



ST. MICHAEL - ALBERTVILLE SCHOOLS

EXCELLENCE IS OUR TRADITION

Dear Parents,

The purpose of this email is to provide factual and important information regarding the upcoming 2022 STMA Operating Levy.

There are many ways to review this information. You can read this communication, attend a public informational session, or visit the STMA levy webpage.

STMA 2022 Operating Levy

On November 8, 2022, STMA will ask taxpayers to consider an operating levy. This is a predictable and sustainable source of local revenue that focuses on students and the classroom.

Why is an operating levy on the November ballot?

While the St. Michael-Albertville Schools is a big point of pride in our community, our district faces some pressing financial challenges due to forces largely out of our control. Low state funding and stabilizing enrollment, exacerbated by the pandemic, have created an unforeseeable combination of multiple short-term and long-term impacts to our budget.

What is the operating levy?

Over the last few months, we listened to stakeholders and significantly adjusted our ask of taxpayers. However, our needs remain and we are asking for considerably less than requested in November 2021.

Two levy questions give taxpayers a choice in how our schools are funded and what they can afford.

Question 1: \$756 per student, which would generate approximately \$5.2 million per year.

- Maintains current programming
- Restores the walk zone
- Adds 8 staff to decrease class sizes

Question 2:* An additional \$102 per student for a total of \$858, which would generate approximately \$5.9 million per year.



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- Includes all items in Question 1
 - Restores high potential programming
 - Reduces middle and high school activity fees
 - Adds 7 staff to decrease class sizes (15 total FTE)
- *Q2 is contingent on Q1 passing

4 years: We are asking taxpayers to commit to a relatively short period of time so we can reassess student needs in the future when the economy is more stable.

No Inflationary Factor: Since inflation is at very high levels, it will not be included.

What may happen without a levy?

The district will continue with budget cuts that will negatively impact students and damage the reputation of the district. We currently project a deficit of \$2.7 million in 2023-2024. With budget reductions of \$7.3 million and cutting 78 staff over the last three budget cycles, there is not much else left to cut other than more staff and student opportunities. Potential budget reductions* may include:

- Increase class sizes
- Reduce 30-35 full-time staff positions
- Eliminate middle school athletics and activities
- Reduce high school athletics and activities

*These are potential cuts. Actual cuts will be determined by the school board at the time of budgeting in the spring. No formal determinations have been made by the STMA School Board at this time.

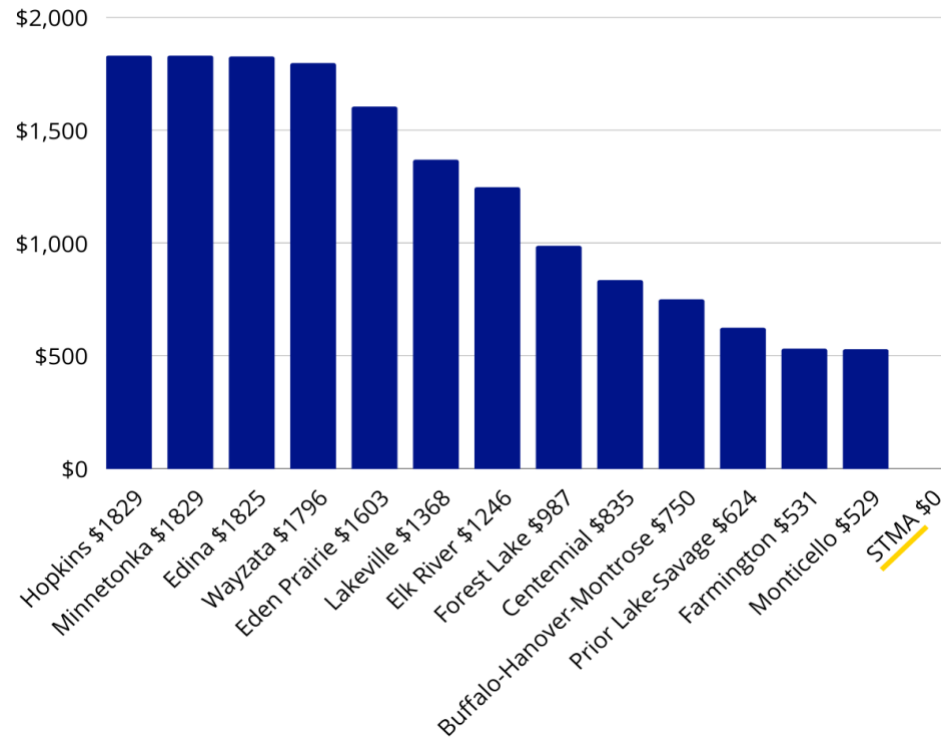
What about other districts?

STMA is one of the few districts that does not have a voter approved operating referendum. In fact, 70% of districts in MN have a voter-approved operating referendum. STMA is not one of them. The graph below shows how STMA compares to neighboring districts and districts we compare ourselves to.



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What is the tax impact?

The tax impact on a \$350,000 home, the average STMA home value, is \$46 per month for question one and an additional \$8 for question two. If both questions pass, the tax impact is \$54 per month. A tax impact calculator can be found on the [levy webpage](#). Be sure to use your taxable market value rather than your appraised value.



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Question	Monthly Tax Impact*
1	\$46
2	\$8
Total per Month	\$54

*On an average home value of \$350,000

The state would contribute approximately \$1 million per year in state equalization revenue aid.

When will voters decide?

Voters will decide on November 8, 2022. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. To find your polling location visit <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/>. Early voting starts September 23, 2022.



Where can I learn more?

Transparency is important to the District. Please see below for many options to obtain factual information. Please take time to familiarize yourself with the facts as this vote will affect all students, staff, families, and the community.

- Public Informational Meetings:
 - Tuesday, September 20 7:00 p.m. MW Auditorium
 - Friday, October 7 1:00 p.m. MW Auditorium Coffee & Conversation
 - Wednesday, October 12 7:00 a.m. MW Auditorium
 - Thursday, October 13 7:00 p.m. HS PAC
 - Monday, October 17 9:00 a.m. MW Auditorium Coffee & Conversation
- [STMA Operating Levy Webpage](#):
 - [Tax Calculator](#) (be sure to use the taxable market value, not appraised value)
 - [FAQ](#)
 - [Sample Ballot](#)
 - [Informational Flyer](#)
 - [Public Presentation](#)
 - [Rumors](#)





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- [Polling Info](#)
- Call the District Office 763.497.3180
- Email STMAlevy@mystma.org, [Superintendent](#), or [School Board](#)

The STMA 2022 Operating Levy focuses on putting students first and provides a source of local revenue to allow us to continue our tradition of excellence. It is intended to help the district realize its vision, which is to continue to be the pride of the community and to educate the whole student with excellence in academics, arts, and activities through the empowerment of a world class staff.

Thank you for your continued support of STMA students and schools. We are grateful for the trust and partnership we have with our families and community.

Respectfully,

Dr. Ann-Marie Foucault
STMA Superintendent