



PROTECT THEIR FUTURE. INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) is asking our community to consider an increase to school funding by approximately \$37.2 million annually. This funding would maintain our high-quality programs and minimize budget cuts every year moving forward.



LEARN MORE
[SPPS.ORG/VOTE](https://spps.org/vote)

What Is an Operating Levy?

SPPS, like most Minnesota school districts, relies on an operating levy to fund its educational programs. Local property taxes account for 21% of the district's current funding. Operating levies must be approved by voters, and provide essential funding for classroom supplies, instruction, staffing, utilities, transportation, and other school operating costs.

SPPS Funding Goals for the 2025 Operating Levy

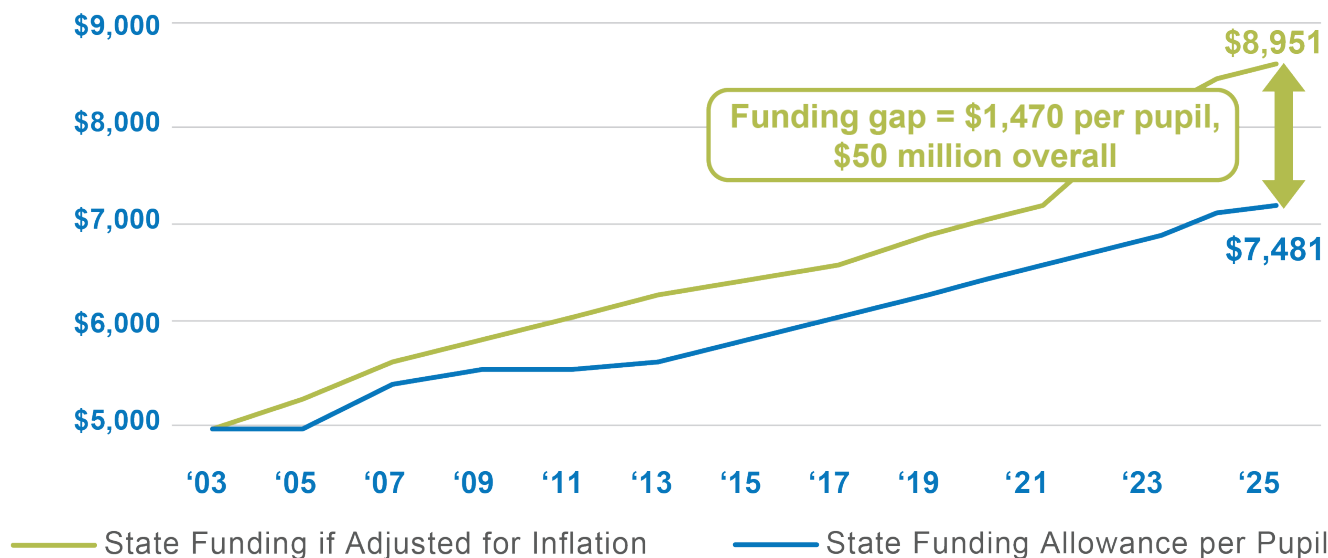
- 1. Provide financial stability for SPPS students** and avoid millions of dollars in budget cuts.
- 2. Maintain a broad range of academic programs** such as:
 - arts and music
 - language and culture
 - college and career readiness
- 3. Preserve services that families and students value,** such as transportation, extracurriculars, and additional academic supports.
- 4. Retain high-quality teachers and support staff** to ensure student success.



The State Funding Gap

State funding for public schools has not kept pace with inflation for the past 20 years. The difference between state funding for fiscal year 2025-26 (FY26) and the amount if the funding formula was adjusted for inflation is \$1,470 per pupil, which equals a gap of \$50 million overall.

State Funding per Pupil vs Inflation



Source: Association of Metropolitan School Districts

School District Sample Ballot Question

Approval of New School District Referendum Revenue Authorization

The board of Independent School District No. 625 (St. Paul), Minnesota has proposed to increase the School District's general education revenue by \$1,073 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation. The proposed new referendum revenue authorization would be first levied in 2025 for taxes payable in 2026 and applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

- ☐ YES Shall the new referendum revenue authorization proposed by the board of
☐ NO Independent School District No. 625 (St. Paul), Minnesota be approved?

By voting "YES" on this ballot question, you are voting for a property tax increase.
Passage of this referendum will result in an increase in your property taxes.

Approved

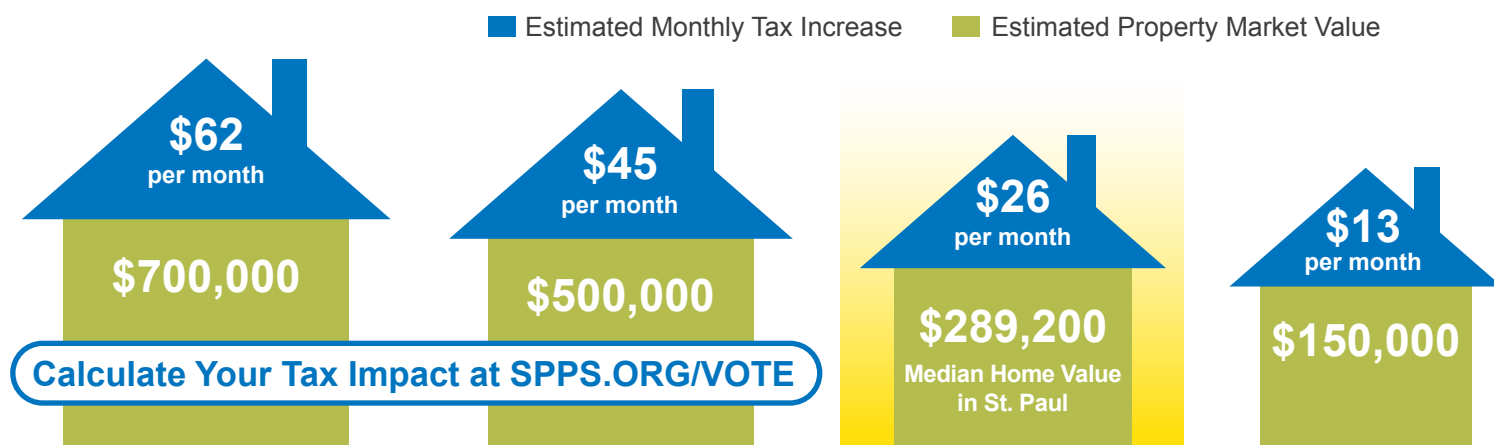
If the levy is approved, there will be a tax increase to stabilize SPPS's budget and protect its school programs and staffing.

Not Approved

If the levy is not approved, SPPS will face at least \$37 million in reduced funding for programs and staff every year moving forward.

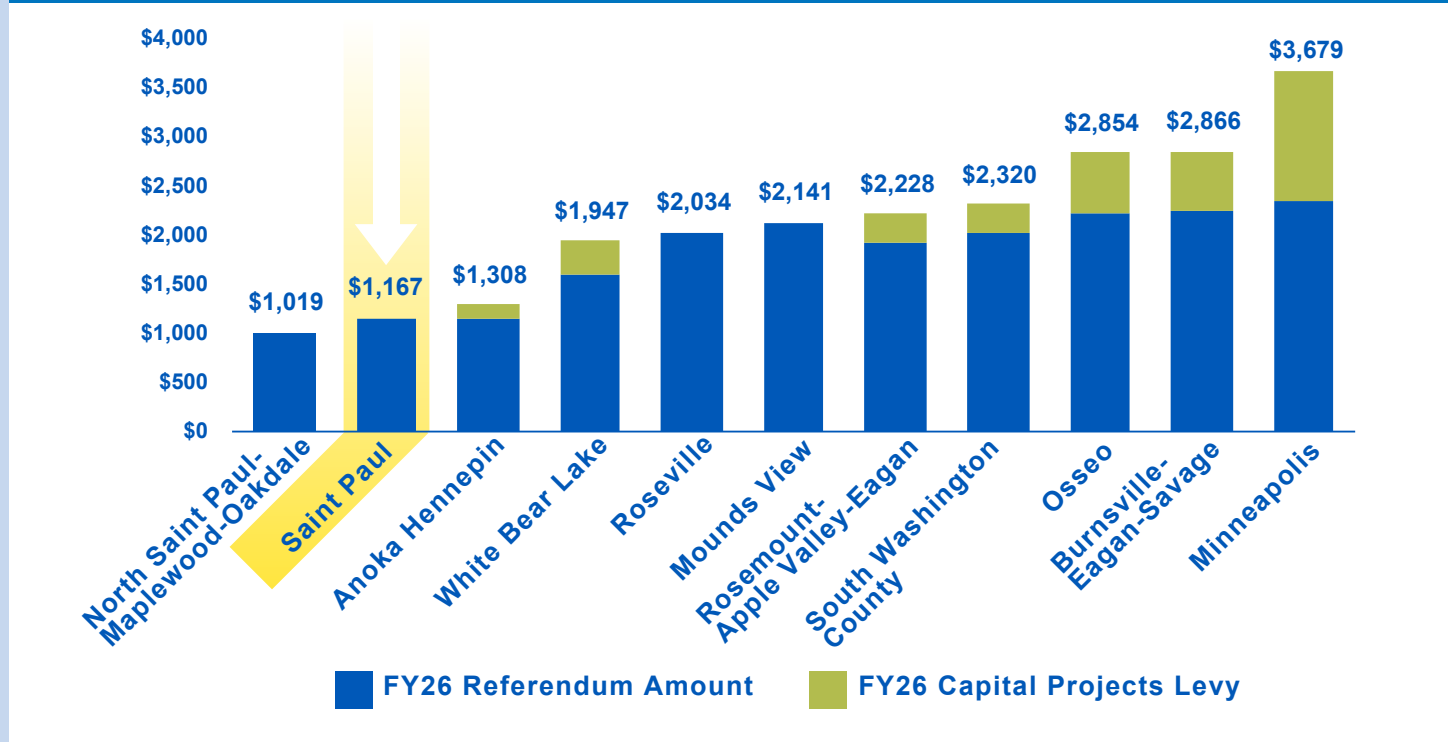
What Is the Tax Impact for St. Paul Residents?

The estimated additional property tax for a St. Paul home valued at \$289,200 is approximately \$26 a month or \$309 per year. This levy will be in addition to the property taxes from the existing referendum.



The amounts shown above are the estimated monthly tax increase based on the estimated market value of residential homesteads, commercial and industrial properties, and apartments and residential non-homesteads. These estimates are based on school district taxes for the proposed operating levy only and do not include tax levies for other purposes.

SPPS School Taxes Compared to Other Districts



Source: Minnesota Department of Education

While SPPS is the second-largest school district in Minnesota, it has one of the lowest operating levies compared to neighboring school districts and is well below the average for the Twin Cities metro area.



Independent School District #625
360 Colborne Street
St. Paul, MN 55102-3299

Voting Information

Election Day: November 4, 2025

Early Voting In-Person or by Mail:

SEPTEMBER 19 - NOVEMBER 3

Register to Vote, Find Your Polling Place,
and Early Voting Information:

[MNVOTES.ORG](https://mnvotes.org)



- Use the QR code to review this information in Spanish, Hmong, Karen or Somali.
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