



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

VOTE
NOVEMBER 6, 2018

Our Kids. Our Community. Our Future.

The Challenge:

To keep pace with the educational needs of our students with adequate financial resources

The Ballot Question:

Consider an operating levy increase to enable SPPS to invest more in our schools and limit additional budget cuts

Why Now?

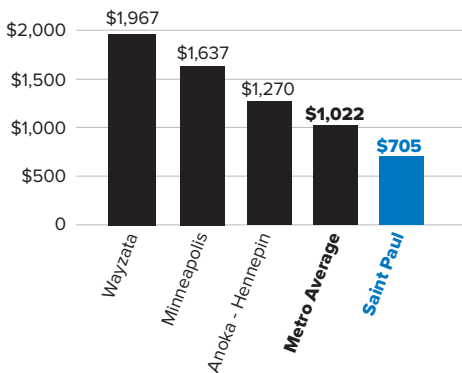
- SPPS has cut more than \$50 million in the past three years and approved cuts of \$17.2 million for the 2018-19 school year.
- Federal, state and local funding is not keeping pace with inflation or the educational needs of our students.
- Required special education services cost the District \$42 million more than it receives each year, putting additional pressure on the operating budget.

What is an Operating Levy?

Operating levies provide essential funding for classrooms, instruction and other school operating costs.

Strong public schools are directly linked to the well-being of our city and strong property values.

Voter Approved Operating Levies, 2018-19



SPPS is the second largest school district in Minnesota, but has one of the lowest voter-approved operating levies when compared to the state's ten largest districts and SPPS neighbors. These levies provide critical funding for classrooms, instruction and other operating costs.

If voters approve the request, the estimated tax impact on an average homeowner (\$175,000 home) would be about \$11 per month. The funding would help SPPS:

- Invest more in schools and student needs at all grade levels
- Implement the District's Strategic Plan to increase achievement for all students
- Increase mental health and social-emotional learning support for students
- Create middle schools designed to meet the academic and developmental needs of this age group and better prepare them for high school and beyond
- Limit additional budget cuts

If voters do not approve the request, SPPS will face continued multimillion-dollar budget cuts, resulting in cuts to staff and academic programs in all schools and at all grade levels.

Learn more: Visit spps.org/referendum2018
Call 651-767-8157 • Email referendum@spps.org