

GSL OPERATING LEVY

2026 COMMUNITY GUIDE



*Understanding the proposal, the cost, and what it means
for GSL Schools*



\$1.2 MILLION

*Approximate additional
annual operating revenue*



\$1,445

*Proposed Amount
per pupil unit*



**NOVEMBER 3,
2026**

Election Day

YOUR QUESTIONS. OUR ANSWERS.

AT A GLANCE



Election	November 3, 2026
Current operating levy	\$601.98 per pupil unit
Proposed operating levy	\$1,445 per pupil unit
Additional annual revenue	Approximately \$1.2 million
Purpose	Support operations, programs and services



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www.gsl.k12.mn.us

WHAT IS AN OPERATING LEVY?



Understanding the difference between an operating levy and a bond.



OPERATING LEVY = LEARNING & DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS

An operating levy supports the ongoing costs of operating a school district, including teachers, support staff, classroom materials, student services and school operations.



OPERATING LEVY

LEARNING & DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS

- Teachers & staff
- Classroom materials
- Student services
- Transportation
- Day-to-day operations



BOND

BUILDINGS & CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Building improvements
- Roofs
- Construction
- Major capital projects

DIDN'T GSL JUST PASS A \$10.9 MILLION BOND?

Yes. The bond is separate from the operating levy. Bond proceeds are restricted to capital projects such as building improvement and the district's roof project. The operating levy would fund day-to-day operations.

WHAT IS GSL ASKING VOTERS TO APPROVE?

\$601.98

Current operating levy
(per pupil unit)



\$1,445.00

Proposed operating levy
(per pupil unit)

≈ \$1.2 MILLION

Additional annual
revenue for the district

WHY IS GSL PROPOSING THIS



The district's goal is to maintain current programs and services while meeting ongoing operating costs

RISING COSTS



Staffing, student support and programming costs have increased while state funding has not kept pace. Overall expenses have increased by more than **10%** over the past five years.

THE COST OF EDUCATING STUDENTS



The district's FAQ states that the cost of educating a student in GSL has increased **50%** over the last 10 years. the proposed levy would help the district afford these necessary costs.

HOW WOULD THE FUNDS BE USED?



Preserving academic programs and student services



Maintaining reasonable class sizes



Supporting transportation and operating costs



Helping maintain long-term financial stability

WHAT HAS GSL ALREADY DONE?



\$420,000 IN REDUCTIONS

The district has already made approximately \$420,000 in reductions, including not filling some positions after retirements and departures, raising fees, improving bus-route efficiency and restructuring contracts.

WHAT WOULD IT COST ME?



*The actual property-tax impact depends on the
estimated market value of your property.*

ESTIMATED PROPERTY-TAX IMPACT

Estimated Market Value	Yearly Increase	Monthly Increase
\$100,000	\$78	\$6.50
\$200,000	\$155	\$12.92
\$300,000	\$233	\$19.42
\$400,000	\$310	\$25.83
\$500,000	\$388	\$32.33
\$600,000	\$466	\$38.83
\$700,000	\$543	\$45.25
\$800,000	\$621	\$51.75
\$900,000	\$698	\$58.16
\$1,000,000	\$776	\$64.67

Estimates shown are for illustrative property values.

IMPORTANT CLARIFICATION

The \$1,445 figure does NOT mean each taxpayer will pay \$1,445. It represents the proposed levy amount per pupil unit. The actual property-tax impact depends on property value.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE LEVY DOES NOT PASS?



The district would need to make additional reductions to balance the budget.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS



STAFFING

Staff reductions and larger class sizes



ACTIVITIES

Reductions in athletics and extracurricular activities



STUDENT SUPPORT

Fewer staff or resources could be available to support students



FEES

Potential increases in participation fees.



PROGRAMS

Potential reductions in course selections and program offerings.



TRANSPORTATION

Potential reductions in bus routes or activity-trip services



THE GOAL OF THE PROPOSED LEVY

Maintain current programs and services, support reasonable class sizes and meet ongoing operating costs.

WILL THE LEVY REDUCE CLASS SIZES?

The goal is not to significantly reduce class sizes. Rather, the goal is to maintain reasonable class sizes and ensure they remain manageable as enrollment and staff needs change.

WILL THE LEVY ADD NEW PROGRAMS?

The goal is to maintain current programming. Future academic offerings are carefully considered based on sustainability, financial stewardship and student choice.

VOTING INFORMATION



Everything you need to know before Election Day.



NOVEMBER 3, 2026
ELECTION DAY | TUESDAY

Who can vote?



Eligible voters who reside within the GSL School District may vote on the local operating levy referendum, provided they meet Minnesota voting eligibility requirements.

Can I vote early?



Yes! Minnesota offers early voting by mail and in person.

For the November 3, 2026 General Election:

- Absentee ballots are available beginning September 18, 2026.
- Early in-person voting begins October 16, 2026.
- The last day to vote early in person is November 2, 2026.



Request an absentee ballot, vote early, or find your polling location at
[MNVOTES.ORG](https://mnvotes.org)

How do I know if I am registered to vote?



You can check your voter registration status online through the Minnesota Secretary of State.

VOTING INFORMATION



VOTING INFORMATION — CONTINUED.....

How do I register to vote?



You can register to vote online before Election Day or register at your polling place on Election Day.

To register online, you will need:

- Your Minnesota driver's license or Minnesota identification card number, or the last four numbers of your Social Security number.
- An email address.
- To meet Minnesota voter eligibility requirements.

Important: The advance registration deadline for the November 3, 2026 election is October 13, 2026

Who is eligible to vote in Minnesota?



To vote in Minnesota, you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be at least 18 years old on Election Day.
- Have been a Minnesota resident for at least 20 days.
- Not currently be incarcerated for a felony conviction.
- Not be under a court order that revokes your right to vote.

I am a college student. How does that work?



College Students can register to vote using the address they currently consider home. This may be their school address or their parent's home.

If you attend college in Minnesota and consider Minnesota your home, you may register to vote using your Minnesota address, even if you pay out-of-state tuition or have a driver's license from another state.

Students who do not consider their school address to be their home may be able to vote by mail using an alternate ballot.

OTHER BALLOT QUESTION



Information about the statewide Permanent School Fund Amendment.

What is the permanent school fund amendment?



Voters will also see the statewide Permanent School Fund Constitutional Amendment on the ballot. This question is **separate from the GSL Operating Levy**.

The Permanent School Fund has supported Minnesota public schools since 1858. The proposed amendment would change how distributions from the existing fund are calculated, providing additional funding to the public schools without creating a new tax.

How would this affect GSL Schools?



If approved, GSL schools estimates it would receive approximately **\$35,000 in additional revenue**.

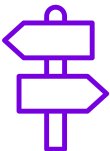
While this would provide additional funding, it **would not offset the reductions GSL would need to make if the proposed operating levy is not approved**.

Is there a tax impact?



No. The amendment does not increase property, income, sales, or other taxes.

Is this the same as the GSL Operating Levy?



No. The Permanent School Fund Amendment is a **statewide consitutional question**, while the GSL Operating Levy is a **local district question**. They are separate questions on the ballot.

What if I leave the question blank?



Leaving the question blank has the same effect as voting "No." Voters who wish to express a position should mark either "Yes" or "No."

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?



We encourage community members to review the information available on the GSL website and check with local community organizations for opportunities to learn more about the proposed operating levy.

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