

SCHOOL DISTRICT 197 CAPITAL PROJECT LEVY

Strong Schools. Strong Communities.



This fall, local voters will decide whether to approve a School District 197 capital project levy to help maintain the schools, programs, and services our community relies on.

Over the past two years, the district has already reduced spending by more than \$3.2 million. If approved, the levy would help reduce the need for additional budget cuts.

Capital Project Levy Overview

Election Day

November 3, 2026*

*Early voting begins Sept 18

Tax Impact

\$14/month for a
\$400,000 home

Levy Amount

\$4.6 million to our
schools each year

Why it Matters

Helps reduce future
budget cuts

What is a Capital Project Levy?

Despite its name, a capital project levy **would not fund new schools, stadiums or major construction projects**. Instead, it would **help pay for existing expenses**—such as textbooks, utilities, and transportation. This would allow more of the district's operating budget to remain focused on classrooms, helping reduce the need for future budget cuts.

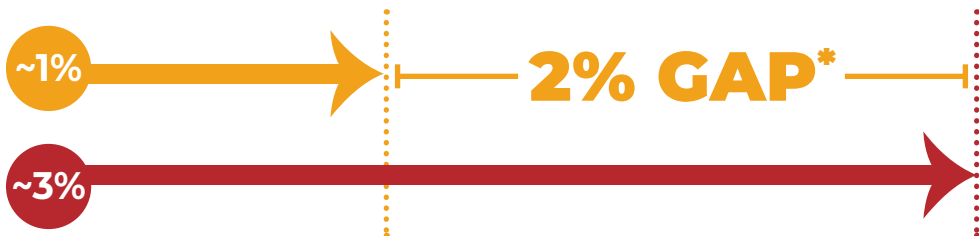
Why is a Capital Project Levy Needed?

Every year, the cost of operating our schools grows about \$2 million faster than available funding. Like most Minnesota school districts, rising costs for transportation, utilities, employee benefits, and special education continue to outpace state funding.

REVENUE GROWTH
(Revenue Available)

vs.

EXPENDITURE GROWTH
(Cost of Operating)



*The gap between these two rates compounds over time. In our budget, a 2% gap equals about \$2 million—roughly \$2 million more in costs than revenue each year.

Without additional funding, the district will likely need to make additional budget reductions in the coming years as costs continue to outpace funding.

Property Tax Impact

If the capital project levy
were approved:

\$4.6 million
annually to support
our schools

About **\$14/month (\$168/year)**
for the owner of
a \$400,000 home



Scan the QR code
to estimate the tax
impact for your home.

See the back to compare School District 197's
property taxes with neighboring districts.



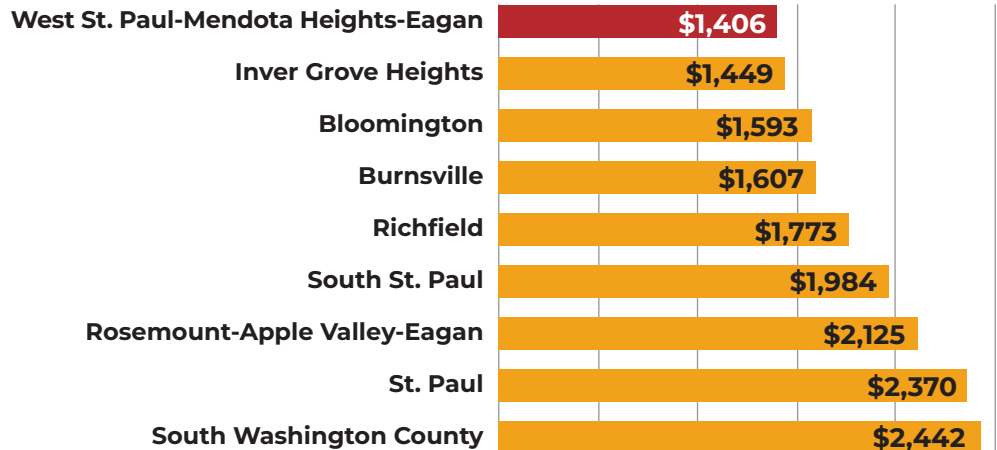
School Property Tax Comparison

For the average home, School District 197 has one of the lowest total school property tax rates in the Twin Cities **and the lowest among neighboring school districts.**

Source: Pay 26 School Tax Report.

West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan School District

Total School Property Taxes, Payable 2026, on a Home with an Estimated Market Value of \$400,000



The Value of Strong Public Schools

Strong public schools benefit everyone—not just families with children in our schools.

They help:

- Attract families to our community
- Support property values
- Prepare tomorrow's workforce
- Support local businesses
- Employ hundreds of local residents
- Offer lifelong learning for residents of all ages

Voting Information



Voters in School District 197 will be asked to go to the polls on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, to elect three school board members and vote on a capital project levy. Early voting begins on September 18. For more information, visit isd197.org/vote2026.

Community Information Meetings

Join us for an in-person community information session with Superintendent Peter Olson-Skog.



8 - 10am
District Office
1897 Delaware Avenue
Mendota Heights



4 - 6pm
District Office
1897 Delaware Avenue
Mendota Heights



5 - 7pm
Thompson Park Activity Center
1200 Stassen Lane
West St. Paul

LEARN MORE

If you have questions or need additional information about the school funding request, please reach out via one of the following ways:

VISIT

isd197.org/vote2026

EMAIL

levy@isd197.org

ATTEND

a community meeting



Prepared and paid for by Independent School District No. 197 (West St Paul - Mendota Heights - Eagan Area Schools), 1897 Delaware Ave., Mendota Heights, MN 55118. This publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot questions.