

OUR STUDENTS OUR COMMUNITY OUR FUTURE

Vote November 2, 2021

On November 2, 2021, Roseville Area School district residents will vote whether to renew and increase local funding for our schools through our operating levy. Funds would support and enhance students' classroom experiences and provide more financial stability for the district.

What's on the ballot?

There are two questions on the ballot:

- **Question 1:** Requests a renewal of the district's operating levy. This no-tax-increase renewal would lessen but not eliminate major cuts in the future.
- **Question 2:** Requests an increase in the district's operating levy. The increase of \$905 per student would generate approximately \$7 million per year.

Question 2 can only pass if voters first approve Question 1.

The additional funds from Question 2 would be used to:

- ✓ Lower class sizes
- ✓ Invest in student mental health and social-emotional needs
- ✓ Maintain academic programs
- ✓ Expand career pathways to better prepare students for various careers after graduation
- ✓ Help maintain financial stability

Why now?

The school board unanimously approved placing these requests on the ballot after more than a year of discussion and planning as expenses continue to outpace revenue.

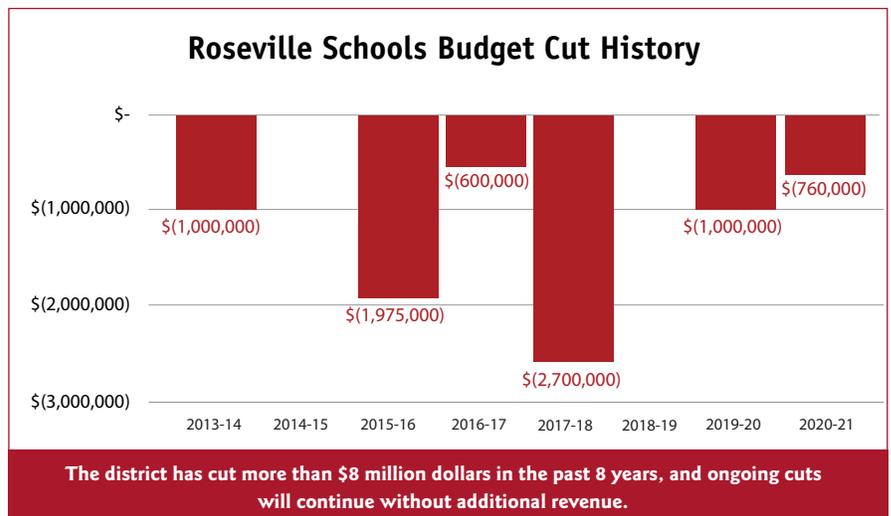
Some reasons why financial pressures are increasing:

- For nearly two decades, **state funding has not kept pace** with inflation or increasing educational costs.
- Critical special education programs **cost the district nearly \$10 million more than it receives** each year from the state and federal governments.

- Over the last eight years, we have **cut our operating budget by \$8 million**, resulting in teacher cuts, increased class sizes and cuts to student and classroom support and administration.
- While the federal COVID relief dollars for schools will help cover pandemic-related costs, they are one-time funds with specific rules and timelines, and they **will not help with our long-term budget sustainability.**

If voters do not approve both requests, there would be significant financial repercussions, including:

- Reductions in educational and co-curricular programming
- Staff cuts
- Rising class sizes
- Fewer supports for students
- The district's financial health would deteriorate, including a lack of contingency funds for emergencies



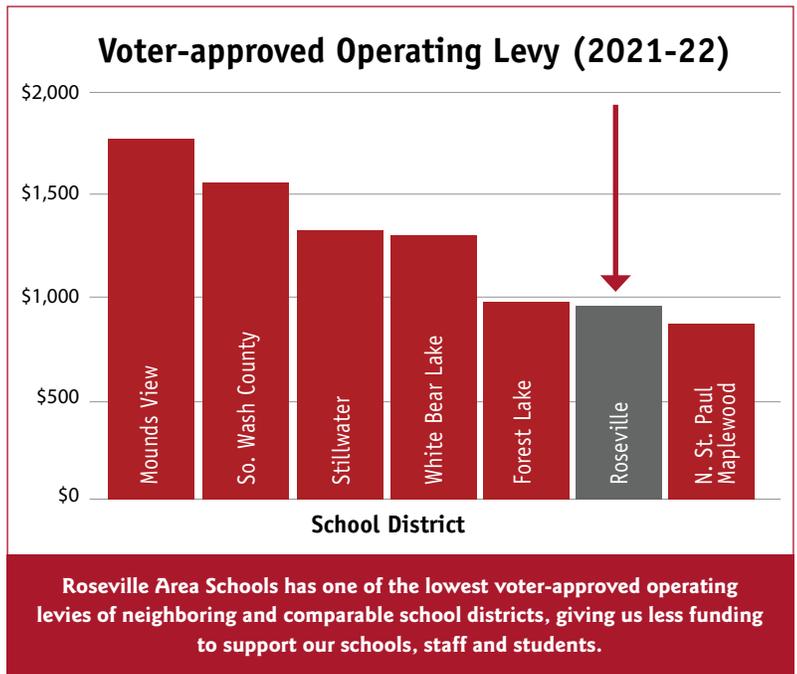
What's an operating levy?

Operating levies are funds approved by local residents for their schools. Levies provide additional funding for critical school operations, such as teachers, classroom supplies, instructional materials, other staff and more. The vast

majority of Minnesota school districts — including Roseville Area Schools — rely on operating levies to help fund their schools. After state funding, operating levies are the second largest part of our operating budget.

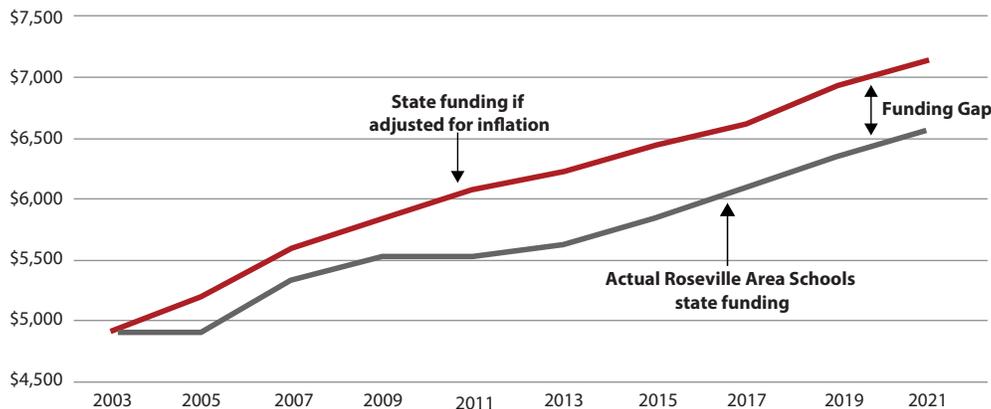
Finance Facts

- Our current voter-approved **operating levy will expire if not renewed by voters** in November 2021, which would result in a loss of \$8 million per year.
- Even with a levy renewal, funds would be insufficient to stop additional cuts and maintain existing programs and student supports. The **school board has determined an increase is needed** to address additional classroom needs.
- We **have not asked our community to increase the operating levy since 2006**. Our district has a history of only going to voters for additional revenue when it's necessary.
- Although voters approved bond funds for building construction four years ago, those funds cannot be used to help operate schools. **Bonds are for buildings, levies are for learning.**



State Basic General Education Funding

Per student funding allowance, 2003-2021



Source: Minnesota Department of Education, June, 2020

Parents Give Roseville Area Schools High Marks!

- **96%** believe our community receives a **good value from its investment** in local public schools.
- **93%** rate the **quality of education as excellent or good**.
- **94%** trust the school board and administration to **do what's right for children** in the district.

From a spring 2021 random sample phone survey conducted by Morris-Leatherman.

Estimated Net Monthly Tax Increase*

Q1: Renew levy	\$0	Q2: Increase levy	\$22
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*Estimated tax increase is based on the district's median value home of \$281,000.

Strong schools = Strong communities

Research shows that public school quality is one of the most important determinants of home value. Schools directly affect a community's vitality and home resale values.

Voting information

Polls will be open on November 2 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Absentee and early voting begins September 17. Learn more about voting options and locations at www.isd623.org/levy2021.

Learn more

- **Visit** www.isd623.org/levy2021
- **Email** levy2021@isd623.org
- **Call** 651-635-1651



Roseville Area Schools

Quality Teaching & Learning for All... Equity in All We Do

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Prepared and paid for by the Roseville Area Schools. This publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot question.