



OPERATING LEVY REFERENDUM FACT SHEET

www.stma.k12.mn.us/levy



WE LISTENED. WE ADJUSTED. OUR NEEDS REMAIN. WE ARE ASKING FOR LESS.

STRONG SCHOOLS = STRONG COMMUNITIES

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?

While STMA schools are a big point of pride in our community, our district faces 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 WILL BE ON THE BALLOT?

Over the last few months, we listened to stakeholders and adjusted. 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.

Q1: \$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

Q2: An additional \$102 per student for a total of \$858, which would generate approximately \$5.9 million per year.

- Includes all items in Q1
- Restores high potential programming
- Reduces middle and high school activity fees
- Adds 7 staff to decrease class sizes (15 total staff)

**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.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

- **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

VOTING INFORMATION:

WHAT HAPPENS IF VOTERS DO NOT APPROVE?

There will be continued budget cuts* which will negatively impact students:

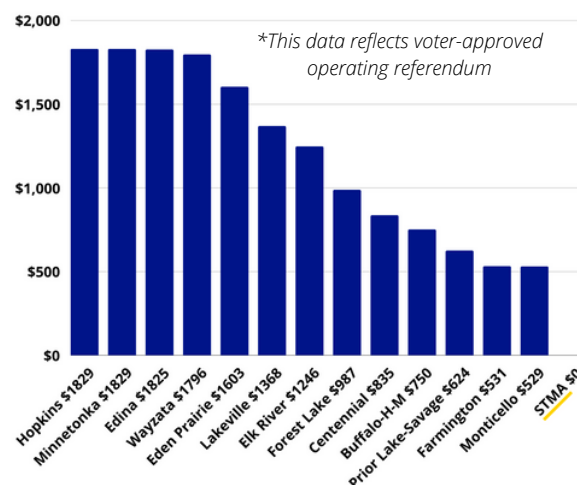
- Increase class sizes
- Reduce 30-35 full-time staff positions
- Eliminate middle school athletics and activities
- Reduce high school athletics and activities

*These are potential. The School Board has not made a decision at this time.

TAX IMPACT

QUESTION	MONTHLY TAX
#1	\$46
#2	\$8
TOTAL PER MONTH (on a \$350,000 market value home)	\$54

RESIDENT FUNDING COMPARED TO SIMILAR DISTRICTS*



Polls will be open on November 8, 2022 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Scan the code to find your polling location.

Early voting starts September 23.





LEVY 2022

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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On November 8, 2022 STMA taxpayers will vote whether to increase school funding to support the district's students and schools through two operating levy questions. If approved, the funding would directly impact students.

Official ballot language can be confusing, but is a state mandate. Please use this helpful descriptor to better understand what the language means and how it impacts students.

Special Election Ballot
Independent School District No. 885
(St. Michael-Albertville Schools)
November 8, 2022

Instructions to Voters:
To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this:
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
Approval of School District
Referendum Revenue Authorization

The board of Independent School District No. 885 (St. Michael-Albertville Schools) has proposed to increase its general education revenue by \$756 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for four years beginning with taxes payable in 2023 unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Yes No	Shall the increase in the revenue proposed by the board of the Independent School District No. 885 be approved? BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.
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School District Question 2
Approval of Additional School District
Referendum Revenue Authorization

The board of Independent School District No. 885 (St. Michael-Albertville Schools) has proposed to increase its general education revenue by \$102 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for four years beginning with taxes payable in 2023 unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Yes No	If School District Question 1 is approved, shall the increase in the revenue proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 885 be approved? BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.
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Funds would directly impact students by decreasing class sizes and maintaining high quality programming.

The majority of MN school districts rely on locally approved levies to help fund their schools. STMA does not have a voter approved operating levy.

This per pupil amount would generate approximately \$5.2m per year and would be used to support student learning.

If voters approve the levy, the state would provide approximately \$1m to the district annually through state equalization aid. The additional money will only come to STMA if voters approve the levy.

The majority of districts ask voters to approve a levy for 10 years but we are asking for 4 years so we can reassess in the future when the economy is more stable.

If approved by voters, the tax impact on the average homeowner would be \$46 per month.

Levies are for learning and bonds are for building. These questions are levies and would be spent on students.

Unlike cities and counties, school districts must gain voter approval to help fund their schools.

Funds would directly impact students by decreasing class sizes and maintaining high-quality programming.

If approved by voters, the tax impact on the average homeowner would be an additional \$8 per month. If both questions are approved, the total tax impact would be \$54 per month.

Question 2 is contingent upon Question 1, which means Question 1 must pass before Question 2 can be approved by voters.

*Prepared and paid for by
Independent School District No.
885 (St. Michael-Albertville),
11343 50th Street NE, Albertville,
MN 55301. This publication is not
circulated on behalf of any
candidate or ballot question.*

LEARN MORE AND VOTE ON NOV. 8



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