

White Bear Lake Area Schools
Capital Projects Levy Renewal



Capital Projects Levy Renewal

- Understanding School Finance
- Continued Capital Needs
- Capital Projects Levy Facts
- Estimated Tax Impact
- Complete Information

Understanding School Finance 101

Education in Minnesota is financed through a combination of three funding sources:

- **State Revenue** - Is the primary funding source and accounts for approximately 70% of Districts' annual revenue.
- **Federal Revenue** - typically accounts for approximately 5% of Districts' revenue in the areas of meals, special education, and Title programming.
- **Local Revenue** - accounts for approximately 25% of Districts' revenue and may be categorized in the areas of capital expenditures, facilities improvements, and general operating expenses.

*State law authorizes school boards to submit referendums for operating and capital needs to voters for approval.

Fiscal Management: *Local Funding Sources*

Currently the District has the following Voter Approved Levies and Bonds:

- **Operating Levy, 2018-2027**

The current operating levy provides funding at the level of \$1,326/student. These funds are used to pay for any operational expense of the district including salaries, classroom supplies, utilities and transportation.

- **Building Our Future Bond Referendum, Passed 2019**

The BOF bond referendum funds are used for the improvement and renovation of all school district facilities as well as the construction of a new elementary school and unification of our split campus high school. These voter approved bonds totalled \$326M.

- **Capital Projects Levy, 2014-2023**

The Capital Projects Levy originated in 2003 and was renewed in 2013. This levy has supported the acquisition of technology and related services, musical instruments, textbooks and other curricular needs. The current levy is 2.208% times the net tax capacity of the district.

Capital Projects Levy Renewal: *Continued Capital Needs*

- Capital Projects Levy renewal on November 8
 - \$2.6 million annually for 10 years
- The funds will be used in the following ways:
 - Safety and security: The capital projects levy allows the district to maintain and increase safety and security measures and equipment throughout the district.
 - Technology and related services: The capital projects levy allows the district to provide classroom technology, software and computers for students. Related services include the maintenance of equipment and technology staff.
 - Textbooks, curriculum materials and equipment, and musical instruments: The capital projects levy allows the district to purchase textbooks, curriculum materials and equipment, and musical instruments according to our curriculum replacement cycle.
 - Transportation: The capital projects levy allows the district to purchase buses and vans to maintain its fleet for student transportation.

10 facts

every voter should know

This Election Day, voters in the White Bear Lake Area School District will be asked to renew a capital projects levy that is expiring.

Here are 10 facts every voter should know on November 8:



1. The capital projects levy approved by voters in 2013 is expiring.

In 2013, voters approved a capital projects levy to support the acquisition of technology hardware; curriculum, assessment and management software; large musical instruments; and textbooks and materials. This levy is expiring, and without renewal, the District will lose \$2.6 million annually.

2. A successful levy renewal will not increase current taxes.

The School Board voted unanimously to ask voters to renew the expiring levy at the same tax rate, as a straight renewal of an existing levy.

3. Several options were considered before deciding on the renewal request.

Options that have been considered regarding the current capital projects levy include:

- Asking voters to increase the levy
- Asking voters to renew the current levy

• Letting the capital projects levy expire

Respecting today's uncertain economy, the Board decided to ask for the same level of funding that schools have been receiving.

4. Failure to renew the levy will result in a \$2.6 million gap in revenue.

The gap in revenue would require planning to delay or reduce purchases for:

- Safety and security measures and equipment throughout the district
- Classroom technology and equipment
- Curriculum and instruments
- Buses and vans for student transportation

5. A successful levy will help meet ongoing and increasing needs.

The funds will be used in the following ways:

- Safety and security
- Technology and related services
- Textbooks, curriculum materials and equipment, and musical instruments
- Transportation

6. We are not alone.

All Minnesota school districts depend on local support to maintain quality educational programs for students and meet needs not met by state or federal funding.

This capital projects levy will cover the 4 Ts: Safe-T, Technology, Textbooks and Transportation



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7. The District has kept its promises.

Since the last capital projects levy in 2013, the District followed through on its promises to the community.

- Students and families have been supported with technology hardware, which was especially important during the last three school years.
- We continue to offer effective curriculum and to assess student learning to best serve each learner.
- Our band and orchestra programs continue to grow.

8. White Bear continues to be a good steward of the community's investment.

- Our district has received excellence in financial reporting awards from both the Association of School Business Officials and Government Finance Officers Association for 21 consecutive years.
- The District's fiscal credibility is high, with a recent community survey showing:
 - 89% of respondents believe the community receives a good value from its investment.
 - 80% of respondents believe we have spent past referendum revenue responsibly.
- Residents rated the district's financial management well above the industry norm, putting us in the top quarter of suburban districts.
- The district has taken advantage of favorable interest rates to refinance outstanding debt, saving taxpayers nearly \$500,000 through the next two years.

9. Our students benefit directly from capital projects levy support.

- The district monitors and improves safety and security measures to keep students and staff safe.
- Access to effective classroom technology is key. In a recent survey, 89% of district respondents rated the importance of technology to student learning as very important or absolutely essential.
- Updated equipment and curriculum are vital to all of our academic subjects, including the seven Career Pathways areas offered in the district.
- Our music and fine arts programs continue to receive top ratings and our students receive state and national recognitions.

10. You have opportunities to learn more about the capital projects levy.

- Attend informational community meetings:
 - Tuesday, September 20, 8:30 a.m., Senior Center (VBL)
 - Tuesday, September 27, 7 p.m., District Center (VBL)
 - Wednesday, October 5, 7 p.m., Onoka Elementary (Hugo)
- Visit our website:
 - isd624.org/CapitalProjectsLevyRenewal
- Contact us:
 - communications@isd624.org
 - Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak, Superintendent, 651-407-7563
 - Tim Wald, Asst. Sup. for Finance & Operations, 651-407-7516



A common misperception re: one-time COVID-19 relief funds

There is a common misunderstanding that because school districts received one-time federal funds during the COVID-19 pandemic there is a lesser need for local levy support. This is untrue. The one-time funds allowed districts to maintain services during the pandemic and to help make up for student learning loss caused by the pandemic. The funds were limited very specifically to covering pandemic-related costs and do not displace levy support.



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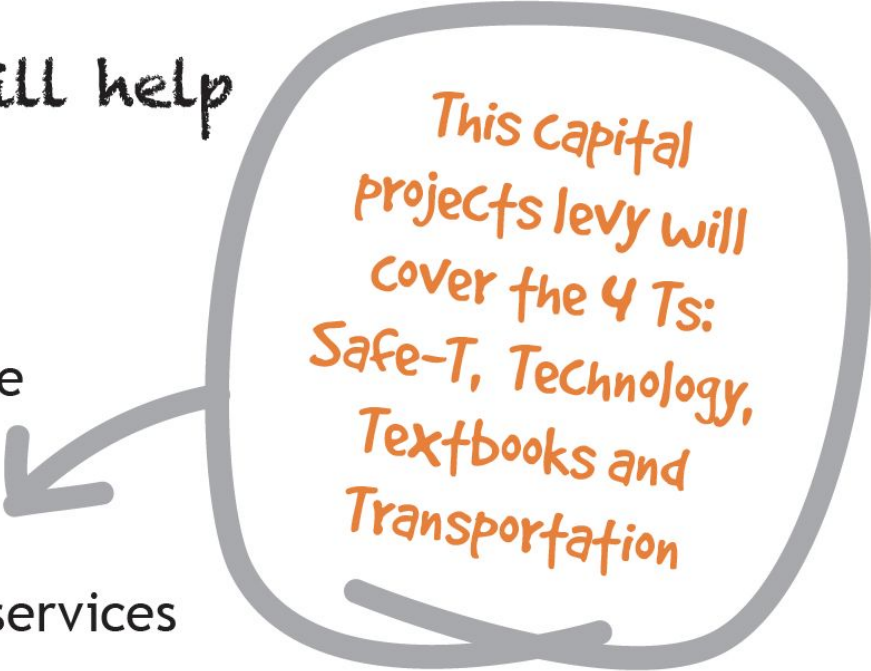
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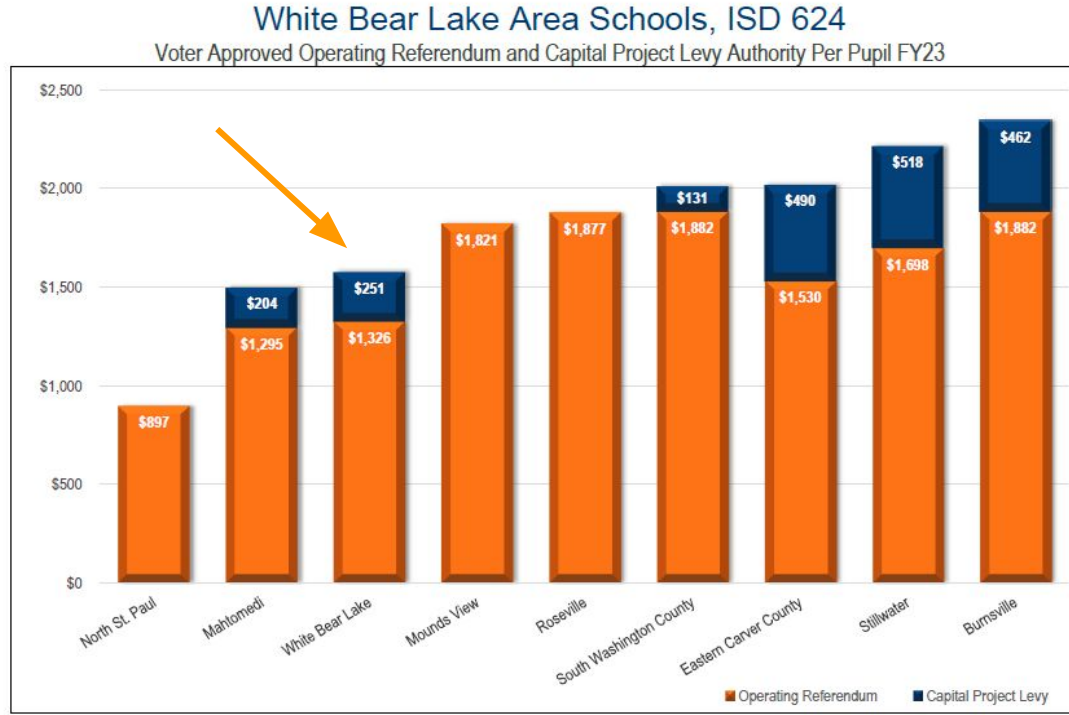
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651-407-7516



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School District Levy Funding Levels: *Comparison Districts*



Source: MDE Operating Referendum Phaseout Report and Pay 22 Levy Reports

Capital Projects Levy Renewal: *Estimated Tax Impact*

		Expiring	Proposed	Net Change
Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	Estimated Annual Taxes for Capital Project Levy Taxes Payable 2023 to Taxes Payable 2024*		
Residential Homestead	\$100,000	-\$16	\$16	\$0
	150,000	-28	28	0
	200,000	-40	40	0
	250,000	-53	53	0
	300,000	-65	65	0
	350,000	-77	77	0
	400,000	-89	89	0
	450,000	-101	101	0
	500,000	-112	112	0
	750,000	-182	182	0
Commercial/ Industrial *	\$100,000	-\$20	\$20	\$0
	250,000	-57	57	0
	500,000	-125	125	0
	1,000,000	-260	260	0
Apartments and Residential Non-Homestead	\$250,000	-\$70	\$70	\$0
	500,000	-140	140	0
	1,000,000	-279	279	0
	2,000,000	-559	559	0

Estimated 2023
Average Home Value

Find Complete Information

The screenshot shows the White Bear Lake Area Schools website. Red circles highlight the following elements:

- Top Navigation:** The "CAPITAL PROJECTS" link in the top right navigation bar.
- Left Menu:** The "Capital Projects Levy Renewal" link in the left-hand navigation menu.
- Right Menu:** The "Capital Projects Levy Renewal" link in the right-hand navigation menu.
- Footer:** The "Capital Projects Levy Renewal Public Meeting" event card in the "Upcoming Events" section.

Welcome to White Bear Lake Area Schools
The community at the forefront of educational excellence, honoring our legacy and courageously building the future, White Bear Lake Area Schools serves all or parts of Birchwood, Gem Lake, Hugo, Lino Lakes, Little Canada, Maplewood, North Oaks, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake and White Bear Township.

BUILDING OUR FUTURE FACILITIES PROCESS
DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN
CAPITAL PROJECTS LEVY RENEWAL

District News
VIEW ALL NEWS

624
School Board votes in favor of placing capital projects levy renewal on November ballot.
At the July 11 regular meeting, the White Bear Lake Area School Board unanimously voted in favor of placing a capital projects levy renewal question on the November ballot. The funds will be used for safety and security equipment, technology and related services, textbooks, computer materials and equipment, and musical instruments and transportation.

624
District MCA savings remain above date savings goal and heading.
Following Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) results were released this week, White Bear Lake Area Schools' savings performance was noted above the State's goal and heading for spring 2022.

Updated Strategic Plan Approved
At the August 2, 2021 School Board meeting, the Board heard an update of the District's Strategic Planning process and approved the updated strategic plan.

Upcoming Events
VIEW ALL EVENTS

- SEP 17**
Constitution Day
all day
- SEP 19**
2022 Homecoming Week
all day
- SEP 20**
2022 Homecoming Week
all day
- SEP 20**
Capital Projects Levy Renewal Public Meeting
@ 6:00 PM
10540 Sutter Center (2402 East County Road E, WBL)

Find Complete Information



Capital Projects Levy Renewal

At the July 11 regular meeting, the White Bear Lake Area School Board unanimously voted in favor of placing a capital projects levy renewal question on the November ballot. The capital projects levy contributes significantly to the ability of the District to meet its ongoing and increasing capital needs. Renewal of the levy is projected to generate \$2,590,309 annually for an additional 10 years beginning in 2024.

The tax rate for district property owners will remain unchanged, as this is a straight renewal of an existing levy.

The funds will be used in the following ways:

- **Safety and Security:** The capital projects levy allows the district to maintain and increase safety and security measures and equipment throughout the district.
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- **Transportation:** The capital projects levy allows the district to purchase buses and vans to maintain its fleet for student transportation.

See the full press release [here](#).

Informational Community Meetings

Community members will have a chance to learn about the renewal at public meetings that will take place this fall:

- **8:30 a.m. on Tues., Sept. 20 at the WBLAS Senior Center**
(2482 East County Road F, WBL)
- **7 p.m. on Tues., Sept. 27 at District Center**
(4855 Bloom Ave, WBL)
- **7 p.m. on Wed., Oct. 5 at Oneka Elementary**
(4888 Heritage Pkwy North, Hugo)

Capital Projects Levy Q&A

- + What will be funded with a successful levy vote?
- + Is there an easy way to remember what will be covered by the Capital Projects Levy?
- + What will happen if the renewal is not approved?
- + When was the Capital Projects Levy most recently approved?
- + Is the Capital Projects Levy Renewal a tax increase?

Capital Projects Levy Renewal Materials



Presentations

Find presentations related to the Capital Projects Levy below:

- **August 22, 2022 School Board Work Session survey presentation**
- **July 11, 2022 School Board Regular Meeting presentation**
- **May 23, 2022 School Board Work Session presentation**

Voting information

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on November 8, 2022.

POLLING PLACE FINDER

Find general election information on the MN Secretary of State website [here](#).

Contact us

- 651-407-7563,
Superintendent's Office

www.isd624.org/CapitalProjectsLevyRenewal

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VOTE - Nov. 8