



VOTE NOVEMBER 3

GLENCOE-SILVER LAKE

SCHOOL DISTRICT #2859



ISD #2859 • SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF
BISCAY, BROWNTON, GLENCOE, NEW AUBURN, PLATO, AND SILVER LAKE



On November 3, 2026, ISD #2859 School District residents will be asked to **approve a Special Election Ballot Question**, asking for the approval to **Revoke Existing Referendum Revenue Authorization; Approving New Authorization.**



WHAT IS AN OPERATING LEVY REFERENDUM?

Operating levy: Voters decide whether to authorize additional funding for the district for a set number of years.

Used for: Salaries, utilities, supplies, textbooks, transportation, and other day-to-day operating costs.

Bond referendum: Funds construction, renovations, and major building improvements, not daily school operations.

**A LEVY IS FOR LEARNING.
BONDS ARE FOR BUILDINGS.**



WHAT IS THE AMOUNT OF THE CURRENT OPERATING LEVY AND WHEN DOES IT EXPIRES?

The current levy for the 2026–27 school year is **\$601.98** per resident pupil unit.

The current levy expires **June 30, 2029.**

When it expires, the district will lose this levy authority and the additional revenue it provides to support school operations.



WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY VOTER APPROVED TAXES?

Taxes will be based on your property values. (See chart below for different estimated market values and the net change in taxes.)

Agricultural farmland has been exempted from being taxed as part of the operating levy. Agricultural homestead taxes are based on the house, garage and one acre of land.

Year Taxes are Payable		2026	2027	
		Revoke Authority	Proposed Authority	Net Change
Est. Adjusted Pupil Units (APU)		1428	1428	
Additional Revenue/Pupil Unit		-\$601.98	\$1,445.00	\$843.02
Est. Change in Revenue		-\$859,387	\$2,062,882	\$1,203,495
Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	Estimated Taxes for Referendum Levy Only*		
Residential Homesteads, Apartments, and Commercial-Industrial Property	\$100,000	-\$55	133	78
	\$125,000	-\$69	166	97
	\$150,000	-\$83	199	116
	\$175,000	-\$97	233	136
	\$200,000	-\$111	266	155
	\$225,000	-\$125	299	174
	\$250,000	-\$139	332	193
	\$275,000	-\$152	366	214
	\$300,000	-\$166	399	233
	\$350,000	-\$194	465	271
	\$400,000	-\$222	532	310
	\$500,000	-\$277	665	388
	\$600,000	-\$332	798	466
	\$700,000	-\$388	931	543
	\$800,000	-\$443	1064	621
	\$900,000	-\$499	1197	698
	\$1,000,000	-\$554	1330	776

For a homestead with a market value of \$300,000, the additional cost would be approximately \$19.42 per month, or just \$0.64 per day.



WHY THE INCREASE?

- ✓ **Fund balance:** The district has maintained a fund balance above its 20% board policy, allowing us to preserve important programs and services.
- ✓ **Current challenge:** The fund balance is now projected to fall below the policy level, requiring reductions in programs, staffing, and class sizes. State Funding also has not kept pace with the rising costs of providing educational programs and services.
- ✓ **Levy impact:** If approved, the levy could provide approximately **\$1,203,495** in additional annual revenue, based on current pupil units.
- ✓ **Goal:** The additional revenue would help preserve programs and services while maintaining a responsible fund balance and supporting the District's long-term financial stability.



The District will also continue to carefully monitor expenses and identify opportunities for greater efficiency to help maintain financial stability.



WHAT HAPPENS IF THE OPERATING LEVY DOESN'T PASS?

Without additional revenue, the District would need to reduce electives, activities, services, and staffing to maintain a balanced budget.

Class sizes could increase from an average of 21 students to as many as 28 students. These reductions could limit educational opportunities and affect the quality of learning experiences for our students.



YOUR VOTE
INVESTS IN
OUR STUDENTS.

Our Schools.
Our Community. Our Future.



SCAN FOR MORE
INFORMATION
ABOUT THE
REFERENDUM.

STRONG SCHOOLS. STRONG COMMUNITY.

YOUR SCHOOLS. OUR FUTURE.



WHAT'S IN THE LEVY REFERENDUM FOR ME?



If you're a student – The levy would help the district continue offering quality academic programs, elective classes, extracurricular activities, and other opportunities that enrich the student experience.



If you're a parent – The levy would help maintain the programs and services your child depends on, including elective choices, extracurricular activities, counseling, nursing, and other student support services.



If you're a district resident – Strong schools benefit the entire community, whether or not you have children attending school. Quality schools can help attract families and businesses, support property values, and prepare students to become productive members of the community.



For the district as a whole – A ten-year levy provides greater financial stability and predictability. It allows the district to plan for future expenses, maintain an appropriate fund balance for unexpected costs and cash-flow needs, and respond to changes in state funding.



The additional revenue would help the School Board preserve important programs and services while continuing to look for responsible ways to improve district operations and use taxpayer dollars effectively.



HOW LONG IS THE REFERENDUM FOR?

Ten years. Referendums can range from one to ten years. A full ten-year levy provides financial stability, supports long-term planning, and avoids the cost of holding another election in the near future.



WHERE DO I VOTE?

You must be registered to vote.

- ✓ Register at your polling place on Election Day if needed.
- ✓ Vote at your regular General Election polling place.
- ✓ Check your voter registration if unsure where to vote.



WHAT WILL BE ON THE BALLOT?

SAMPLE BALLOT

SPECIAL ELECTION BALLOT
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2859
(GLENCOE-SILVER LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS)
NOVEMBER 3, 2026

Instructions to Voters:

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: 

To vote for a question, fill in the oval next to the word "Yes" on that question.

To vote against a question, fill in the oval next to the word "No" on that question.

School District Question 1

Revoking Existing Referendum Revenue Authorization; Approving New Authorization

The school board of Independent School District No. 2859 (Glencoe-Silver Lake Public Schools) has proposed to revoke the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization of \$601.98 per pupil and to replace that authorization with a new authorization of \$1,445 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten years commencing with taxes payable in 2027 and increase each year by the rate of inflation beginning with taxes payable in 2028, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Shall the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization be revoked, and the increase in the revenue proposed by the school board of Independent School District No. 2859 be approved?

**BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION,
YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX
INCREASE.**



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Chris Sonju

Superintendent of Schools



320-864-2498



CSonju@gsLk12.mn.us

Trisha Zajicek

Director of Finance



320-864-2494



TZajicek@gsLk12.mn.us

TO CONNECT.



TO LEAD.



TO INSPIRE.