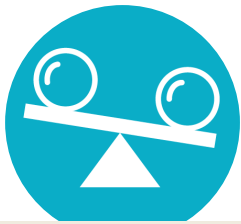
Capital Projects Levy

A capital projects levy provides funds for improved instructional technology, tech support, maintenance for student devices and enhanced technology infrastructure.

- SoWashCo Schools is asking voters to consider revoking the current capital project levy to create a new levy that increases funds from \$112 to \$270 per student.
- The capital projects levy would generate an additional \$3 million per year.
- The increase would be in place for 10 years.

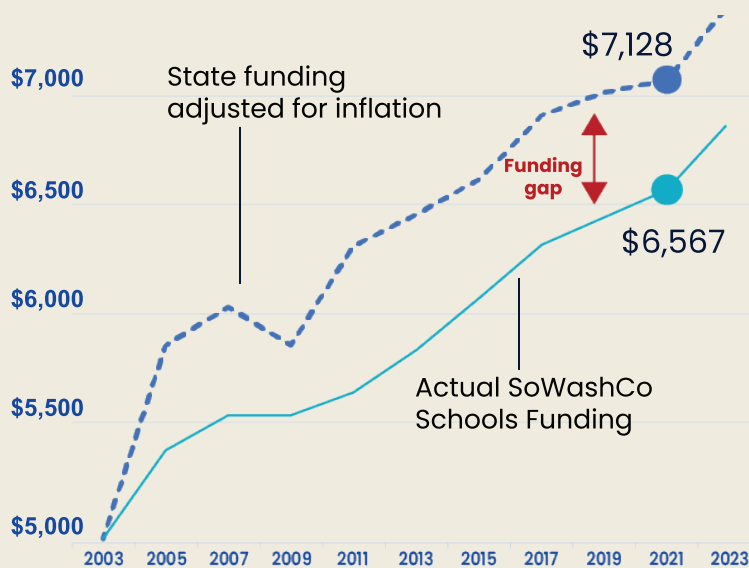
Learn more: Visit sowashco.org/vote2021 • Call 651-425-2888 • Email vote2021@sowashco.org

What's on the Ballot?



QUESTION 1 - STABILITY

State Basic General Education Funding per Student



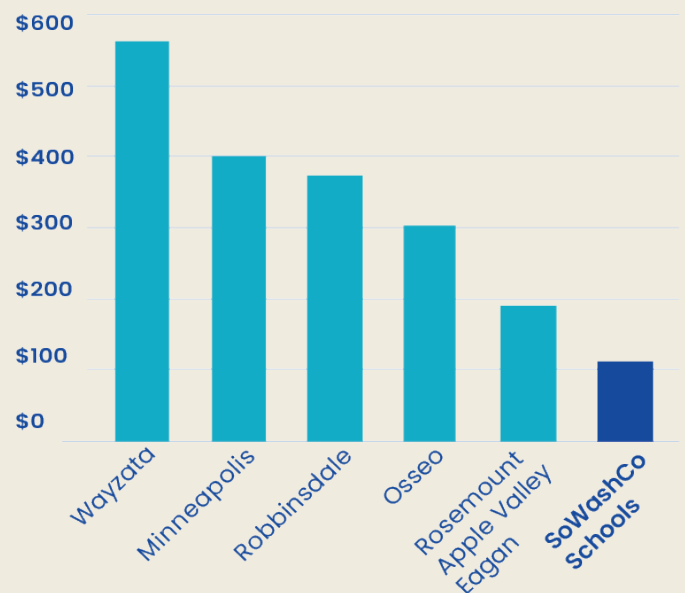
If state funding had kept pace with inflation over the past 18 years, we would have received nearly \$561 more per student last school year – or a total of \$10.4 million.

Source: Minnesota Department of Education Inflation Estimates, July 2021



QUESTION 2 - TECHNOLOGY

Lowest Capital Projects Levy in the State per Student



When compared to every school district in the state of Minnesota with a capital projects levy, SoWashCo Schools has the lowest levy at only \$112 per student.

Shown: School districts with a capital projects levy among the top 10 districts by student population.

Asking voters to increase school funding would help:

- Provide stability in operations to address facility and enrollment needs
- Limit additional budget cuts to programs and staffing
- Expand digital access to curriculum and learning tools
- Maintain and update the devices distributed to students and staff during the pandemic



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