

FUTURE FOCUSED

STRONG SCHOOLS = STRONG COMMUNITIES

2026 FAST FACTS REFERENDUM GUIDE

VOTE ON OR BEFORE NOV. 3



Like many schools across Minnesota, Benson Public Schools is facing ongoing money challenges. *Costs keep going up, but the money schools get from the state hasn't grown enough to keep up.*

Over the past three years, **Benson has cut more than \$1 million from its budget, including \$300,000 for this school year.** The district does have some savings, but that amount is expected to shrink from \$2.1 million to just \$105,000 in a few years unless operating revenue increases.

BRAVES PRIDE RUNS DEEP! Benson 2026 Operating Levy

Residents of Benson Public Schools have a strong history of supporting bond referendums for our school buildings. The current need is inside the schools. This referendum is an operating levy for learning.

WHAT IS THE PLAN?

The school board voted unanimously to ask voters to consider an operating levy that would give the district \$700 more per student each year.

- The funding would support current classes and programs, including shop and trade classes, FFA, and BPA, which help prepare students for college, the military, or a job after graduation. It would also help the district recruit and keep quality teachers and staff.
- For the median Benson home, valued at \$175,000, the levy would cost about \$15 a month.
- If approved, the levy would raise \$1,050,000 a year for 10 years, starting with taxes paid in 2027. That is an increase of \$522,000 a year.
- Without the levy, the district's savings (reserves) will drop dramatically within a few years, and more cuts will likely follow.

POINTS OF PRIDE

OUR BRAVES AREN'T JUST LEARNING, THEY'RE THRIVING.

Care from 6 weeks old through toddler, preschool, and VPK with licensed teachers



High school math scores above the state average



Elementary teachers with extensive literacy training



55 college credits earned before graduation – at a school of just 360 students



Hands-on learning in shop, trades, FFA, BPA, and e-sports



Dedicated staff who show up for our kids in good years and hard ones



STRONG SCHOOLS = STRONG COMMUNITIES

Strong schools help rural communities attract and retain families and develop the local workforce. Benson Public Schools provides quality education, childcare, career and technical training, college-credit opportunities, and opportunities for students to prepare for their future.

When families choose where to live, they look at the schools. When businesses look at where to grow, they look at the people who live there. Strong schools ensure a strong future for the Benson community.

Sources: MN State Demographic Center, City of Benson Community Assessment

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE REFERENDUM

Coming soon!

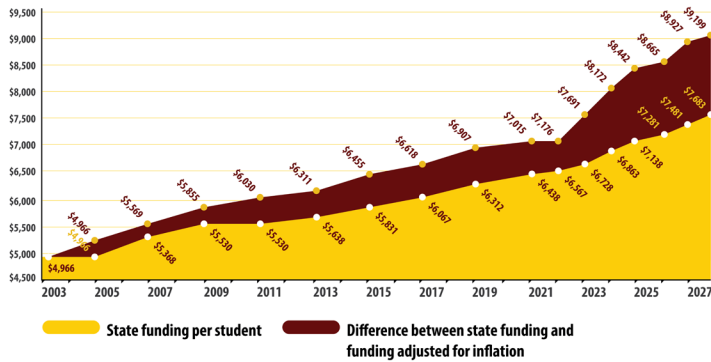




Benson Public Schools - ISD #777
1400 Montana Avenue
Benson, MN 56215

MAINTAINING EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERY STUDENT'S SUCCESS

WE LISTENED. We developed a better plan based on your priorities. We are Future Focused.



STATE REVENUE INCREASES DON'T KEEP PACE WITH INFLATION

- Had the allowance increased by the rate of inflation each year since 2003, the 2027 allowance per pupil would be \$9,199.
- The difference between the FY27 formula allowance per pupil and the inflation adjusted formula allowance is \$1,516 or 19.7%.

IF THE REFERENDUM IS APPROVED

- Protect the strong academics
- Preserve student programs
- Reduce the need for future cuts
- Maintain a healthy fund balance (savings account)
- Retain and recruit quality staff

IF THE REFERENDUM IS NOT APPROVED

- Fund balance (savings account) shrinks dramatically from \$2.1 million to just \$105,000 in a few years.
- Could lead to: higher class sizes, fewer student supports, and the potential reduction of student educational programs and staff.

ESTIMATED TAX IMPACT ON THREE BENSON HOMES

\$15.00
PER MONTH

Home Value	Revoked Levy Authority		Proposed Levy Authority		NET CHANGE	
	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly
\$150,000	\$156	\$13	\$310	\$26	\$154	\$13
\$175,000*	\$182	\$15	\$361	\$30	\$179	\$15
\$200,000	\$208	\$17	\$413	\$34	\$205	\$17

*\$175,000 is the median home value in Benson Public Schools



VISIT OUR WEBSITE



VISIT OUR TAX CALCULATOR



LEARN BEFORE YOU VOTE

Explore the facts, review the ballot questions, and attend a community meeting.

ATTEND A COMMUNITY MEETING:

Tues., Oct. 6, 6 p.m., Benson Performing Arts Center
1400 Montana Ave., Benson, MN 56215
Thurs., Oct. 15, 9 a.m., Community Center
203 14th St. SE, Benson, MN 56215
Mon., Oct. 26, 6 p.m., Virtual Meeting
(see District & Referendum Websites for link to join)

VOTING INFORMATION

SEPTEMBER 18 - Early Voting Begins!
NOVEMBER 3 - General Election Day

WHERE & WHEN DO I VOTE?

<https://bit.ly/4dV2CuH>

PLEASE VOTE
Constitutional
Amendment
Learn More
www.mnpsfamendment.org



LEARN MORE! Connect with us!

Call: (320) 842-2040
Email: suptoffice@benson.k12.mn.us

Website: Coming soon!
Follow us on Facebook: [BensonPublicSchools777](https://www.facebook.com/BensonPublicSchools777)

Prepared and paid for by Benson Public Schools - ISD #777, 1400 Montana Avenue, Benson, MN 56215.