

ST. MICHAEL-ALBERTVILLE SCHOOLS OPERATING LEVY AND BOND VOTE 2025



STMA Addresses Future Needs to Maintain Excellence: Referendum Vote This Fall

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - On July 14, 2025, the St. Michael-Albertville School Board voted to hold a special election on November 4, 2025, asking voters to consider a two-question ballot that includes both an operating levy and a bond request.

This decision comes after years of navigating financial challenges beyond the district's control. In order to balance our budget, we have been forced to cut \$7.3 million and eliminate 77 staff positions in the last three years. Unlike most Minnesota districts, STMA does not receive local operating revenue to close the gap between state funding and student needs, making it harder to sustain essential services. Without voter-approved funding, additional reductions are projected in 2027, including the potential loss of 19-25 teaching positions.

The district has engaged the community through forums, advisory committees, and a thorough financial review of its finances in order to develop a plan grounded in transparency and long-term impact. The Finance Advisory Committee, made up of community members, parents, and staff, agrees that action is necessary to preserve the high-quality education STMA students deserve.

Question 1: Operating Levy to Support Student Learning

The district is proposing a phased levy increase starting at \$275 per student for the first two years, combined with the use of reserved funds the district has carefully saved to cover salaries and operating costs. This approach helps limit the immediate tax impact on homeowners while maintaining current class sizes, programs, and staff. Beginning in year three, as district debt payments decrease, the levy will increase to \$835 per student to provide stable, long-term funding.

Question 2: Bond Funds to Address District-Wide Building Needs

A \$21 million bond request to strengthen safety, update aging technology infrastructure, address deferred maintenance, and improve academic spaces across all schools will also be on the ballot. The District's already tight budget does not have the needed funding to make these critical facility updates without further reducing staffing and student services and programming. Thus, a voter-approved bond is needed to support these important projects. *Question 2 can only pass if question 1 is approved.*

If both questions are approved, the total estimated tax impact would be about \$25 per month for a home valued at \$400,000.

ST. MICHAEL-ALBERTVILLE SCHOOLS
**OPERATING LEVY AND
BOND VOTE 2025**



STMA Schools remain committed to transparency and ongoing community engagement. All residents are encouraged to learn more by attending upcoming informational meetings and visiting www.stma.k12.mn.us/vote2025 for full details, tax impact information, and answers to frequently asked questions.

Being informed is the first step in shaping the future of our schools. We invite all community members to get the facts, ask questions, and make their voice heard on November 4, 2025.