



**Class
Sizes**



**School
Safety**

Two important questions. One stronger future.

Like many school districts in Minnesota, Rockford is facing a fiscal crisis that threatens to raise class sizes next year and for the near future. The district receives significantly less local aid — more than \$1 million below average, or \$690 less per student.

As a result, Rockford Area Schools residents will be asked this fall to approve an operating levy and a capital projects levy.



What should voters know?

1

A successful operating levy will continue to **maintain current class sizes** for the next five years.

- In addition, the district can maintain current levels of funding to provide stability in activity fees, middle school co-curricular programming and staffing levels for school support staff and central office staff.



| Class sizes | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | 2027-28 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Elementary school | 23.5 | 30-34 | 32-36 |
| Secondary schools | 27 | 35-40 | 37-42 |

2

An unsuccessful operating levy will prompt an **increase in class sizes.**

- If voters reject the operating levy request, the district will lose more than \$2 million – approximately the cost of 20-25 teachers, in the next two years alone.
- In addition to teacher reductions, the district will have to raise activity fees, cut middle school co-curricular programs and eliminate several school support staff and central office positions.
- At the high school, the district will no longer be able to fund **Career and Technical Education pathway certifications**, IB testing and College in the Schools course offerings.

This has provided nearly \$2 million in tuition savings for families over the last five years, with classes taken at Rockford High School.



| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | 2027-28 |
|-----------------|--|--|---|
| Revenue | \$22,688,518 | \$23,056,536 | \$23,349,880 |
| Expenses | \$23,094,264 | \$23,858,271 | \$24,660,576 |
| = | | | |
| | \$405,746 Deficit | \$801,735 Deficit | \$1,319,697 Deficit |
| | | | |
| | <i>Addressed by tapping the fund balance, which will fall below the Board-approved policy if not addressed in 2026-27.</i> | <i>That's the equivalent of 10 teachers or 8.2% of our current teaching faculty.</i> | <i>That's the equivalent of 16.5 teachers or 13% of our current teaching faculty.</i> |

Rockford Area Schools is among the very few districts without a funding source dedicated to safety and security infrastructure.



3

A successful capital projects levy will **improve school security.**

- Technology security improvements will include expanded security camera coverage, updated visitor management systems, an enhanced 911 system and continued cybersecurity programs to protect student data.

4

An unsuccessful capital projects levy will **slow school security efforts.** The expansion of door security systems and cameras would be significantly reduced or halted.

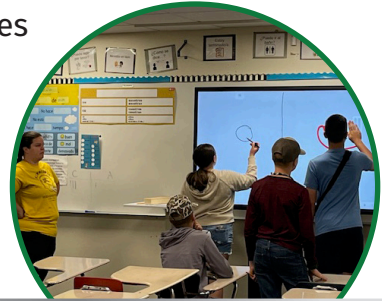
- The limited 911 emergency phone service would not be upgraded.
- Only basic cybersecurity efforts would be employed.

5

Despite inconsistent funding, Rockford has delivered **consistent results for students and value for residents.** This is no longer sustainable.

- With limited resources, Rockford invests 75 cents of every dollar in student instruction and support.
- 97% of residents say our community receives a good or an excellent value from its investment in our schools.
- Rockford has a 100% graduation rate.

Only 4 cents goes to district or school administration.



Ballot Question 1

If successful, the operating levy request would provide an additional \$1 million annually for 10 years, and would represent a monthly tax increase of about \$17 for owners of a median-valued home in our district.

Source: Ehlers Public Finance Advisors



Ballot Question 2

If successful, the capital projects levy request would provide an additional \$250,000 annually for 10 years, and would represent a monthly tax increase of about \$4 for owners of a median-valued home in our district.

Source: Ehlers Public Finance Advisors



This ballot question can only be approved if the first ballot question is approved.

Residents can calculate their specific tax impact using a tax calculator at rockford833.org/vote2025.



Rockford Area Schools
6051 Ash Street
Rockford MN 55373

Vote by absentee ballot before November 4.

- Applications available at mnvotes.sos.mn.gov/abrequest/index

Vote on Election Day, November 4.

- For polling hours and locations visit pollfinder.sos.mn.gov

Make your vote an informed vote.

- Learn more and get answers to frequently asked questions at rockford883.org/vote2025



Prepared and paid for by Rockford Area Public Schools (Independent School District 883), 6051 Ash Street, Rockford, MN, 55373. This publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot question.