

Prior Lake–Savage Area Schools

2026 Community Priority Survey

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April 27, 2026



Survey Purpose

Decision Support & Resource Prioritization

Gather feedback to help guide important decisions ahead, including whether to pursue an operating levy and how to prioritize resources to support students and sustain the quality of our schools.

Ballot Formulation

Inform ballot question(s) and amounts for Fall 2026



Timeline and Communications strategies

Survey Duration: April 14 (Early Morning) – April 21 (11:59 PM)

Digital & Web

- Website redirect: plsas.org/survey
- Website page pop-ups & news items
- Social media posts & stories with links

Direct Outreach

- 4 District-wide email reminders
- Stand-alone school emails
- School newsletters
- Prior Lake News Compass

Local Visibility

- City digital sign boards (Lakefront Park & Duluth/Eagle Creek)
- Twin Oaks Middle School sign board
- Flyers in schools, libraries, & local businesses

Survey Items: Demographic Questions

Standard Contact Information

The survey collects basic demographic data to ensure representative results, including:
First & Last Name, Street Address, City, and Zip Code.

Are you a resident of the Prior Lake-Savage Area School District? **[Yes; No]**

Do you have school-aged children attending PLSAS or expect to in the future?
[Yes, currently attending; Yes in the future; No]



Survey Items: Priorities and Funding Questions

Would you support an operating levy to maintain and improve programming in Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools?

[Definitely support; Unsure/need more information; Definitely do not support]

What factors most influence your decision regarding a potential levy?

[open-ended]

What are your top priorities for our schools? (Select up to three)

- Reducing class sizes
- Increasing academic supports for students
- Increasing behavioral and mental health supports for students
- Maintaining current programs and course offerings
- Expanding advanced, accelerated, and career pathway opportunities
- Other **[fill in]**

Thinking about the priorities listed above, **how much would you be willing to invest each month**, in addition to your current operating levy investment? All options still require some budget cuts due to rising costs and fewer students. Higher monthly amounts help reduce cuts, keep programs and supports in place longer, and maintain the district's required savings while working toward community priorities. The estimates below are based on an average \$525,000 home with annual inflation built in (additional tax impact information for other home values is available on the [district website](#))

\$0/month (renew the current levy investment only) – No new investments. Keeps current funding and requires \$6.5M in additional cuts; district savings (fund balance) lasts less than a year. This current levy generates approximately \$5.7M

\$15/month - No new investments. Requires \$3M in cuts to maintain district savings (fund balance) of 8% for approximately 1-2 years. This would generate approximately an additional \$3.3M each year totaling \$9M.

\$32/month – No new investments. Requires \$3M in cuts to maintain district savings (fund balance) of 8% for approximately 3-4 years. This would generate approximately an additional \$7M each year totaling \$12.7M.

\$46/month – Supports targeted investments like smaller class sizes in some grades or added student supports. Requires \$3M in cuts to maintain district savings (fund balance) of 8% for approximately 4 years. This would generate approximately an additional \$10M each year totaling \$15.7M.

\$67/month – Supports smaller class sizes (especially in early grades) and expanded programming. Requires \$3M in cuts to maintain district savings (fund balance) of 8% for approximately 6 years. This would generate approximately an additional \$15M each year totaling \$20.7M.

Potential Monthly Investment Options

Thinking about the priorities listed above, **how much would you be willing to invest each month**, in addition to your current operating levy investment?

\$0

/month

\$15

/month

\$32

/month

\$46

/month

\$67

/month

Note: All options still require some budget cuts. Estimates based on an average \$525,000 home value.

Quantitative Results





Sample Methodology & Population

"Voters"

People who live in PLSAS but do not have children in the district

N=381

+

"Resident Families"

People who live in PLSAS and do have children in the district

N=1,846

"Voting Total"

Anyone who has a vote in PLSAS in November

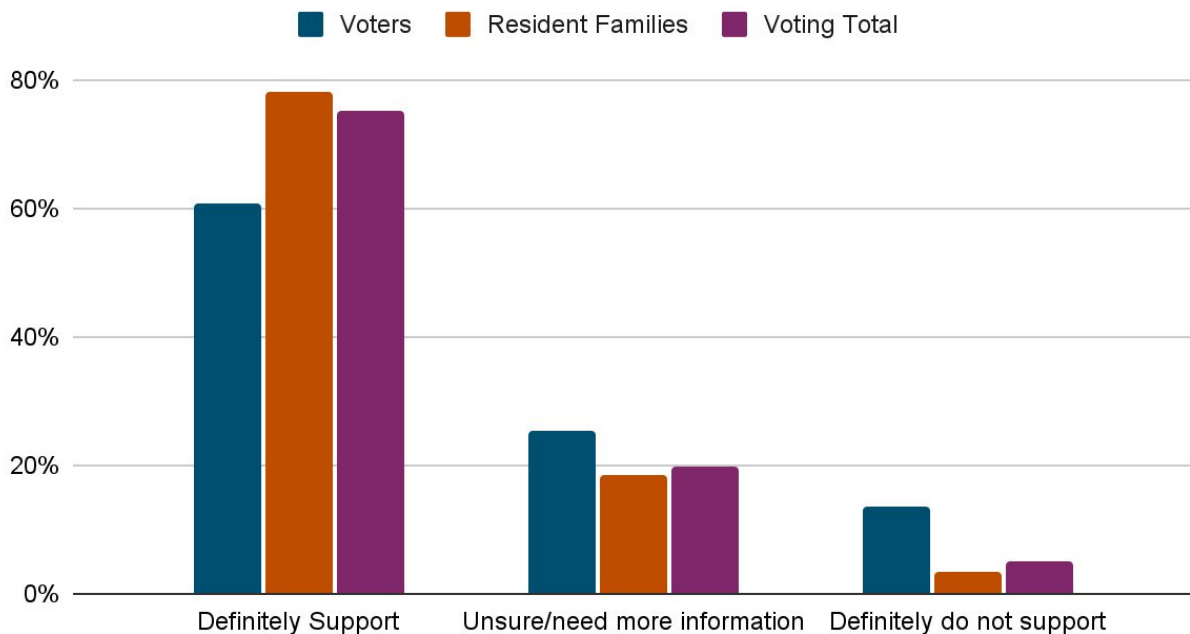
N=2,227

Data Cleaning & Exclusions: Duplicates removed • Out of District: N=278 • Excluded: N=39

Would you support a levy?



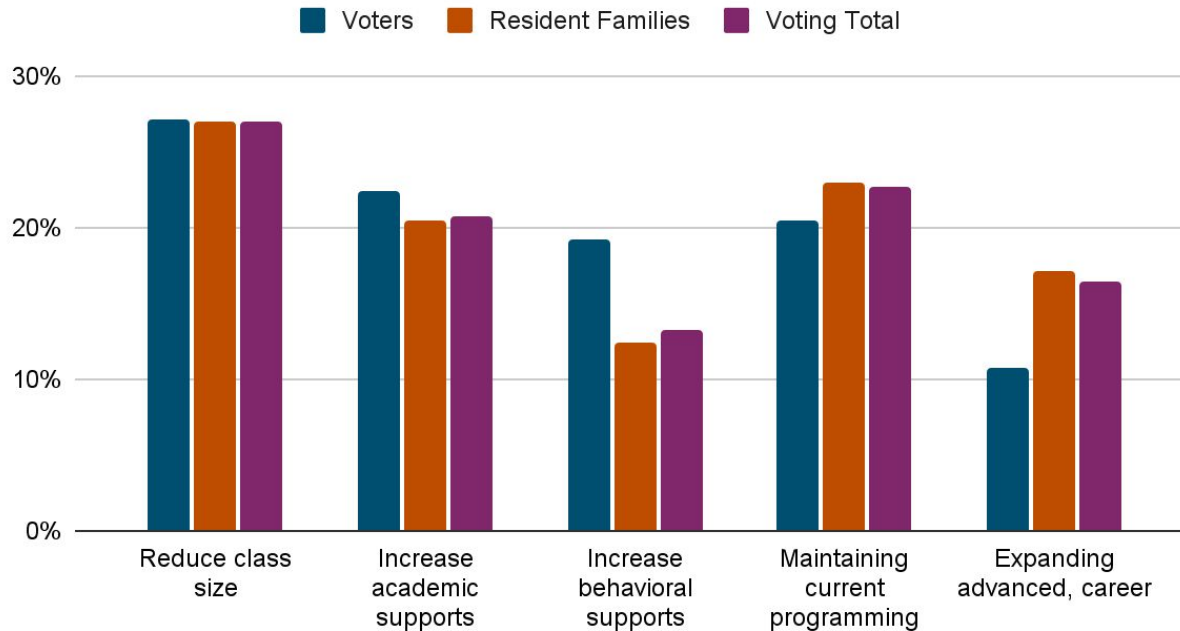
Would you support a levy, by subgroup



Top 3 Priorities

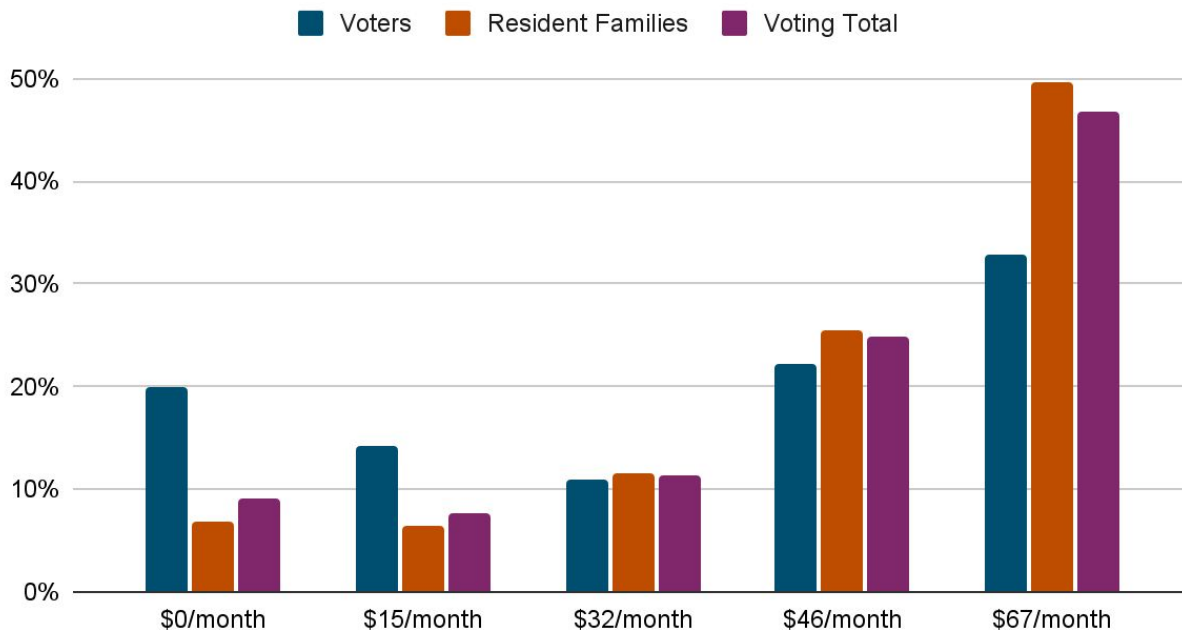


Top 3 priorities, by subgroup



How much would you invest?

How much would you invest, by subgroup



Qualitative Responses



Top Qualitative themes in priorities: 'other'

Specific program preservation/expansion	Teacher and staff support	Academic quality and instructional effectiveness
N=45. Examples: MNCAPS, immersion, SAGE	N=40. Examples: retention, staffing levels, compensation	N=30. Examples: Tier 1 instruction, standards aligned, rigor, improve proficiency rates
Arts, electives, and enrichment programs	No more cuts	Special education
N=28. Examples: music, band, choir, media, electives, field trips	N=20. stabilize funding, stop cutting, reduce spending	N=18. Examples: IEP support, lifeskills, more support generally

Top Factors that Influence Levy Vote, Voters

Transparency and specific use of funds

N=95

Cost, tax impact, and affordability

N=80

Distrust in spending

N=70

General support for education

N=60

Program preservation and avoiding cuts

N=50

Full List of Factors that Influence Levy Vote, Voters

Transparency & Funding

Transparency and specific use of funds

Financial Impact

Cost, tax impact, and affordability

Institutional Trust

Distrust in spending; Board trust issues

Educational Support

General support; Academic quality and outcomes

Staffing & Class Size

Teacher support and staffing; Direct student impact

Budget Realities

Program preservation; Funding needed/underfunding

Environment & Values

Discipline, safety, culture; Property values

Ideology & Opposition

Political concerns; General opposition to funding

Awareness

Need for more information

Top Factors, Resident Families

Loss of opportunities, stop the cuts

N=120

Class sizes, teacher strain, student experience

N=105

General support for education and kids

N=95

General underfunding and need for revenue

N=90

Transparency/specific use of funds

N=85

Full List of Factors that Influence Levy Vote, Resident Families

Student Impact

Loss of opportunities, stop the cuts;
Class sizes, teacher strain, student
experience

Educational Value

General support for education and kids;
Academic quality/outcomes

Financial & Funding

General underfunding and need for
revenue; Transparency/specific use of
funds

Economic Impact

Cost/tax impact; Community
impact/property values

Trust & Governance

Fiscal responsibility; Governance/school
board trust; Too much administration

Safety & Advocacy

Discipline, behavior, safety;
Program-specific advocacy

Teacher Focus

Teacher support/retention

Political Landscape

Political, ideological concerns; Anti-tax
positions

Key Takeaways

Conditional Support

The community is broadly supportive of strong schools and willing to invest, but that support depends on trust and transparency.

Voter Concerns

Families react to visible impacts like class sizes and teacher strain, while the broader base focuses on cost and fund usage.

Alignment on Priorities

There is strong alignment on maintaining programs, supporting teachers, and keeping class sizes manageable.

The Core Challenge

Building confidence that additional investment will lead to meaningful, student-centered impact is the key hurdle.

Data Appendix



Would you support a levy?	Voters	Resident Families	Voting Total
Definitely Support	232	1443	1675
Unsure/need more information	97	341	438
Definitely do not support	52	62	114
TOTAL	381	1846	2227
Top 3 priorities	Voters	Resident Families	Voting Total
Reduce class size	93	670	763
Increase academic supports	77	510	587
Increase behavioral supports	66	309	375
Maintaining current programming	70	570	640
Expanding advanced, career	37	427	464
TOTAL	343	2486	2829
How much would you invest	Voters	Resident Families	Voting Total
\$0/month	75	124	199
\$15/month	53	117	170
\$32/month	41	210	251
\$46/month	83	463	546
\$67/month	123	902	1025
TOTAL	375	1816	2191