

10 facts

every voter should know



This Election Day, voters in the White Bear Lake Area School District will be asked to renew a capital projects levy that is expiring.

Here are 10 facts every voter should know on November 8:



1. The capital projects levy approved by voters in 2013 is expiring.

In 2013, voters approved a capital projects levy to support the acquisition of technology hardware; curriculum, assessment and management software; large musical instruments; and textbooks and materials. This levy is expiring, and without renewal, the District will lose \$2.6 million annually.

2. A successful levy renewal will not increase current taxes.

The School Board voted unanimously to ask voters to renew the expiring levy at the same tax rate, as a straight renewal of an existing levy.

3. Several options were considered before deciding on the renewal request.

Options that have been considered regarding the current capital projects levy include:

- Asking voters to increase the levy
- Asking voters to renew the current levy
- Letting the capital projects levy expire

Respecting today's uncertain economy, the Board decided to ask for the same level of funding that schools have been receiving.

4. Failure to renew the levy will result in a \$2.6 million gap in revenue.

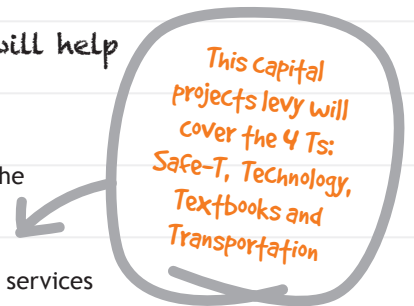
The gap in revenue would require planning to delay or reduce purchases for:

- Safety and security measures and equipment throughout the district
- Classroom technology and equipment
- Curriculum and instruments
- Buses and vans for student transportation

5. A successful levy will help meet ongoing and increasing needs.

The funds will be used in the following ways:

- Safety and security
- Technology and related services
- Textbooks, curriculum materials and equipment, and musical instruments
- Transportation



6. We are not alone.

All Minnesota school districts depend on local support to maintain quality educational programs for students and meet needs not met by state or federal funding.





7.

The District has kept its promises.

Since the last capital projects levy in 2013, the District followed through on its promises to the community.

- Students and families have been supported with technology hardware, which was especially important during the last three school years.
- We continue to offer effective curriculum and to assess student learning to best serve each learner.
- Our band and orchestra programs continue to grow.

8.

White Bear continues to be a good steward of the community's investment.

- Our district has received excellence in financial reporting awards from both the Association of School Business Officials and Government Finance Officers Association for 21 consecutive years.
- The District's fiscal credibility is high, with a recent community survey showing:
 - 89% of respondents believe the community receives a good value from its investment.
 - 80% of respondents believe we have spent past referendum revenue responsibly.
 - Residents rated the district's financial management well above the industry norm, putting us in the top quarter of suburban districts.
- The district has taken advantage of favorable interest rates to refinance outstanding debt, saving taxpayers nearly \$500,000 through the next two years.

9.

Our students benefit directly from capital projects levy support.

- The district monitors and improves safety and security measures to keep students and staff safe.
- Access to effective classroom technology is key. In a recent survey, 89% of district respondents rated the importance of technology to student learning as very important or absolutely essential.
- Updated equipment and curriculum are vital to all of our academic subjects, including the seven Career Pathways areas offered in the district.
- Our music and fine arts programs continue to receive top ratings and our students receive state and national recognitions.

10.

You have opportunities to learn more about the capital projects levy.

- Attend informational community meetings:
 - **Tuesday, September 20**
8:30 a.m., Senior Center (WBL)
 - **Tuesday, September 27**
7 p.m., District Center (WBL)
 - **Wednesday, October 5**
7 p.m., Oneka Elementary (Hugo)
- Visit our website:
 - isd624.org/CapitalProjectsLevyRenewal
- Contact us:
 - communications@isd624.org
 - Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak, Superintendent
651-407-7563
 - Tim Wald, Asst. Sup. for Finance & Operations
651-407-7516



A common misperception re: one-time COVID-19 relief funds

There is a common misunderstanding that because school districts received one-time federal funds during the COVID-19 pandemic there is a lesser need for local levy support. This is untrue. The one-time funds allowed districts to maintain services during the pandemic and to help make up for student learning loss caused by the pandemic. The funds were limited very specifically to covering pandemic-related costs and do not displace levy support.