

# ONE STORM ONE FUTURE

## SAUK RAPIDS-RICE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT VOTE Tuesday, February 11, 2025



On February 11, 2025, Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools voters will decide on two ballot questions;

- 1** New Early Childhood Center to replace the Hillside facility and meet current and future enrollment needs
- 2** New Outdoor Activity Complex on the high school campus to replace the current stadium at the middle school

## OUR PROCESS

Since 2018, the district has been studying the long-range facility needs at all buildings. Work Groups composed of community members, parents, and staff identified several high-priority facilities needs, including Pleasantview Elementary, space utilization at the middle school, and early childhood.

- » The district addressed several middle school space utilization concerns with a multipurpose renovation completed January of 2024.
- » Pleasantview Elementary was addressed with the community's support of the November 2019 bond referendum, and the new building opened in the Fall of 2022.

A community-wide survey conducted in the Summer of 2024 further highlighted the need for early childhood as well as outdoor activity spaces. Responding to the community's feedback, the School Board revised the project scope to best reflect the community's values. These projects will be presented to voters as separate, independent ballot questions.

**Exceptional Survey  
Response Rate!**

**2,900+**

**community members  
provided input on  
these projects.**

For more information, visit: [www.isd47.org/about/onestormonefuture](http://www.isd47.org/about/onestormonefuture)



## QUESTION 1: Early Childhood

**\$37.2 MILLION**

Enrollment in Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools' preschool and childcare programs has almost doubled over the past two years. As a result, the Hillside Early Childhood building—originally constructed as a high school in 1928, with an addition in 1977—can no longer accommodate the growing community demand for these services.

### Current Facility challenges:

- Second floor is unusable due to accessibility, ventilation, and code compliance issues
- Heating and cooling systems are failing
- Lack of age-appropriate learning spaces

### New Early Childhood Center would include:

- Improved site safety, including parent pick-up and drop-off area
- Age-appropriate learning spaces, restrooms, and playground equipment
- More interior and exterior space to meet enrollment demands

**Renovation vs. New Construction:** The district has explored renovating the Hillside building, but the cost is nearly equal to building a new facility. The entire Hillside building is only 40,000 square feet, which is insufficient compared to the 60,000 square feet needed. Given these factors, the district does not believe further investment in Hillside would be a responsible use of community dollars.



## QUESTION 2: Outdoor Activities

**\$17.7 MILLION**

Activity facilities at Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools are divided between the middle school and high school. The existing stadium is located at the middle school (former high school), while additional fields are located at the high school.

### Current Facility challenges:

- Safety, scheduling, and transportation concerns for high school activities that utilize the existing stadium
- Drainage issues on/around the stadium
- Temporary bleachers and inadequate seating capacity
- Difficult accessibility to fields, as most lack designated pathways for spectators

### New Outdoor Activity Complex would include:

- Multipurpose artificial turf field that will support football, lacrosse, soccer, track and field, physical education, dance, marching band, and other activities
- Track with multipurpose artificial turf infield
- Ticketing, concession, storage, and restroom building
- Adequate spectator seating and parking
- Improved accessibility to the facility and surrounding fields



# TAX IMPACT

**Why now?** As some of the current financial commitments end, if both questions are approved those resources will be invested into these new facilities. Doing this now allows the proposed projects to replace existing debt with a minimal tax impact for residents.

If both questions are approved, the tax impact on the median home, would be about:

**\$3 PER YEAR**

Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	Estimated Annual Tax Impact Payable 2026 Compared to 2025*					
Residential Homestead	\$100,000	\$37	-\$21		\$22	-\$36	\$1
	\$125,000	\$53	-\$30		\$32	-\$52	\$1
	\$160,000	\$76	-\$43		\$45	-\$74	\$2
	\$175,000	\$85	-\$49		\$51	-\$83	\$2
	\$200,000	\$101	-\$58		\$60	-\$99	\$2
	\$260,000	\$140	-\$80		\$83	-\$137	\$3
	\$300,000	\$166	-\$95		\$99	-\$162	\$4
	\$360,000	\$205	-\$117		\$122	-\$200	\$4
	\$400,000	\$231	-\$132		\$137	-\$225	\$5
	\$500,000	\$295	-\$168		\$175	-\$288	\$6
	\$600,000	\$370	-\$211		\$220	-\$361	\$8
Commercial/ Industrial	\$100,000	\$89	-\$51		\$53	-\$87	\$2
	\$250,000	\$252	-\$144		\$150	-\$246	\$6
	\$500,000	\$548	-\$313		\$326	-\$535	\$12
	\$750,000	\$844	-\$482		\$502	-\$824	\$19
	\$1,000,000	\$1,140	-\$651		\$678	-\$1,113	\$25
Agricultural Homestead** (average value per acre of land & buildings)	\$2,000	\$0.18	-\$0.10		\$0.11	-\$0.17	\$0.00
	\$3,000	\$0.27	-\$0.15		\$0.16	-\$0.26	\$0.01
	\$4,000	\$0.36	-\$0.20		\$0.21	-\$0.35	\$0.01
	\$5,000	\$0.44	-\$0.25		\$0.26	-\$0.43	\$0.01
	\$6,000	\$0.53	-\$0.30		\$0.32	-\$0.52	\$0.01
	\$7,000	\$0.62	-\$0.35		\$0.37	-\$0.61	\$0.01
Agricultural Non-Homestead** (average value per acre of land & buildings)	\$2,000	\$0.36	-\$0.20		\$0.21	-\$0.35	\$0.01
	\$3,000	\$0.53	-\$0.30		\$0.32	-\$0.52	\$0.01
	\$4,000	\$0.71	-\$0.41		\$0.42	-\$0.69	\$0.02
	\$5,000	\$0.89	-\$0.51		\$0.53	-\$0.87	\$0.02
	\$6,000	\$1.07	-\$0.61		\$0.63	-\$1.04	\$0.02
	\$7,000	\$1.24	-\$0.71		\$0.74	-\$1.21	\$0.03

\*Estimated tax impact includes principal and interest payments on the new bonds. The amounts in the table are based on school district taxes for bonded debt levies only, and do not include tax levies for other purposes. Tax increases shown above are gross increases, not including the impact of the homeowner's Homestead Credit Refund ("Circuit Breaker") program. Owners of homestead property may qualify for a refund, based on their income and total property taxes. This will change the net effect of the proposed bond issue for those property owners.

\*\*For all agricultural property, includes a 70% reduction due to the School Building Bond Agricultural Credit. Average value per acre is the total estimated market value of all land & buildings divided by total acres. If the property includes a home, then the tax impact on the house, garage, and one acre of land will be calculated in addition to the taxes per acre, on the same basis as a residential homestead of non-homestead property. If the same property owner owns more than \$3.5 million of agricultural homestead land and buildings, a portion of the property will be taxed at the high non-homestead rate.



**What is the impact to my property taxes?** Use the tax calculator on the website, created with Ehlers, the district's independent municipal advisor. For questions, contact Ehlers through the provided link. Scan here for your estimated tax impact!



## VOTING INFORMATION

### EARLY/ABSENTEE VOTING:

**District Office**  
1833 Osauka Rd NE, Sauk Rapids  
Door 2, Second Floor

Friday, December 27 - Monday, February 10  
Weekdays, 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.\*

*\*Closed: 1/1/25, 1/20/25*

**ELECTION DAY: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025**

Scan here for your  
Election Day polling location



## UPCOMING COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Join us for a community information meeting to learn more about the proposed plan and have your questions answered.

**January 2, 2025 | 6:00 p.m.**  
Hillside Early Childhood + Tour

**January 7, 2025 | 6:00 p.m.**  
Rice Elementary

**January 9, 2025 | 6:00 p.m.**  
Riverside Terrace

**January 14, 2025 | 7:00 p.m.**  
Watab Town Board Meeting

**January 22, 2025 | 6:00 p.m.**  
Hillside Early Childhood + Tour

**January 23, 2025 | 6:00 p.m.**  
Middle School

**January 28, 2025 | 6:00 p.m.**  
High School

**February 6, 2025 | 6:00 p.m.**  
Hillside Early Childhood + Tour

### Virtual Lunchtime FAQs with the Superintendent

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**December 17, 2024**

**January 2, 2025**

**January 14, 2025**

**January 30, 2025**

**February 6, 2025**

**Link on website**