



MAINTAINING WHAT MATTERS MOST

Waconia Public Schools 2025 Operating Levy FACT SHEET

Why is ISD 110 Pursuing a Levy Referendum?

After making \$4.6 million in budget adjustments in the Spring of 2023, and achieving a positive fund balance for the first time since 2017, Waconia Public Schools is at a financial crossroads as it focuses on the future and what matters most. **The District remains in the bottom 25% of all districts in the State of Minnesota when it comes to per pupil revenue.** The decision to pursue a \$3 million operating levy on November 4 is an attempt to maintain what district residents say they value most about Waconia Public Schools:

- High-quality and experienced teachers and staff
- A broad range of academic and co-curricular programs
- Class sizes that foster the best environment for student achievement

What will the money be used for?

PRIORITYING PEOPLE	PRESERVING PROGRAMS	PROTECTING CLASS SIZES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Recruit and retain experienced and high quality teachers and staff ✓ Offer competitive salaries and benefits in line with our comparable school districts ✓ Manageable class sizes create healthy and sustainable workloads for teachers ✓ Continue to ensure that teachers and staff feel welcomed, respected, and heard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Academic Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Placement • College in the Schools • Concurrent Enrollment • Elective Options ✓ Fine Arts Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show Choir • Fifth Grade Band • Band/Choir • Theater • Speech Team ✓ Athletic Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boys & Girls • MSHSL Sports ✓ Student Clubs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Club • Robotics • DECA • Unified Sports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Maintaining our ability to achieve targeted class sizes in elementary level (K-5) homeroom classes ✓ Maintaining our ability to achieve targeted class sizes for secondary level (6-12) core subject classes (math, science, language arts, and social studies) ✓ Have the option to invest in previously lost positions such as media specialists and elementary specialists



PRIORITYING PEOPLE



PRESERVING PROGRAMS



PROTECTING CLASS SIZES



91%
District residents rate the quality of education provided by Waconia Public Schools as either “excellent” or “good”.

Source: Morris Leatherman Community Survey (Spring 2025)





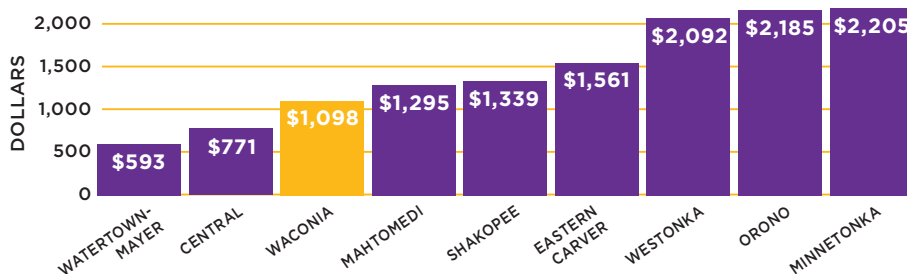
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Our Story: A Timeline

2018	2020	2022	2023	2024	2025	2028
Passed \$525 Per Student Operating Levy	Passed \$410 Per Student Operating Levy	Leadership Changes Including a New Superintendent and Many New Cabinet-Level Administrators	\$4.6 Million in Budget Adjustments Announced Including: Staffing and Admin. Cuts, Increased Fees, and a Retructured Middle School Schedule	First Positive Fund Balance Achieved Since 2017	Community Survey Conducted by Morris Leatherman	Projected Negative Fund Balance Without Additional Funding
Entered Statutory Operating Debt (SOD)	COVID-19 Pandemic			Multi-Year Contract Agreements with WEA, Principals, Custodial & ESP Groups	Asking Community to Support \$3 Million Operating Levy	

Comparing Voter Approved Operating Levy Amounts Per Pupil by School District



If the operating levy is approved on Nov. 4, it would increase Waconia's operating levy revenue by approximately \$731 per pupil.

What happens if it is voted down?

Repeat budget reduction process from spring 2023, but with fewer options left, we know it will impact:

People

- Staffing reductions
- Inability to invest in wages/benefits
- Assignment changes

Programs

- Reductions to academic and co-curricular programs
- Reduced supports and opportunities in and out of the classroom

Class Sizes

- Increased class sizes
- Reduced secondary offerings/electives

Key Voting Dates

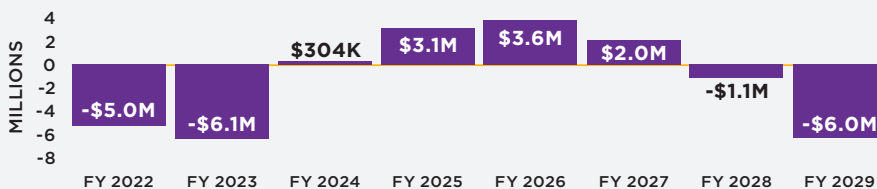
September 1: Request an absentee ballot on the Secretary of State website

September 19: Early In-Person Voting Begins at District Office (7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., M-F)

November 4: Election Day (Polls Open 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

Find your polling place at pollfinder.sos.mn.gov

General Fund Balance Projections Without Additional Operating Levy



District policy requires an unassigned fund balance of 5% of total expenditures (\$2.8 million)

What is the tax impact for me?

TAX IMPACT IF OPERATING LEVY IS APPROVED

\$300K
\$18/Month

\$450K
\$27/Month

\$600K
\$35/Month

SCAN QR CODE FOR A TAX
IMPACT CALCULATOR OR VISIT
WWW.BIT.LY/110TAXIMPACT



93%

District residents rate the job performance of Waconia Public Schools teachers and instructional staff as either "excellent" or "good".

Source: Morris Leatherman Community Survey (Spring 2025)

Where can I get more information?

Referendum Website:
www.isd110referendum.org

Email Questions:
isd110vote@isd110.org



Prepared and paid for by ISD 110 (Waconia), 512 Industrial Blvd., Waconia MN 55387.