

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



DEAR STMA TAXPAYERS,

Our district is facing a critical funding challenge that requires community-wide attention. **Despite making \$7.3 million in budget reductions, which included eliminating 77 staff positions over the past three years**, we are still experiencing challenges with our operating budget. Our budget shortfall has also forced us to **delay critical updates and improvements** to our facilities. Like many school districts across the state and country, STMA needs the support of local citizens to continue to deliver the educational excellence residents have come to expect.

On November 4, STMA voters will be asked to consider two referendum questions, a levy and a bond. Two questions are needed because of how the funding is used. Levies are for learning and bonds are for building.



A 10-year operating levy that will generate \$275 per student for the first two years and \$835 per student for the following eight years to balance the budget and support day-to-day district operations, including maintaining current class sizes, programs, and services.



A \$21 million bond to improve safety and security, update technology, complete infrastructure updates, renovate academic spaces, and build a hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Center.

Strong schools are the backbone of strong communities. By investing in our children, we ensure a thriving future for STMA, one that continues to reflect our shared values, attract families, and deliver a high-quality education that prepares our students to be the leaders of tomorrow.



RESPECTFULLY, YOUR STMA SCHOOL BOARD

Drew Scherber, Hollee Saville, Tim Lewis,
Carol Steffens, Travis Weber, Taylor Klemmensen

YOUR CHILDREN. YOUR VALUES. YOUR SCHOOLS. YOUR COMMUNITIES.

The children of STMA are the people who will carry our communities forward. They will one day lead our cities, schools, businesses, churches, states and nation. Local voters are being asked to consider an investment in their future.

WE LISTENED.

Thank you to all who engaged with us. Your input helped shape a clear, conservative plan for our future. To help finalize our plan we held:

- 24 student forums
- 2 family listening sessions
- 8 staff input sessions
- 19 advisory team sessions

WHY NOW?

In the 2021 and 2022 special elections, we asked to add staff back and included technology updates within the levy. We heard that the tax impact was too high. This time we're spending down the fund balance and we're asking for just enough to maintain staffing and programming.

JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETINGS

Wednesday, September 10
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 18
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Friday, September 19
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, October 7
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 11
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Monday, October 27
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

All meetings will be held at Middle School West Auditorium: 11343 50th St NE, Albertville, MN 55301



OPERATING LEVY TO SUPPORT DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS AND STUDENT LEARNING

WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING?

The cost to educate students continues to rise each year, but the State's per-student funding formula has not kept pace. Today, Minnesota school districts receive 19% less per student than they did in 2005, which equates to \$1,420 less per student. STMA is among the lowest-funded districts, receiving nearly \$4,000 less per student than the state average.

Because of this shortfall, most districts rely on local taxpayers to help fund operations. In fact, 72% of Minnesota school districts have a voter-approved operating referendum. STMA does not!

In recent years, the district has utilized the fund balance (cash on hand) and reduced staff to balance our budget. This practice is no longer sustainable as the district needs a cash reserve to properly fund daily operations.

WHAT CUTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE?

In just the past three years, STMA has:

- Eliminated 77 staff positions
- Doubled high school activity fees
- Eliminated busing for some students
- Cut programs and services for high-performing students

HOW MUCH MONEY IS NEEDED?

The district is projecting an operating budget deficit averaging \$6.3 million for each of the next 10 years.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE LEVY IS UNSUCCESSFUL?

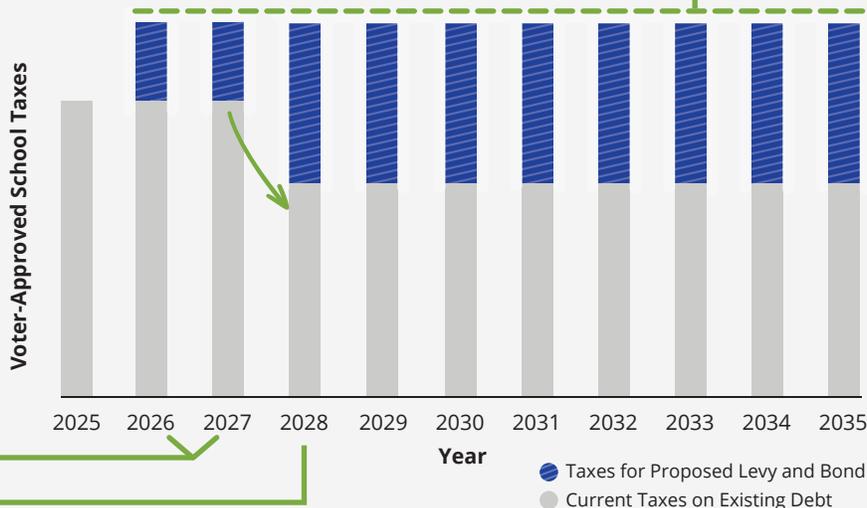
The district will be forced to cut approximately 19–25 teaching positions for the 2026–2027 school year, with additional cuts likely in the following years. This would lead to larger class sizes and a reduction in programs and services for students.

LONG-TERM TAX STABILITY

The proposed operating levy will provide \$2 million in 2026 and 2027 (\$275 per student), with the remaining needed operating funds coming from the district's fund balance (cash on hand). STMA residents provided feedback that the district should spend down a portion of their savings. To be fiscally responsible, the district will be able to do this for 2 years.

Beginning in 2028, the district's existing debt drops. The operating levy will then support the full \$6.3 million deficit (\$835 per student).

This phased approach maintains a stable tax impact throughout the 10-year term of the operating levy and new question 2 bond payments.





A BOND TO ADDRESS DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY NEEDS

Question 2 can only pass if Question 1 is approved.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE BOND PROJECTS?

The proposed facility projects were identified as needs that align with the district's strategic planning pillars; Safety and Security, Technology, Maintenance, and Academics.

SAFETY + SECURITY **\$4.3 MILLION**

- Security Doors
HS
- Playgrounds: Rubber Play Surface and ADA Compliance
AP, BW, CE, FE, STME
- Phone Landlines
DISTRICT-WIDE
- Paging and Bell Systems
DISTRICT-WIDE
- Fire Panels
BW, FE, HS
- Security Cameras
DISTRICT-WIDE
- Vape Detectors
HS, MS

TECHNOLOGY **\$5.7 MILLION**

- Classroom Boards and Audio Systems
DISTRICT-WIDE
- Infrastructure
DISTRICT-WIDE
- Auditorium and Gym AV Systems
DISTRICT-WIDE
- Boardroom Recording
DISTRICT-WIDE

MAINTENANCE **\$2.8 MILLION**

- Activity Fitness Center Equipment and Flooring
HS
- Flexible Theater and Music Space
HS
- Baseball and Softball Field Upgrades
HS

ACADEMICS **\$8.2 MILLION**

- Media Center and Conference Rooms
HS
- Media Center
STME
- K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Center
HS

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE BOND IS UNSUCCESSFUL?

Critical facility needs will have to be funded by reallocating money from the general fund, the same fund that supports teachers, staff, and classroom resources.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST ME?

This table shows the tax impact for the levy and bond questions on various types and values of properties.

Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	Operating Levy	Bond Referendum	Tax Increase of Both Questions
		Estimated Monthly Tax Impact*		
Residential Homestead	\$200,000	\$8	\$4	\$12
	\$300,000	\$13	\$6	\$19
	\$400,000	\$17	\$8	\$25
	\$500,000	\$21	\$11	\$32
	\$600,000	\$25	\$14	\$39
Commercial/Industrial	\$250,000	\$11	\$9	\$20
	\$500,000	\$21	\$20	\$41
	\$750,000	\$32	\$31	\$63

*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 and operating referendum 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 tax increase for those property owners.

Total tax impact would be about **\$25 PER MONTH** for a \$400,000 STMA home

CALCULATE YOUR TAXES

Use the tax calculator on the website, created by Ehlers, the district's independent municipal advisor. Scan here for your estimated tax impact!

STMA District Office
11343 50th St NE
Albertville, MN 55301



EARLY VOTING

September 19 - November 3

COMBINED POLLING LOCATION FOR ALBERTVILLE, HANOVER, OTSEGO, AND ST. MICHAEL

STMA District Office, Door A
Middle School West 11343 50th St NE, Albertville

M-F 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

MONTICELLO TOWNSHIP

Wright County Government Center
3650 Braddock Ave NE, Buffalo

M-F 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

ELECTION DAY VOTING

Tuesday, November 4

COMBINED POLLING LOCATION FOR ALBERTVILLE, HANOVER, OTSEGO, AND ST. MICHAEL

Middle School West
11343 50th St NE, Albertville

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

MONTICELLO TOWNSHIP

Monticello Township Hall
8550 Edmonson Ave NE, Monticello

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.



LEARN MORE

Scan the QR code with the camera on your smartphone or visit www.stma.k12.mn.us/vote2025 to get more information on the vote.



Prepared and paid for by Independent School District No. 885 (St. Michael-Albertville Schools), 11343 50th Street NE, Albertville, MN 55301.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT STMA.K12.MN.US/VOTE2025