



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA ALERT – Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Fargo Public School District #1

FARGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO HAVE EXCESS MILL LEVY QUESTION ON NOVEMBER 3 BALLOT

WHAT: FPS General Fund Excess Mill Levy Vote

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On the November 3 general election, Fargo Public Schools will have a question on the ballot for approval of an excess mill levy. The District is asking voters to reauthorize its general fund excess mill levy another 10 years. Approval would provide Fargo Public Schools with continued local property tax revenue authority to support programs, services, and educational opportunities for learners. This authority helps the District respond to changing costs and educational needs while continuing to provide a comprehensive educational experience for all learners.

The ballot question is:

The current Fargo Public School District's general fund levy is 127.00 mills. The current statutory general fund limitation is seventy mills on the dollar of the taxable valuation of the school district.

Shall Fargo Public School District No. 1 have a general fund mill levy of 110.00 mills effective December 31, 2027?

The ballot question does not seek an increase in FPS' excess mill levy authority. FPS is asking voters to reauthorize its previously approved 127 mill general fund levy approved by voters in 2017. Per state law, an excess mill levy may not be effective for more than 10 taxable years without voter reapproval. The current excess mill levy approval will expire after December 31, 2027.

FPS is now asking for 110 mills on the November 3 election, rather than the previous 127 mills, because the Fargo Board of Education chose to structure the general fund levy into separate levies, as allowable by law. It is separated into the 109.98 mills general fund, 12 mills miscellaneous fund, and 4.8 mills tuition fund. Due to this restructuring, the District is seeking a lower excess mill levy than the previous authorization. The miscellaneous fund and tuition fund mills will continue outside this excess mill levy.

A "yes" vote authorizes FPS to levy up to 110 general fund mills for a period of 10 taxable years. This allows local property tax revenue to change as the District's taxable valuation changes. By

reauthorizing the previously approved excess mill levy, the District can be proactive in creating a great educational experience for learners.

A “no” vote means FPS will be frozen at the actual property tax dollars collected in the 2027-28 fiscal year. With the revenue frozen, FPS will receive the same total dollars from local property taxes each year, even as Fargo grows. As property values increase in the Fargo Public School District, the mill rate will be reduced to keep total collections flat. As the community grows, FPS’ local funding will not grow with it. The dollar amount will be frozen until the value of 70 mills equals the dollar amount of local tax revenue collected in the 2027-28 fiscal year, which the District estimates would take until the year 2042. If this vote does not pass, the District estimates it would need to address a budget gap of approximately \$2-2.5 million annually.

Fargo Public Schools will conduct two public information sessions about November 3’s ballot question for the community to learn more about the vote. The information sessions will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, October 6 in the theater at South High School and at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, October 21 in the theater at North High School.

More information about the vote, including frequently asked questions, facts about FPS, voting locations, and an informative video series is available at www.fargo.k12.nd.us/Vote2026.

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