



Property Tax Levy Taxes Payable 2026

*School Board Meeting, December 16,
2025*



Property Tax Levies and Schools

Property tax levies are one important source of funding for schools.

- **The State of Minnesota** is highly regulated and has the responsibility to set formulas determining the maximum level of funding school districts can levy. School districts are allowed to levy *less* than the maximum which often results in a corresponding loss of state aid.
- **The Counties** also play a part in how school district levies are spread by determining the value of each land parcel in the district.

Truth in Taxation Law

The state's **Truth in Taxation Law** requires school districts to present the following information and allow for public comment:

- 1. Current year budget**
- 2. Proposed property tax levy, including:**
 - Percentage increase or decrease over the prior year
 - Specific purposes and reasons for which taxes have significantly changed

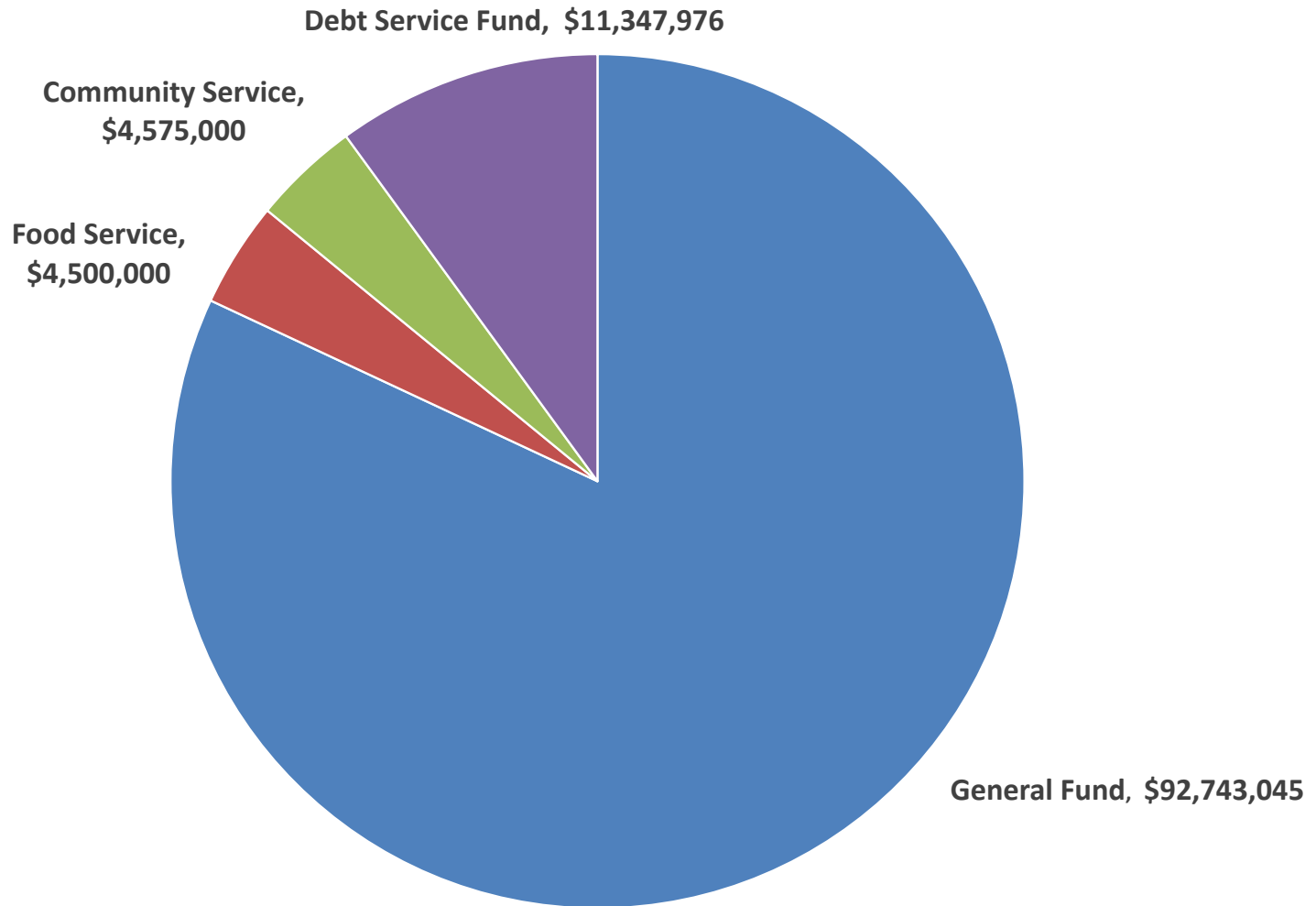
2025-2026 Budget

2025-2026 Budget

	Revenue Budget 2025-26	Expenditure Budget 2025-26
General Fund		
General Operations	\$ 87,983,407	87,489,565
Capital Account	2,206,309	2,252,675
Long Term Facilities Maintenance	2,553,329	2,990,283
General Fund	\$ 92,743,045	\$ 92,732,523
 Food Service Fund	 4,500,000	 4,825,000
Community Service Fund	4,575,000	4,575,000
Debt Service Fund	11,347,976	10,965,800
 Total All Funds	 \$ 113,166,021	 \$ 113,098,323

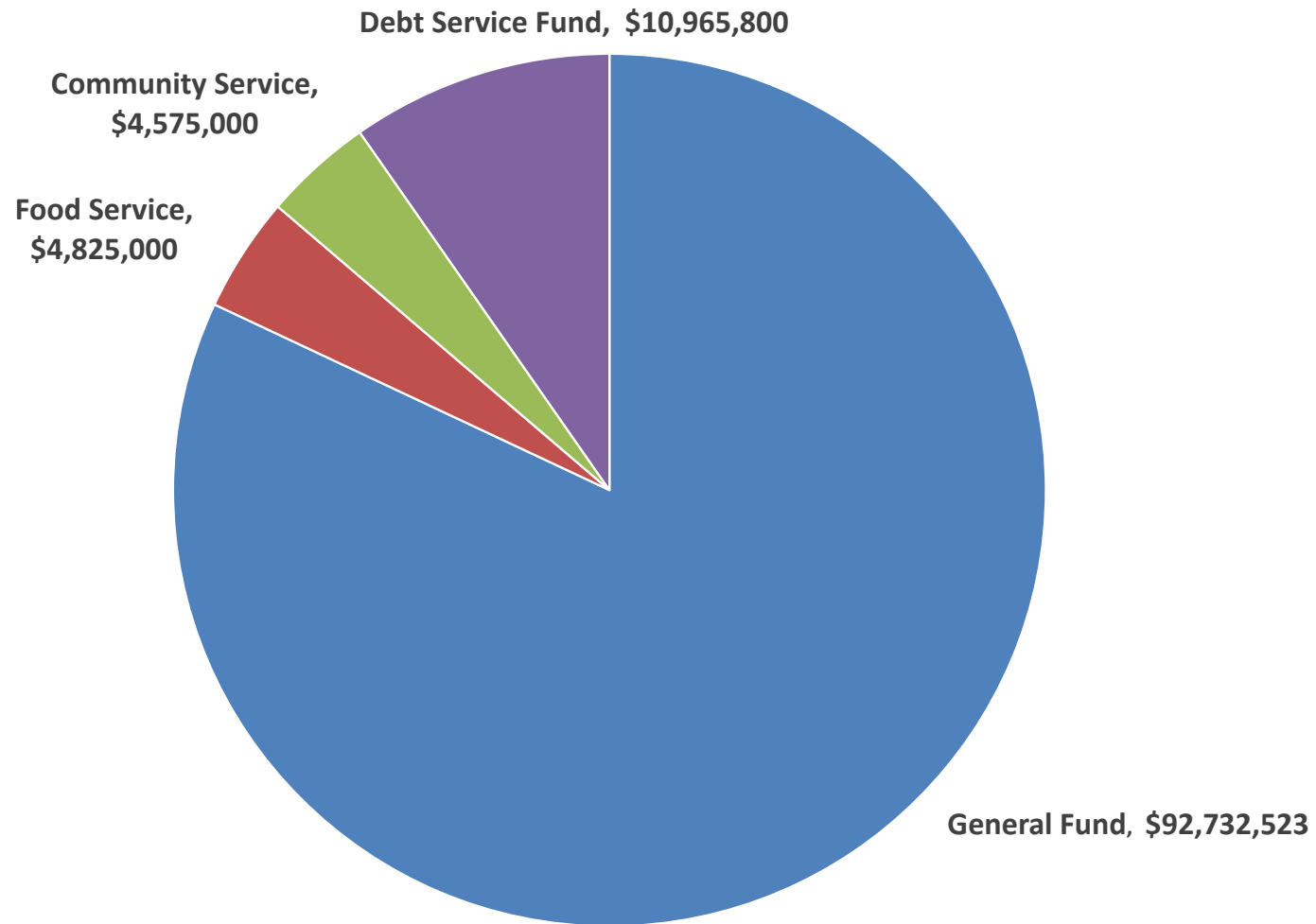
2025-2026 Budget - Revenues

All Funds



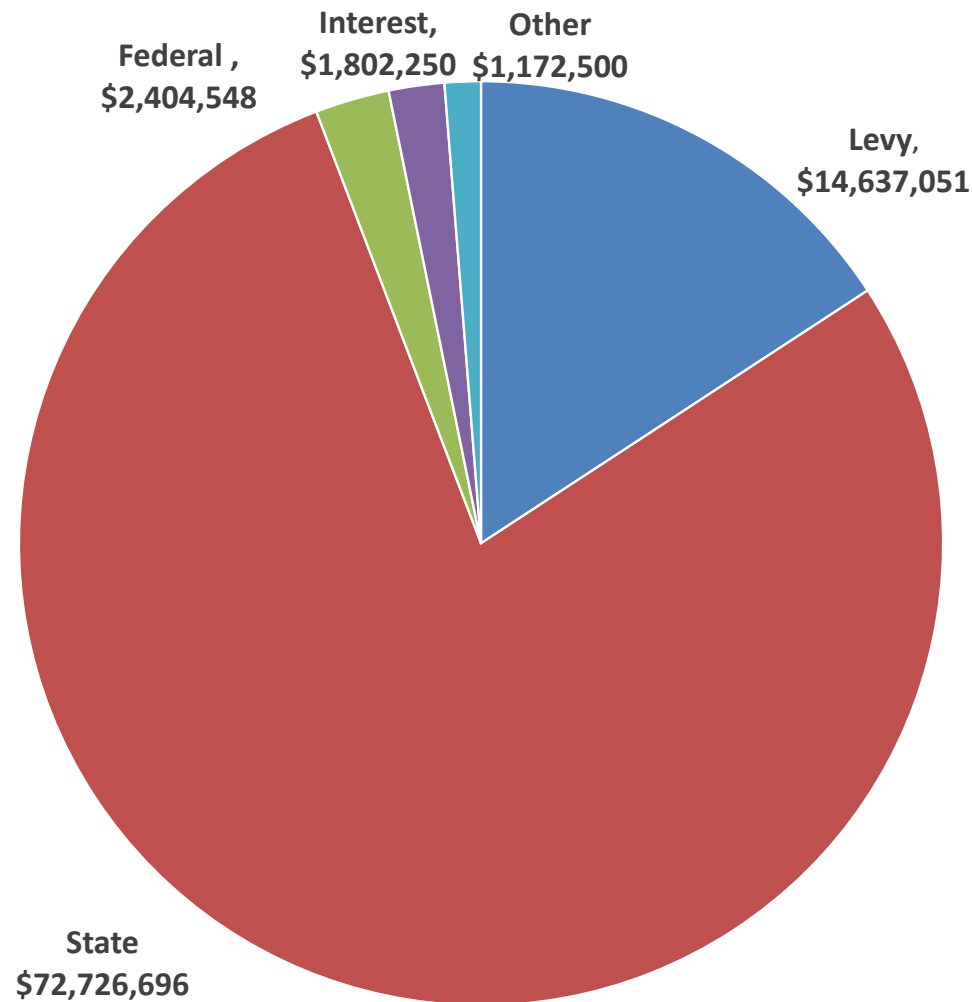
2025-2026 Budget - Expenditures

All Funds



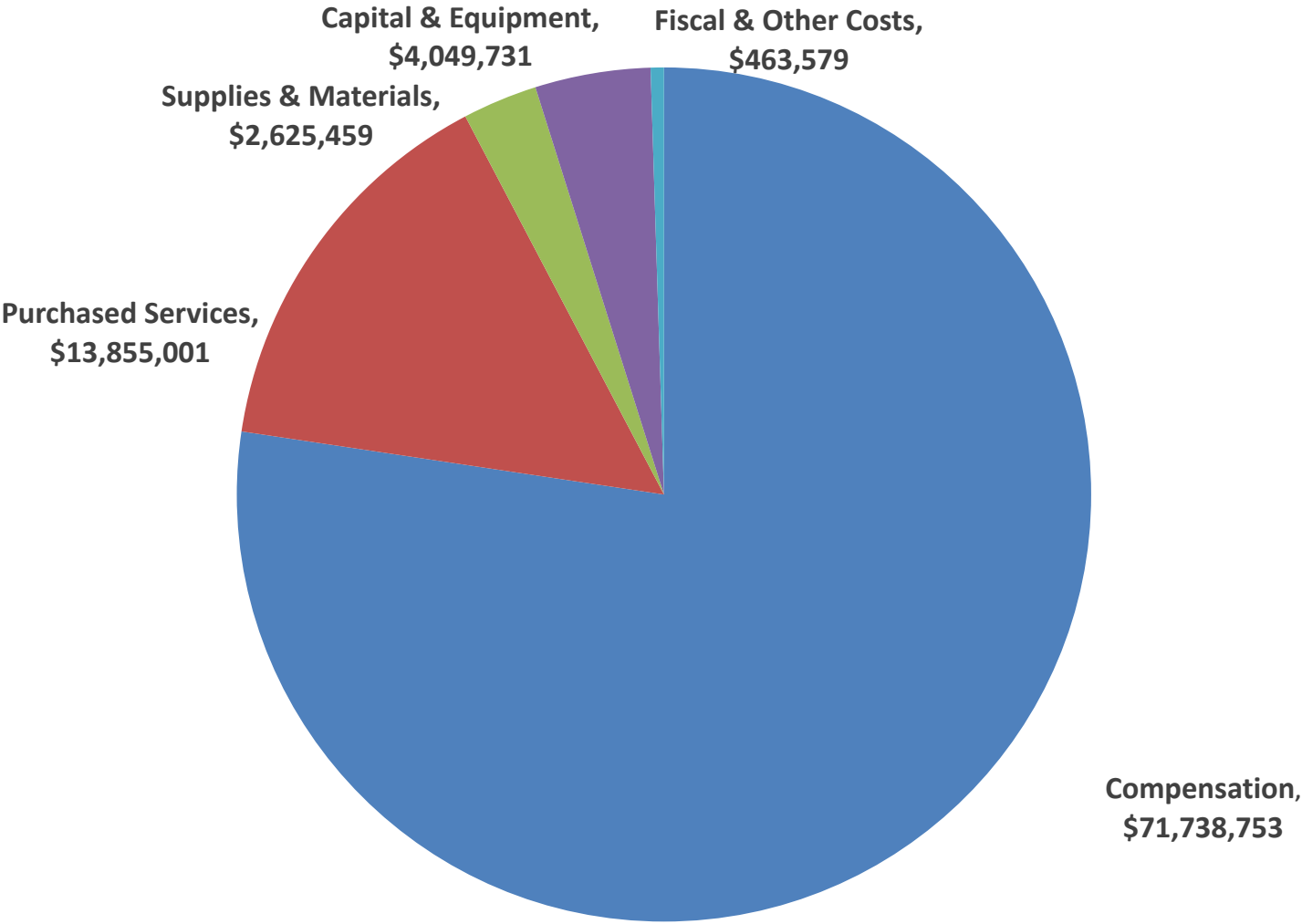
2025-2026 Budget – General Fund

Revenues



2025-2026 Budget – General Fund

Expenditures



2025-2026 Budget Review Process

- The Spring Lake Park Schools' budget is reviewed internally several times during the school year.
- Informal updates are given to the school board throughout the year.
- Revisions for the 2025-2026 budget, if necessary, will be brought to the school board for approval prior to June 2026.

Property Taxes Payable 2026

Levy Calendar

Key milestones:

- **Summer 2025:** Data submissions to MN Department of Education
- **September 2025:** Preliminary levy approval by school board
- **November 2025:** Preliminary tax statements mailed by county
- **December 2025:** Final levy approval by school board

Taxes related to this levy are collected during the 2026 calendar year, generating revenue for the 2026-2027 school year.

How Components Are Calculated

- Levy formulas are set by the legislature and determine the maximum amount of funding the school district can levy.
- Each component has its own formula calculated on one, or a combination of student enrollment, actual expenditures, property values.
- Levy amounts can fluctuate year-to-year based on property values in the school district and/or the amounts of revenue the school district generates compared to other metro school districts.
- Formulas determine if the state will subsidize a portion of the tax levy, replacing that portion of property taxes with state aid (referred to as equalization). Equalization reduces taxes for taxpayers while keeping school district funding the same.

Total Levy by Fund

Fund	Proposed 2026 Levy	Final 2025 Levy	Change	Percent Change
General	\$ 17,809,898	\$ 14,076,268	\$ 3,733,630	26.52 %
Community Service	\$ 558,726	\$ 551,128	\$ 7,598	1.38 %
Debt Service	\$ 11,086,096	\$ 11,097,976	\$ (11,880)	(0.11) %
	\$ 29,454,720	\$ 25,725,372	\$ 3,729,348	14.50 %

Levy Components

General Fund

	Proposed 2026 Levy	Final 2025 Levy	Change	Percent Change
Referendum Authority	\$ 4,781,857	\$ 1,262,670	\$ 3,519,187	278.71 %
Local Option *	4,651,709	4,710,033	(58,324)	(1.24) %
Transition	305,751	309,646	(3,895)	(1.26) %
Equity	864,325	1,024,723	(160,398)	(15.65) %
Capital Projects Referendum	2,065,166	2,038,720	26,446	1.30 %
Operating Capital *	739,970	742,471	(2,501)	(0.34) %
Alternative Teacher Comp	559,609	558,348	1,261	0.23 %
Safe Schools/Crime	327,797	331,973	(4,176)	(1.26) %
Achievement & Integration	388,571	381,079	7,492	1.97 %
Lease	813,361	756,233	57,128	7.55 %
Career Technical	223,200	227,338	(4,138)	(1.82) %
LT Facilities Maintenance *	1,667,635	1,736,404	(68,769)	(3.96) %
Unemployment	100,000	20,000	80,000	400.00 %
Adjustments	(46,733)	(221,016)	174,283	(78.86) %
Abatements	367,680	197,646	170,034	86.03 %
	<u>\$ 17,809,898</u>	<u>\$ 14,076,268</u>	<u>\$ 3,733,630</u>	<u>26.52 %</u>

* Equalized levies where aid is received

Changes to General Fund Levy

Significant changes include:

- Increase to Referendum Authority is a result of the successful operating referendum held in November 2025.
- This authority increased per pupil funding by \$550 for taxes payable in 2026 at a cost of \$18/month for an average home value. This funding will be realized as revenue beginning in the 2026-27 school year.
- Taxes payable in 2029 will have an approved increase of \$330 and will have no tax impact due to debt payments that will no longer be levied in that year. The district will realize this increase in revenue beginning in the 2029-30 school year.

Levy Adjustments & Abatements

The Adjustments and Abatements components to the levy reflect a “clean up” to previous levies.

- **Adjustments:** Levies are set seven months prior to the start of the school year for which the funds are levied. Once a year is complete and the actual data for that school year is available, adjustments for final student counts and expenditures are compared to the initial levy and adjustments are made accordingly.
- **Abatements:** Reflect changes to property values by the county. If a parcel has its value decreased on appeal, the taxes collected are reduced. The reduction is then added to future levies and re-spread to all taxpayers.

Levy Components

Community Service Fund

	Proposed 2026 Levy	Final 2025 Levy	Change	Percent Change
Basic Levy	\$ 235,283	\$ 249,517	\$ (14,234)	(5.70) %
Early Childhood	\$ 133,210	\$ 151,244	\$ (18,034)	(11.92) %
Home Visitation	\$ 3,077	\$ 2,923	\$ 154	5.27 %
Adults with Disabilities	\$ 3,761	\$ 4,010	\$ (249)	na %
School Age Care	\$ 135,000	\$ 135,000	\$ -	- %
Adjustments	\$ 35,099	\$ 2,372	\$ 32,727	1,379.72 %
Abatements	\$ 13,296	\$ 6,062	\$ 7,234	119.33 %
	\$ 558,726	\$ 551,128	\$ 7,598	1.38 %

For an explanation on Adjustments and Abatements, see previous slide

Levy Components

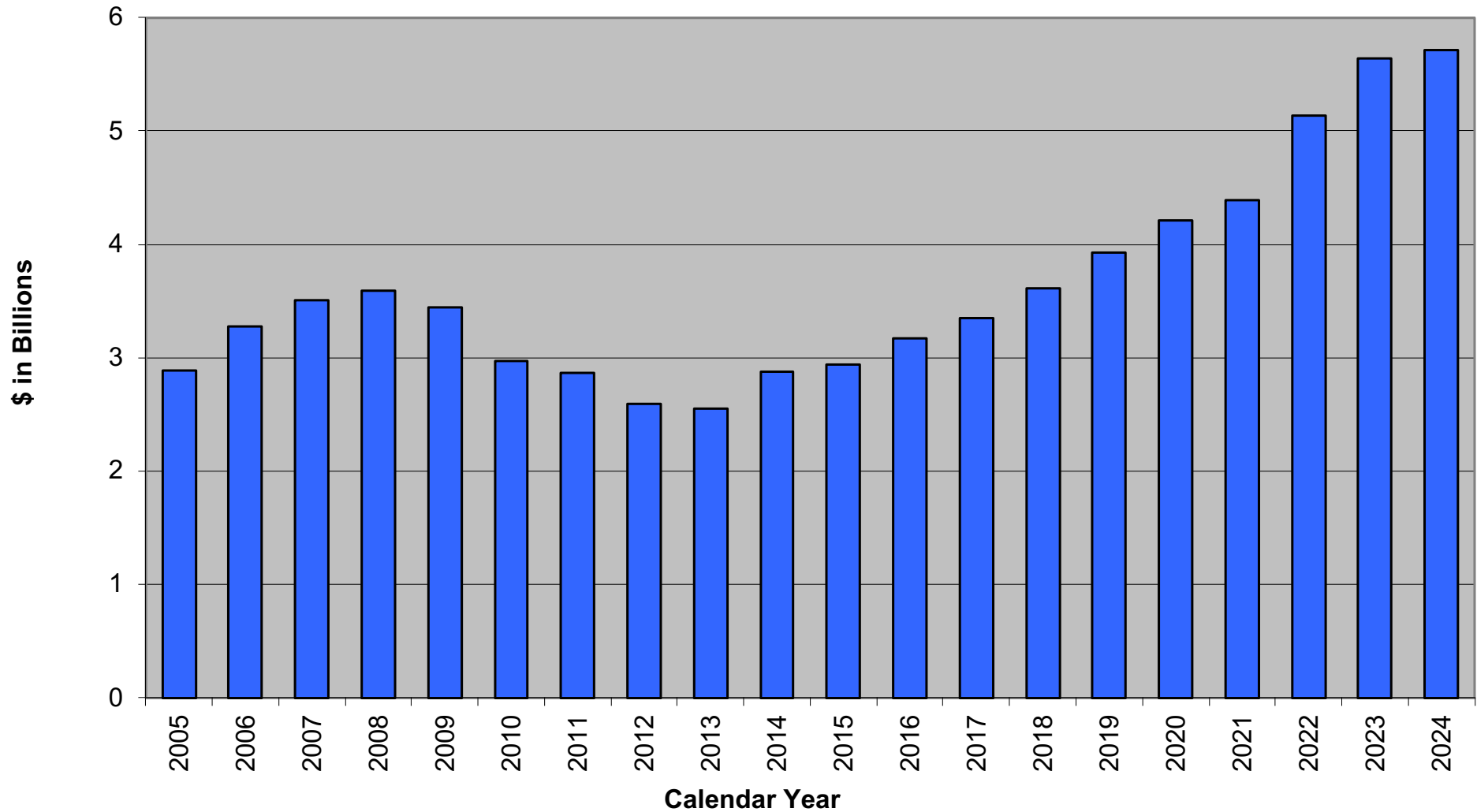
Debt Service Fund

	Proposed 2026 Levy	Final 2025 Levy	Change	Percent Change
Required Levy of 105% of Scheduled Principal & Interest Payments	\$ 11,508,946	\$ 11,510,942	\$ (1,996)	(0.02) %
Adjustments	\$ (753,294)	\$ (579,798)	\$ (173,496)	29.92 %
Abatements	\$ 330,444	\$ 166,832	\$ 163,612	98.07 %
	\$ 11,086,096	\$ 11,097,976	\$ (11,880)	(0.11) %

Bond principal and interest payments increased per bond amortization schedule.

For an explanation on Adjustments and Abatements, see previous slide.

Market Value Changes Over Time



Applying for Tax Relief

Minnesota has three property tax programs to assist residents with their property tax liability:

- Property Tax “Circuit Breaker” Refund
- Special Property Tax Refund
- Senior Citizen Property Tax Deferral

Please contact your tax professional or visit the Department of Revenue website at www.taxes.state.mn.us for additional information or to learn if you qualify for a refund.

Responsibly Managing Resources

What Spring Lake Park Schools does to keep property taxes down

- **Bond refunding** – refinancing existing debt at lower interest rates – has reduced future tax levies by a total of \$14,986,998. All savings from each bond refunding is passed directly to taxpayers, by lowering the amount levied to make principal and interest payments.
 - 2010 resulted in savings of \$475,734
 - 2014 resulted in savings of \$6,131,671
 - 2015 resulted in savings of \$4,353,421
 - 2017 resulted in savings of \$1,994,880
 - 2018 resulted in savings of \$132,149
 - 2024 resulted in savings of \$374,054
 - 2025 resulted in savings of \$1,525,089
 - Refunding opportunities are reviewed every six months, or sooner if markets are highly favorable



Public Comment Period

