RENEW 199

Updated Tools. No New Taxes.



Inver Grove Heights Schools Capital Projects Levy Renewal

Vote November 3

isd199.org/elections

Thank you for making an informed decision!

Dear neighbors,

At Inver Grove Heights Schools, we pride ourselves on doing a lot with a little. We continue to offer excellent educational opportunities aligned with our school community's desired experience while maintaining the lowest "per pupil" levy amount of all our neighboring school districts.

Renew 199

You, our community, supported a new Capital Projects Levy in 2017 to purchase, repair, and replace decades-old learning tools for students. In the years since, the levy has given our students access to updated curriculum and curriculum materials, classroom furniture and technology, career and technical tools, and large musical instruments.

Now, the levy is expiring, but the need continues.

Our Challenge

The fact is state and federal funding have not kept pace with inflation and the rising cost of student needs for more than 20 years. If it had, our district would have received $5 million more from the state for this school year. Our Capital Projects Levy has allowed us to maintain and, when necessary, update and replace essential learning tools in the face of that funding gap.

Updated Tools. No New Taxes.

A recent survey of our community showed that 80% of voters are willing to support renewal of our Capital Projects Levy to help students. We listened. We used your feedback to place a levy renewal question on the ballot that reflects your priorities: Continue providing updated learning tools with **no increase for taxpayers**. If voters approve our Capital Projects Levy renewal this fall, it will not cost taxpayers any more, no matter their home value, to honor their support.

We want all Inver Grove Heights Schools voters to get the information they need to make an informed decision at the polls. Please use this brochure, our website at *isd199.org/elections*, or contact any of us on the school board or Superintendent Dave Bernhardson with your questions before voting on your November 3 ballot.

Thank you to our outstanding community for your support!

Carrie Lounsberry

Jake Klingner

Sarah Larsen

Shana Dukes

Liz Niemioja

Darcie Pierson

Sherry Warrick

Updated Tools. No New Taxes.

Our theme, Renew 199, is all about continuing support for our students with the resources we have. Our goal, Updated tools. No new taxes., is to continue existing funding to prepare our students for tomorrow with **no new taxes** for our neighbors today.

Inver Grove Heights Schools will have a Capital Projects Levy renewal question on the November 3, 2026, ballot.

Approval would renew the Capital Projects Levy for 10 years to fulfill two key goals:

Renewal Goal #1: Update Tools

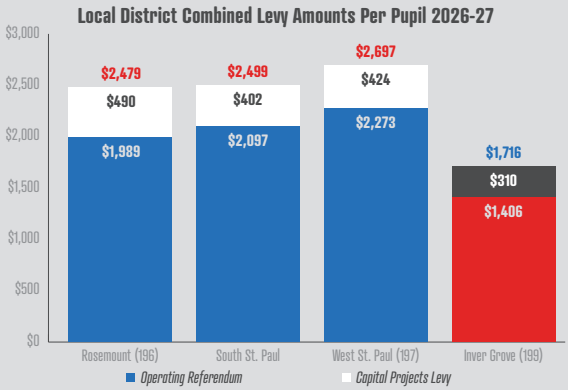
Purchase and maintain curriculum and materials, classroom technology and equipment, career and technical tools, large musical instruments, and classroom furnishings

Renewal Goal #2: No New Taxes

Renew at no tax increase, avoid a $1.1 million deficit and budget cuts directly affecting students

Renewal would allow the district to maintain and, when necessary, update its current learning tools with **no tax increase**.

Additionally, the district will continue to look for opportunities for taxpayer savings. The district has refinanced bonds that have saved taxpayers more than $5 million in property taxes over the last 10 years. As recently as 2024, the district initiated a bond refunding that will save taxpayers $2.4 million through 2034.



The average total for voter-approved levies for a Dakota County school district is $2,345 per student. Our total levies amount per student continues to be the lowest in the area. If our Capital Projects Levy is renewed, we would remain the lowest.

Why Now?

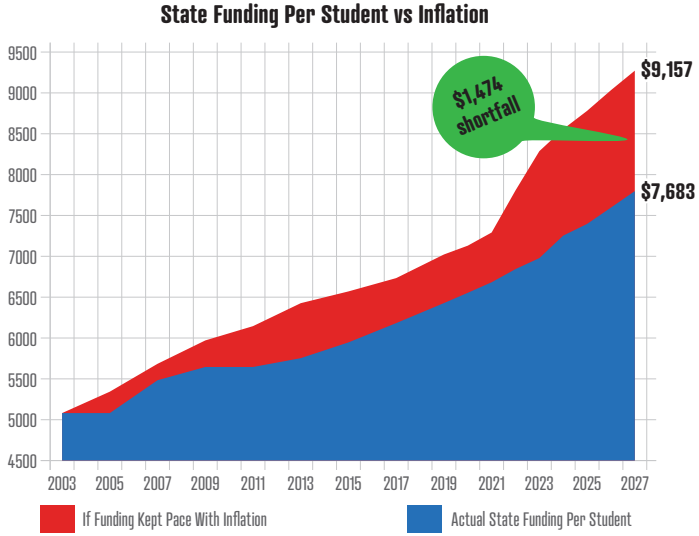
Our Capital Projects Levy is set to expire in 2027. Knowing this, we surveyed a representative sample of the community's voters between May 20 and 30. Respondents answered questions about perceptions of the school district and reactions to a **no-increase** Capital Projects Levy renewal. The community's high support helped us decide to put our renewal question on this year's November 3 ballot.

80% informed support for renewal

79% support to keep classroom technology up-to-date

76% support to prevent a deficit affecting class sizes

If approved, the renewed Capital Projects Levy will continue necessary funding to keep student learning tools updated with **no additional tax impact** on our residents. The gap between federal and state funding and inflation continues to grow. Inflation has outpaced our state funding for more than 20 years. If funding had kept pace, ISD 199 would have more than $5 million in additional state funding this school year.



Our Capital Projects Levy helps us close the funding gap a little more so we can continue to afford updated tools while maintaining class sizes and our current student opportunities.

What if the levy is not renewed?

A deficit of $1.1 million that may lead to budget cuts that affect the classroom.

The reality is that, if the Capital Projects Levy is not renewed, **the district will still need to purchase learning tools and required curriculum**. Without the levy, funds for books and other learning supplies will come out of the district's limited general fund, which currently provides funding to maintain class sizes and student opportunities.

If voters do not approve the Capital Projects Levy renewal, we would reduce about $1.1 million from our budget next school year. Considerations may include, but are not limited to:

- Increased class sizes
- Staff reductions
- Loss of access to high-quality educational materials
- Limited student learning opportunities

What is a levy, and is it different from a bond?

Levies are for learning. Bonds are for building.

Levies provide funds to run and operate schools. Our Capital Projects Levy provides us with funds to cover the costs for specific learning tools, as listed in our approved Review and Comment.

Bonds provide funds that a school district would use for new construction, updates to existing facilities, and other additions to school properties.

Renewal of the our Capital Projects Levy will allow ISD 199 to continue providing and maintaining learning tools for students over the next 10 years. **This levy provides funding that goes toward curriculum and accompanying materials, classroom technology and equipment, career and technical tools, large musical instruments, and classroom furnishings.**

Is the district financially responsible?

Our community believes we are.

In our recent community survey, 66% gave the district an A or B on its financial management.

The district has worked hard to be a good steward of the public's tax money. Over the last 10 years, ISD 199 has strategically refinanced bonds to save taxpayers more than $5 million in property taxes.

Professional organizations have recognized ISD 199 for its financial management as well. **This year marks the 21st year in a row that the district has earned a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting** from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO). The certificate recognizes excellence in the school district's financial reporting and transparency.

ISD 199 also has an underlying Aa3 credit rating and an enhanced rating of Aa2 from Moody's, which indicate the district's strong credit-worthiness.

Is the district adequately funded?

No, but we pride ourselves on doing a lot with a little.

The district operates efficiently and maintains a fund balance that would allow us to continue operating temporarily if state funding did not come through on time, which has happened before. However, we have had to operate leaner and leaner each year and budget cuts have become much more common.

In a recent survey of our community, 59% said they think local schools are not adequately funded.

Our Capital Projects Levy has been critical to ensuring our students have the proper tools for an excellent education without sacrificing staffing and current class sizes.

Read more FAQs at *isd199.org/renewal*.



Voting Information

Election Day Voting:

Tuesday, November 3. Polls are open 7 AM - 8 PM.

Find your Election Day polling place at *pollfinder.sos.mn.gov* or scan the QR code.

Before you can vote, you must register. In Minnesota, you must register at least 21 days before Election Day for your name to appear on your polling place's roster. If you do not meet the registration deadline, you must register at your polling place on Election Day with approved documentation. Visit *mnvotes.org* and click "Register to Vote" to find out what you need for registration on Election Day.

Vote Early via Absentee Ballot

September 18 - November 2

You can vote early with an absentee ballot through November 2, 2026. You may vote absentee for any reason. Visit *mnvotes.org* and click "Other Ways to Vote" to request an absentee ballot.

You may also complete your Absentee Ballot Application and vote in-person at the following locations:

Inver Grove Heights City Hall
8150 Barbara Avenue
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076
Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Northern Service Center in West St. Paul
1 Mendota Road West
West St. Paul, MN 55118
Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Dakota County Administration Center in Hastings
1590 Highway 55
Hastings, MN 55033
Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Western Service Center in Apple Valley
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124
Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Vote Early With Direct Balloting

October 16 - November 2

Direct balloting allows voters to insert their ballot directly into a ballot tabulator instead of sealing their ballot in an envelope for later processing. This allows a voter to watch as their vote is tabulated and to be immediately notified if the ballot tabulator detects any errors during processing. Direct balloting is available at the service centers listed above between Friday, October 16, and 5:00 PM on Monday, November 2.

School District Questions

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

Renewal of Expiring Capital Project Levy

The school board of Independent School District No. 199 (Inver Grove Heights) has proposed a capital project levy authorization of 2.1724% times the net tax capacity of the school district. This authorization would renew the school district's existing authorization which is scheduled to expire after taxes payable in 2027. The proposed capital project levy authorization will raise approximately $1,184,795 for taxes payable in 2028, the first year it is to be levied, and would be authorized for ten years. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately $11,847,950. The additional revenue from the proposed capital project levy authorization will provide funds for the purchase of textbooks, curriculum materials, musical instruments, classroom furnishings, equipment, technology and software for student achievement. The projects to be funded have received a positive Review and Comment from the Commissioner of Education. Shall the renewal of the capital project levy authorization proposed by the school board of Independent School District No. 199 be approved?

- ⬭ Yes
- ⬭ No

BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING TO RENEW AN EXISTING CAPITAL PROJECTS REFERENDUM THAT IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE.

Flip your ballot! Look for the section titled "School District Questions" on the back of your ballot.

The current levy provides $310 per student. If renewed, that amount would stay the same, meaning there would be no additional tax impact from this levy.

The renewed levy will generate $1,184,795 in its first year to provide updated learning tools for students and help avoid budget cuts that directly impact students while NOT increasing taxes for residents.

There would be ZERO tax increase for homeowners, no matter their home value.

The funds from this levy will continue to go toward the learning tools listed here, which have received approval from the Minnesota Commissioner of Education.

This question is only a renewal of our existing levy, which is set to expire in 2027. **Voting "Yes" will NOT result in a tax increase.**

Contact Us

Feel free to contact us about our ballot questions at our Renewal Question Line, 651-306-7199, or email *elections@isd199.org.*

More Information

Want to learn more about all of the school-related questions on the November 3 ballot – the Capital Projects Levy, ISD 199's School Board race, and Minnesota's Permanent School Fund amendment question? Visit *www.isd199.org/elections*.

RENEW 199



Inver Grove Heights Schools

2026 LEVY RENEWAL

Every Vote Counts - Vote November 3

Prepared and paid for by Independent School District No. 199 (Inver Grove Heights Schools), 2990 80th St. E., Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076

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