



PRESS RELEASE

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Owatonna Public Schools Operating Levy Not Approved by Voters

Owatonna, MN — In the November 4, 2025 special election, voters in the Owatonna Public Schools district did not approve the operating levy increase of \$700 per student (approximately \$3.7 million annually).

“While we are disappointed that the measure was not approved, we remain committed to providing a high-quality education for the students of Owatonna,” said Superintendent Tammy Champa. “Now we must engage in difficult decisions as we determine the path forward.”

Without the additional levy revenue, OPS will face a projected budget shortfall beginning in the 2026-27 school year. To address this, the district will:

- Conduct a thorough review of all programs, staffing, services and operations.
- Present options to the School Board for how to balance the budget, which may include increased class sizes, reduced program offerings, or staff/service reductions.
- Explore cost savings and alternative revenue sources

The district will continue to support student achievement, minimize disruption, and find responsible ways to preserve the most critical programs. Updates will be provided on the district website and through in-person opportunities.

“Despite the lack of support for the increased operating levy, we will continue to do our best to maintain the strong foundation we have in Owatonna,” said School Board Chair Mark Sebring. “The School Board will work with district leadership and continue to keep the community informed of the changes that will be implemented.”

The district had previously approved budget cuts of \$1.8 million in 2025-2026 to balance its budget. Without the levy increase, the district will now need to identify over \$3 million in budget cuts for 2026-2027.

For more information, please visit isd761.org/levy.

Note that the election results are unofficial until certified by the School Board on Monday, November 10, 2025.

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