



# Levy referendum

Voter information for the Tuesday, Nov. 8, operating levy request



*This fall the Delano School Board is asking voters to approve a new operating levy to help fund our schools.*

*We invite you to examine the information provided in this publication carefully. It explains the reasons for the request, as well as the overall context of our situation.*

*Ultimately, our objective is to ensure that all property owners are well-informed about the issue, how the levy could affect their taxes, what the possible outcomes will be, and how they can weigh in with their vote.*

– Superintendent  
Matthew W. Schoen

## Summary

In 2012 Delano School District voters approved a 10-year operating levy to support classroom learning. That levy is now expiring, which means a loss of \$1 million in annual revenue, or the equivalent of 23 full-time positions, if a new levy is not approved.

In the last four years the district has reduced its budget by \$1.7 million and spent down its savings. Approval of a new levy would not restore any cuts already made, but would slow future cuts if only the first question passes, or delay them if both questions are approved.

## Request

### Question 1

**\$604.46**  
per pupil\*

The first ballot question asks voters to approve a new levy amount of \$604.46 per pupil to replace the expiring levy of \$404.46, an increase of \$200 per pupil.

### Tax increase

**\$100**  
per year

on an average home  
valued at \$350,000

### Question 2

**\$250**  
per pupil\*

The second question asks voters to approve an additional per pupil funding amount of \$250.

### Tax increase

**\$122**  
per year

### Total increase

**\$222**  
per year



Question 2 is contingent on Question 1, meaning it cannot pass unless Question 1 is approved.

\* Both per-pupil amounts are indexed to inflation, meaning the amount will adjust with inflation beginning in 2024.

## More info inside and online

See answers to FAQs, more details on how to see your specific tax impact, an explanation of the ballot questions, and voting information on the following pages. More details are also available online at [www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us).

## Potential Outcomes

**Q1**

**Q2**



If both questions pass, no budget cuts will be needed next school year. Some cuts may still be needed in future years.



Cuts of approximately \$360,000, or roughly the equivalent of five full-time staff members, would be needed for 2023-24.



Question 2 can only pass if Question 1 is approved, so this outcome would mirror the result for two “no” votes below.



The district would lose \$1 million in annual funding, and budget cuts would equal 23 full-time staff members.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. What is an operating levy?



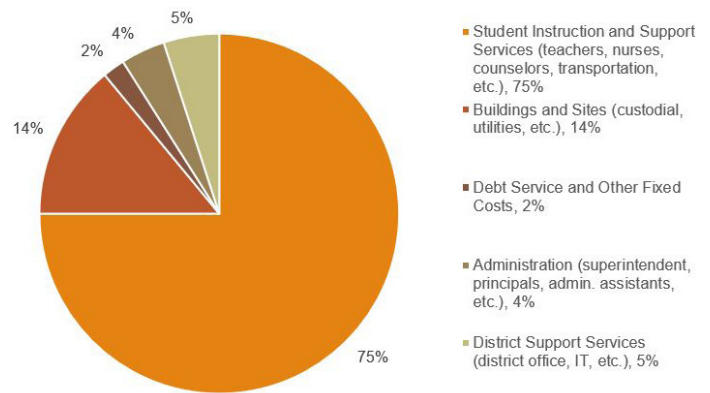
**Bonds are for building**

Operating levies cover the expenses of running the schools, including salaries, utilities, supplies and technology. They cannot last more than 10 years.



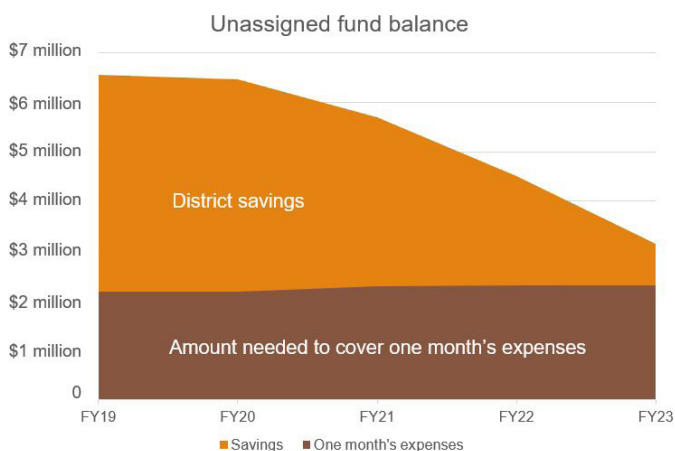
**Levies are for learning**

## 2. How does the district spend its money?



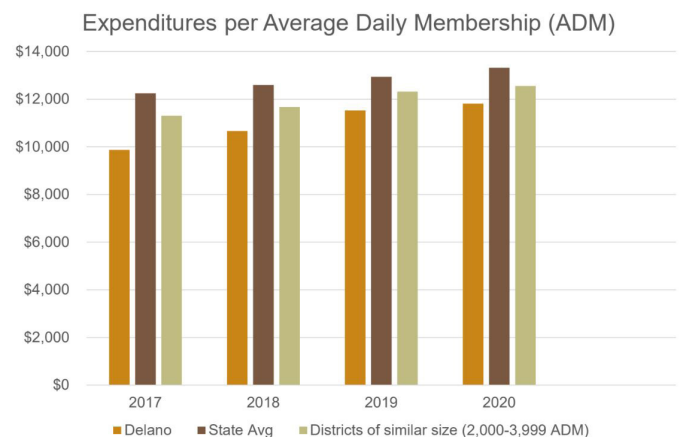
All operating levy revenue goes to the general fund, allocated as shown, to support the student learning.

## 3. Why not just renew the existing levy?



The district's savings has been depleted to soften the impact of recent cuts on programs and staffing because the expiring levy has not kept pace with expenses. This means future cuts will be larger.

## 4. Can the district be more efficient?



Delano consistently spends less than other districts of similar size. Independent auditors, who provided the graph above, said, 'You're being more efficient than the average district.'

## 5. Why are operating levies needed?

About 78 percent of the school district's budget comes from the state, and state funding has not kept pace with operating costs in recent decades (see the graph at right). This is true for all districts, and it means that a vast majority of districts depend in part on a local operating levy to cover remaining costs.

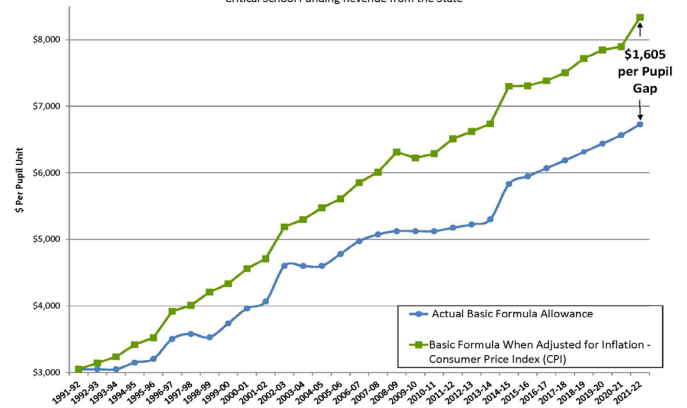
## 6. Why is the levy indexed to inflation?

The goal is for the levy to last 10 years. If it wasn't indexed to inflation, over time the levy would no longer provide the proportion of funding that it was originally intended to cover.



### The Basic Formula Has Not Kept Up With Inflation

Critical School Funding Revenue from the State



# Tax Impacts

Passage of this referendum will result in an increase in your property taxes.

Approval of Question 1 would result in a tax increase of about \$8.34 per month, or \$100 per year, on the average Delano home valued at \$350,000. The second question would add a tax impact of \$10.17 per month, or about \$122 per year, on the same home. To see the impact on your taxes specifically, go to the tax calculator (a portion of which is shown at right) at [www.ehlers-inc.com/microsite/delano2022/](http://www.ehlers-inc.com/microsite/delano2022/) and enter the estimated market value found on your county property tax statement.

## ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE

Enter only whole numbers to the nearest dollar  
(no dollar signs, commas, or decimals).

CALCULATE

# Ballot Information

\* NOTE: FOR VOTERS IN WRIGHT COUNTY AND THE CITY OF CORCORAN, QUESTION 2 IS LISTED ON THE BACK OF THE BALLOT.

## Special Election Ballot

Independent School District No. 879  
(Delano Public 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.

This is an increase of \$200 per pupil over the expiring levy.

### School District Question 1 Approval of School District Referendum Revenue Authorization

The board of Independent School District No. 879 (Delano Public Schools) has proposed to increase its general education revenue by \$604.46 per pupil. A portion of this proposed referendum revenue authorization would replace the school district's existing authorization of \$404.46 which is scheduled to expire after taxes payable in 2022. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation and be applicable for ten years beginning with taxes payable in 2023, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

☐

Yes

Shall the increase in the revenue proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 879 be approved?

☐

No

BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

The per-pupil amount will adjust for inflation starting in 2024.

The tax impact on a home valued at \$350,000 would be \$100 per year, or \$8.34 per month.

Question 2 can only pass if Question 1 is approved.

### School District Question 2 Approval of Additional School District Referendum Revenue Authorization

The board of Independent School District No. 879 (Delano Public Schools) has proposed to increase its general education revenue by \$250 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation and be applicable for ten years, beginning with taxes payable in 2023, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

☐

Yes

If School District Question 1 is approved, shall the increase in the revenue proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 879 be approved?

☐

No

BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

The tax impact on a home valued at \$350,000 would be \$122 per year, or \$10.17 per month.

**Delano School District**  
**700 Elm Avenue East**  
**Delano, MN 55328**



**Delano Public Schools Vision**

*Systemic growth toward educational  
excellence for every learner*

**2022 Board of Education**

Rachel Depa, Chair  
Amy Johnson, Vice Chair  
Jennie Rosenow, Clerk  
Jim Gierke, Treasurer  
Corey Black, Director  
Lisa Seguin, Director  
Sue Roeser, Director

*Prepared and paid for by Delano Public  
Schools District 879. This publication is  
not circulated on behalf of any candidate  
or ballot question.* If you have questions,  
contact Communications Coordinator Paul  
Downer at 763.972.3365, ext. 1911, or  
[paul.downer@delanoschools.org](mailto:paul.downer@delanoschools.org).

**Follow us online at**



***Educational Excellence is Our Foremost Goal***

Place of Residence	Polling Place (Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Nov. 8)
City of Delano	Delano City Hall, 234 2nd St N, Delano, MN
City of Independence	Independence City Hall, 1920 Cty Rd 90, Independence, MN 55390
City of Corcoran	Corcoran City Hall, 8200 Cty Rd 116, Corcoran, MN
City of Greenfield	Greenfield City Hall, 7738 Commerce Cir, Greenfield, MN 55373
City of Loretto	Loretto City Hall, 279 N Medina St, Loretto, MN 55357
City of Medina	Medina City Hall, 2052 Cty Rd 24, Hamel, MN 55340
City of Minnetrista	Minnetrista City Hall, 7701 Cty Rd 110 W, Minnetrista, MN 55364
Franklin Township	Franklin Town Hall, 8735 Cty Rd 16 SE, Delano, MN 55328
Rockford Township	Rockford Township Hall, 3039 Dague Ave SE, Buffalo, MN 55313
Woodland Township	Woodland Township Hall, 9065 Clementa Ave SW, Montrose, MN 55363

**Early Voting in Person**

Voters residing in one of the cities above can fill out an absentee ballot at their city hall between Sept. 23 and Nov. 7. Township residents can vote early at the Wright County elections office (3650 Braddock Ave NE, Suite 1400, Buffalo, MN 55313).

**Early Voting by Mail**

For information on how to vote by mail, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/>

**See more information at [www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us)**