

SCHOOL DISTRICT 197 CAPITAL PROJECT LEVY

Strong Schools. Strong Communities.



This fall, voters will decide whether to approve a School District 197 levy to help maintain the schools and programs our community relies on.

Over the past two years, the district has already **reduced spending by more than \$3.2 million** while working hard to protect classrooms.

We've reached the point where **the next round of cuts will be felt in the classrooms.**

Levy Overview

Election Day

November 3, 2026*

*Early voting begins Sept 18

Tax Impact

\$14/month for a
\$400,000 home

Levy Amount

\$4.6 million to our
schools each year

Why it Matters

Helps reduce future
budget cuts

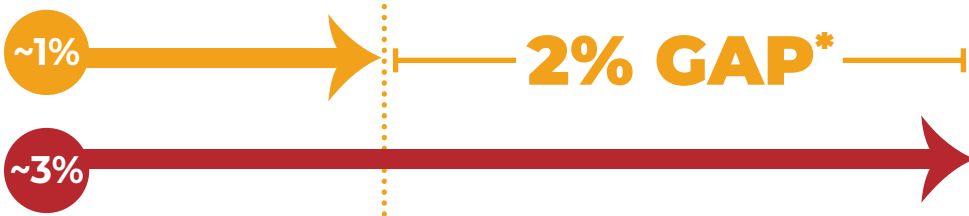
Why a Levy is Needed

Every year, the cost to run our schools grows about \$2 million faster than funding we receive. Like most Minnesota school districts, rising costs for transportation, utilities, employee salaries and health insurance, and special education continue to outpace funding from the state.

REVENUE GROWTH
(Revenue Available)

vs.

EXPENDITURE GROWTH
(Cost of Operating)



**The gap between these two rates compounds over time. In our budget, a 2% gap equals about \$2 million—roughly \$2 million more in costs than revenue each year.*

What a “Capital Project” Levy Is

Our capital project levy will pay for **existing costs** like textbooks, utilities and school safety. It does **not** fund new schools or construction.

If the Levy Is Not Approved

The district will cut another \$2-\$4 million from its budget, resulting in staff reductions, larger class sizes, and reduced student programs.

Property Tax Impact

If the levy were approved:

\$4.6 million
annually to support
our schools

About **\$14/month (\$168/year)**
for the owner of
a \$400,000 home



Scan the QR code
to estimate the tax
impact for your home.

See the back to compare School District 197's
property taxes with neighboring districts.



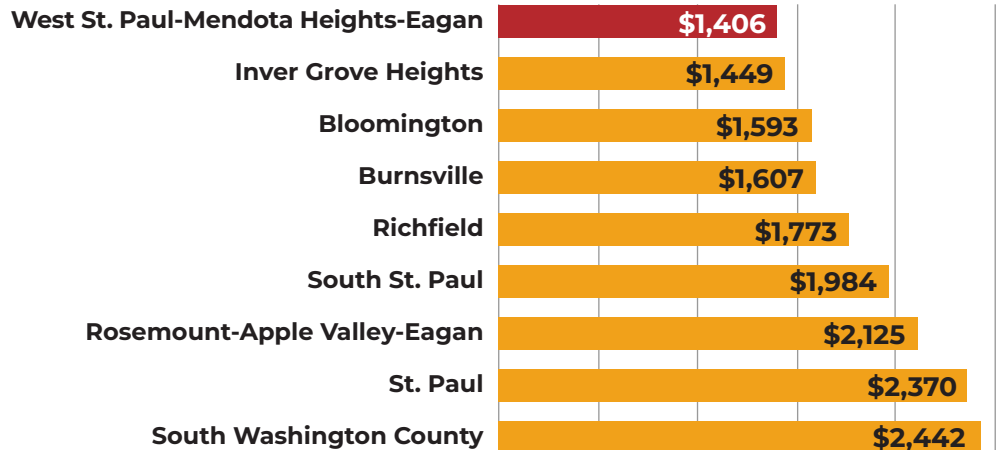
School Property Tax Comparison

For the average-priced home, School District 197 has one of the lowest total school property tax rates in the Twin Cities **and the lowest among neighboring school districts.**

Source: Pay 26 School Tax Report.

West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan School District

Total School Property Taxes, Payable 2026, on a Home with an Estimated Market Value of \$400,000



The Value of Strong Public Schools

Strong public schools benefit everyone—not just families with children in our schools.

They help:

- Attract families to our community
- Support property values
- Prepare tomorrow's workforce
- Support local businesses
- Employ hundreds of local residents
- Offer lifelong learning for residents of all ages

Voting Information



Voters in School District 197 will be asked to go to the polls on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, to elect three school board members and vote on a capital project levy. Absentee and early voting begins on September 18. For more information, visit isd197.org/vote2026.

Community Information Meetings

Join us for an in-person community information session with Superintendent Peter Olson-Skog.



8 - 10am
District Office
1897 Delaware Avenue
Mendota Heights



4 - 6pm
District Office
1897 Delaware Avenue
Mendota Heights



5 - 7pm
Thompson Park Activity Center
1200 Stassen Lane
West St. Paul

LEARN MORE

If you have questions or need additional information about the levy, please reach out via one of the following ways:

VISIT

isd197.org/vote2026

EMAIL

levy@isd197.org

ATTEND

a community meeting



Prepared and paid for by Independent School District No. 197 (West St Paul - Mendota Heights - Eagan Area Schools), 1897 Delaware Ave., Mendota Heights, MN 55118. This publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot questions.