

# 2023 LEVY INFORMATION



School District 197 is seeking voter approval for two levy referendums this fall. One levy would renew an existing technology levy set to expire, and the other would invest in a new operating levy. These levies will be on the ballot for the November 7, 2023, election.

## Question 1 Increased Tax Rate

### INVEST in New Operating Levy

- The additional funds will enable the district to:
- Maintain class sizes and instructional support.
  - Provide financial stability to continue our excellent academic programs and services for students.
  - Retain and attract the best teachers and staff.

If this question were approved, property taxes would **increase \$153 per year for the average home in our area (around \$12.75 per month).**

As a comparison, our neighbors in South St. Paul approved levies last year that increased their tax rate by \$50 a month, or about \$600 a year.

## Question 2 No Tax Impact

### RENEW the Capital Project Levy (also called the “technology levy”)

- The renewed technology levy funds will be used to:
- Provide district-wide technology infrastructure and network improvements.
  - Purchase and maintain technology devices for students and staff.
  - Pay the salaries of technology staff and the cost of training.

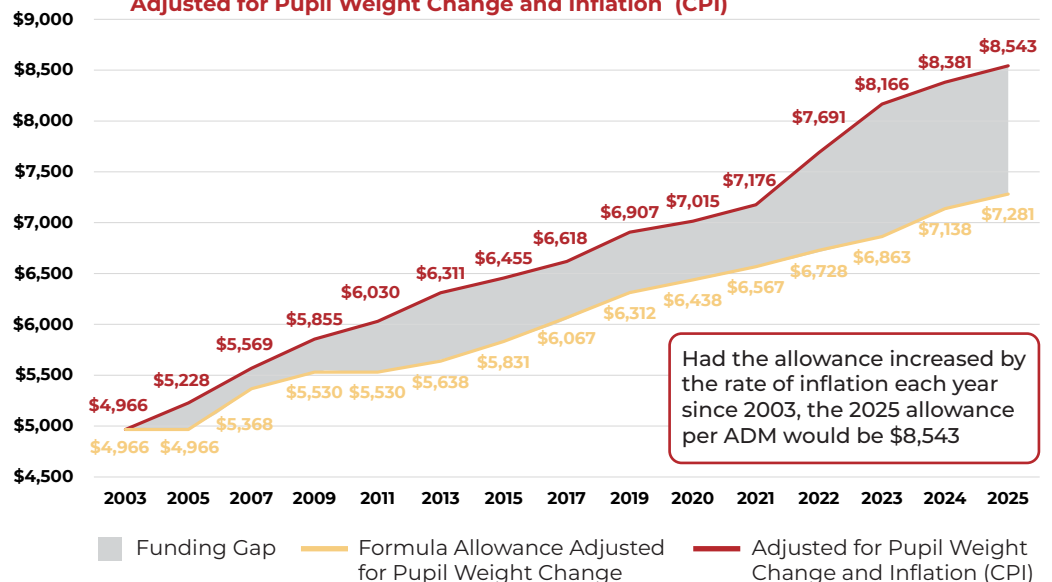
If this question were approved, it would result in **no increased cost to taxpayers.**

## The Ongoing Funding Gap

For decades, state education funding has not kept pace with inflation and the cost of educating our students. If education funding had kept pace with inflation, our schools would have \$6.9 million more in buying power every year—the equivalent of up to 80 more teachers in our classrooms today.

### General Education Formula Allowance, 2003-2025

Adjusted for Pupil Weight Change and Inflation (CPI)



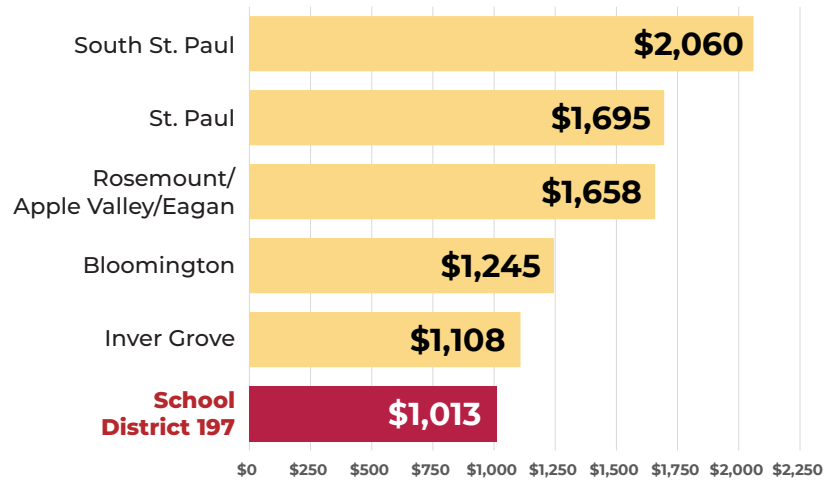
**To narrow this gap, more than 90% of Minnesota school districts—including School District 197—rely upon voter-approved funds to support student learning.**

## TAX IMPACT: Lower Than Almost All Metro Districts

For a home value of \$350,000 (the average home value in our school district), School District 197 has **lower total school property taxes than almost all districts** in the Twin Cities. Of the 47 school districts in the metro area, School District 197 ranks #45 in total school property taxes—the **third lowest tax rate**.

When you look closer to home, we have the lowest tax rate of all of our neighboring districts.

## Current Tax Comparison: Neighboring School Districts



## A Strong Return on Investment

With some of the lowest school property taxes in the Twin Cities and **test scores consistently ranking at or near the top among comparable districts**, School District 197 provides an excellent return on the community's investment. **If both levies are approved, our school district taxes will still be at or near the lowest in our neighborhood and the metro area.**

BALLOT QUESTION	MONTHLY TAX IMPACT*
Question #1	\$12.75
Question #2	\$0

**Calculate Your Tax Impact**  
To calculate the tax impact for your property, visit [isd197.org/vote2023](https://isd197.org/vote2023) and use the Tax Impact Calculator.

\*This amount is based on the average ISD197 home (\$350,000 home value).

## Community Information Meetings

Join us for an in-person community information session where you can gather information and ask questions.

**SEPT 26**  
6:30pm - 8pm  
Thompson Park Activity Center  
1200 Stassen Lane  
West St Paul, MN 55118

**OCT 12**  
6:30pm - 8pm  
Two Rivers High School  
1897 Delaware Avenue  
Mendota Heights, MN 55118

## Voting Information

Voters in School District 197 will be asked to go to the polls on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, to elect four school board members, vote on a capital project technology levy renewal, and vote on a new operating levy. Early voting begins on September 22. For more information about elections, voting, sample ballots, and more, visit [isd197.org/vote2023](https://isd197.org/vote2023).



**Stability  
& Support**

**VOTE NOV. 7**



## LEARN MORE

If you have questions or need additional information about the school funding request, please reach out via one of the following ways:

**VISIT**  
[isd197.org/vote2023](https://isd197.org/vote2023)

**EMAIL**  
[levy@isd197.org](mailto:levy@isd197.org)

**ATTEND**  
a community meeting