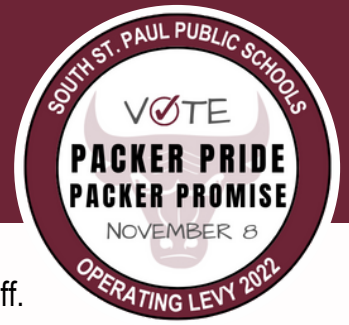


TEN THINGS VOTERS SHOULD KNOW

ABOUT THE 2022 SSPPS OPERATING LEVY



On November 8, voters in the South St. Paul Public School District will be asked to increase the voter approved operating levy to support the needs of our students and staff.

1

What is an operating levy?

- An operating levy is a learning levy. The money must be used for the day-to-day operations of schools and direct instruction and support for students.
- An operating levy can't be used for buildings or facilities.

Operating levies are all about the students

2

Why do we need an operating levy?

- State funding has not kept up with the increasing cost to run schools.
- There are services we are required by law to provide to students that the state and federal government do not fully fund.

3

How does our current voter-approved operating levy compare to other Districts?

- SSPPS ranks 35th out of 43 metro districts.
- The top districts receive almost \$2,200 per student from their communities, the metro average is \$1,376, and SSPPS receives just \$767 per student.

4

What do we get if each of the questions pass?

Question 1 will:

- Maintain lower class sizes and avoid the potentially devastating impact of substantial budget reductions to programs and staff.

Question 2 will:

- Expand academic and enrichment opportunities.
- Offer school-based social workers to connect students/families with needed resources and services.
- Increase access to career programming and college credit bearing courses.

5

What is the cost to taxpayers?

- The cost increase is less than \$1 a day for the average home value.
- If question 2 passes, it's an additional \$0.25 a day

Question 1 must pass for Question 2 to pass

For more information on the 2022 Operational Levy visit www.sspps.org/levy2022 or email levy@sspps.org

6

What happens if Question 1 does not pass?

The district will engage in an in-depth process to identify the best path forward to address a \$2.7 million financial shortfall, resulting in significantly less staff and support for our students.

For perspective:
\$2.7 million is
approximately
34 teachers

7

Why are we asking for a levy after we just passed one in 2017?

In 2017, a survey was conducted to understand what increase our community would support and the district honored what they said. Unfortunately, that dollar amount no longer adequately covers the increased costs of operating schools. Last spring, a new survey was conducted where the majority said they would support the needed increase to our levy.

8

How can SSP benefit from having good schools?

- SSPPS serves all of our community by offering programs from birth through adulthood.
- All residents benefit from having quality schools through opportunities and increased property values.

Strong schools helps make SSPPS a desirable place to live.

9

How has SSPPS demonstrated good financial management?

- The district continues to make budget reductions due to inadequate state funding and has made intentional efforts to keep those cuts away from the classroom.
- With few of those options left, additional reductions will unfortunately directly impact student learning and support.
- In 2021 and 2022, SSPPS refinanced existing debt that brought \$2.2. million in savings and reduced the financial burden to our taxpayers.

10

How can our community help our district receive the funding they need?

Each year, SSPPS advocates at the legislature to fully fund education. SSP community members can help by asking local legislators to fully fund educational mandates and provide adequate, stable, and equitable funding.

School districts are the only entity that needs voter approval for levy dollars. The city and county are able to levy for what they need without voter approval.