

CommuniCAT

SPECIAL EDITION: REFERENDUM 2018 - OPERATING LEVY



On November 6, 2018, residents of ISD110, Waconia Public Schools, will be asked to vote on a request to increase local school funding through an operating levy. If approved by voters, the funding would be used to continue providing quality education for our students.

Just this past school year, the class of 2018 at Waconia High School demonstrated, once again, how the quality of education at Waconia Public Schools impacts lives.

Of the 286 graduates, 157 students received academic awards, 63 seniors took college level classes and 51 seniors were members of the National Honor Society. This type of success is something that is developed throughout the educational journey of each student

and becomes a source of pride for the entire community.

FUNDING NOT KEEPING PACE

The vast majority of funding for school district operations - 85% - comes from the state of Minnesota. The rest comes from federal funding, property taxes and other local sources. State funding has not been keeping pace with inflation or increasing costs, which has created a gap in funding.



COVERING THE GAP

Waconia Public Schools has been spending down the fund balance to cover that gap but this practice is no longer sustainable.

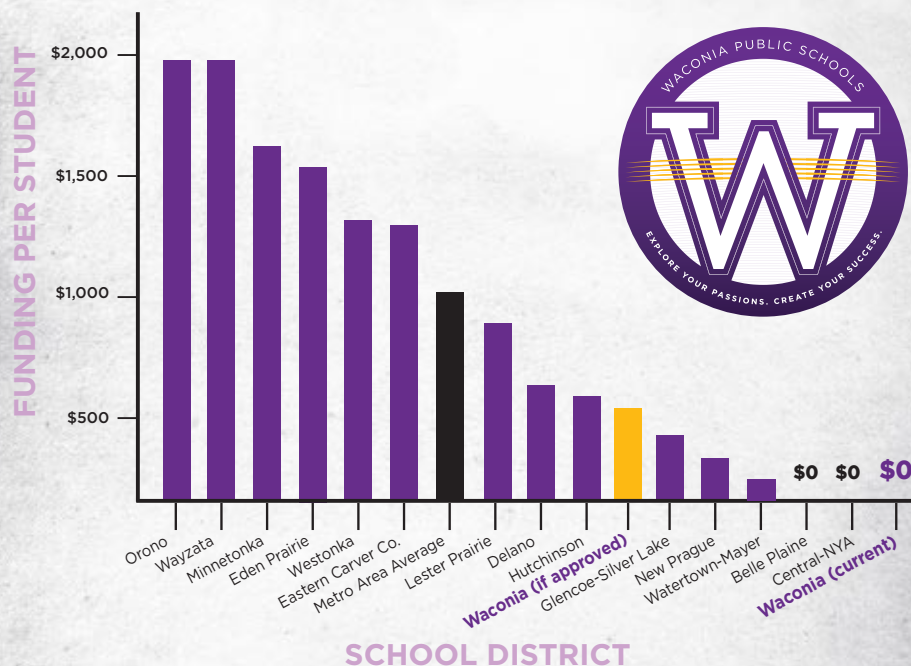
Many other school districts across the state have made up for the lack of funding by asking voters to approve an operating levy.

The comparison chart on this page shows surrounding school districts and the funding per student operating levy dollars that their voters have approved.

Waconia is one of the only school districts in the area without a voter approved operating levy. Waconia Public Schools is asking voters to consider an operating levy that would generate about \$525 per student in additional funding. The levy would provide critical funding for classrooms, instruction and other operating costs. The estimated tax impact for the average homeowner in the district (\$300,000 home value) would be about \$23 per month.

FUNDING PER STUDENT

VOTER-APPROVED OPERATING LEVY, 2018-19



Waconia is one of the only school districts in our area without a voter-approved operating levy. These levies provide critical funding for classrooms, instruction and other operating costs.

LEARN MORE

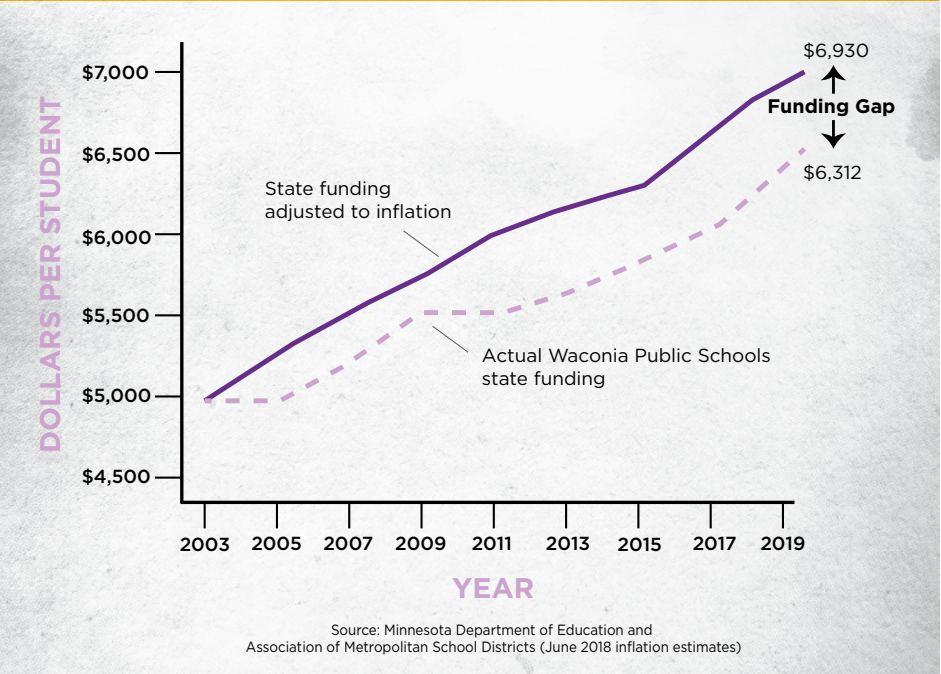
On the web:
isd110.org

Email:
referendum2018@isd110.org

Call:
(952) 442-0611

2003 - 2019

STATE GENERAL EDUCATION FUNDING PER STUDENT



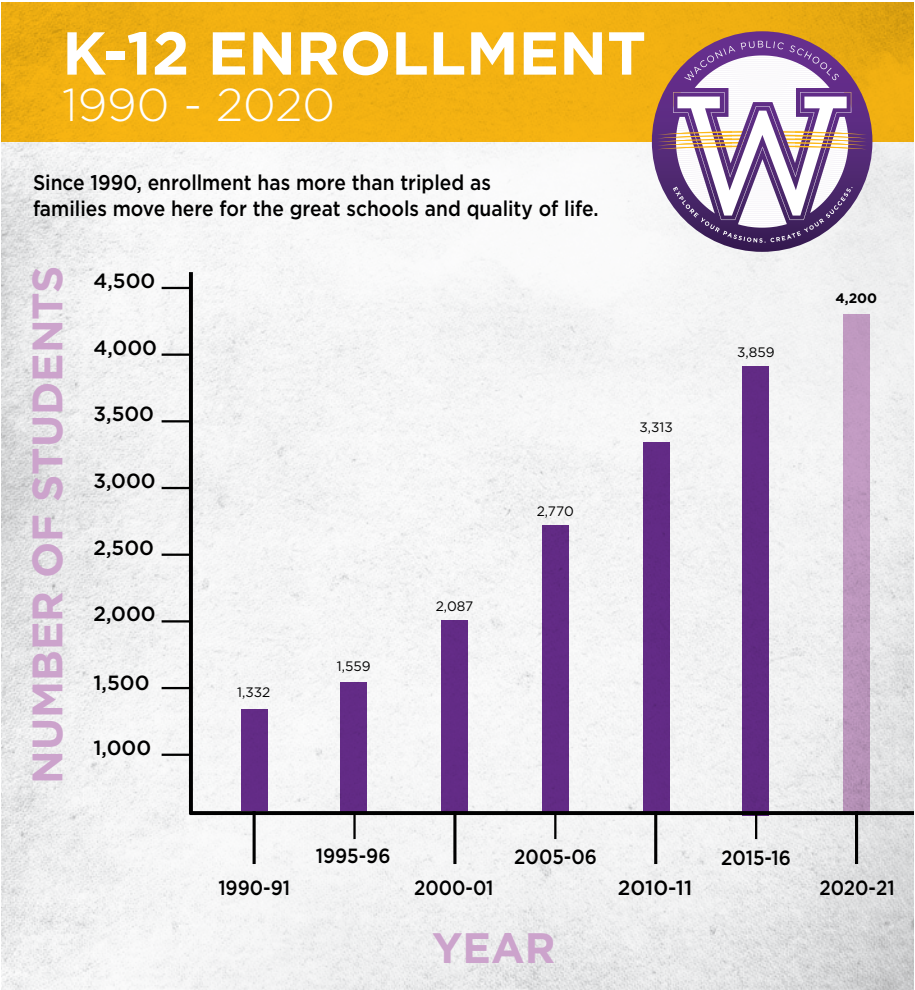
FUNDING REQUEST

The proposed operating levy would generate approximately \$2.2 million in annual school funding to support student learning. The estimated tax impact for the average homeowner in the district (\$300,000 home value) would be about \$23 per month. For those who want to calculate the tax impact on their home or business, there is a tax calculator on the website at: isd110.org.



POPULAR SCHOOL DISTRICT

Since the 1990s, Waconia Public Schools enrollment has tripled. During that same time, how teachers educate students has also changed. New technology, new research about how children learn and new methods of teaching are all changing what happens in classrooms.



FUNDING FACTS

› For the past 15 years, state education funding has not kept pace with inflation or increasing costs, putting pressure on school budgets across the state.

› The special education programs that we are required to provide also cost more than we receive each year, putting additional pressure on the operating budget.

› Overall, our school district is in the bottom 1% of all Minnesota school districts for general education funding, ranking 328 out of 331.



- IF VOTERS APPROVE THE OPERATING LEVY REQUEST
- Enables the district to:
- › Maintain quality education programming currently offered
 - › Develop additional business partnerships that prepare students for work or college after high school through authentic learning experiences
 - › Strengthen student support systems
 - › Provide students with more voice and choice through personalized learning
 - › Support the commitments outlined in the community-developed strategic roadmap
 - › Explore new academic and activity programs

- IF VOTERS DO NOT APPROVE THE OPERATING LEVY REQUEST
- The district would face budget cuts of more than \$2 million, which could result in these actions:
- › Reduce teaching and administrative staff
 - › Increase class sizes at some or all grade levels
 - › Reduce and/or eliminate some athletics and extracurricular activities
 - › Reduce support staff
 - › Reduce world language offerings
 - › Reduce music and art programs
 - › Increase some student fees





VOTE!

TUESDAY, NOV. 6

Strong Schools = Strong Communities

COMMUNITY-BASED DECISION

In addition to reviewing district budget options, the School Board engaged our community through a strategic planning process and a community survey before unanimously deciding to ask voters to consider increasing our local school funding through an operating levy. The goal is to maintain educational quality while being financially responsible.

BONDS ARE FOR BUILDING, LEVIES ARE FOR LEARNING

In 2014, voters approved building bonds for major renovations to our school buildings. Bonds provide funding for construction costs and cannot be used for school district operations. This 2018 request is to increase our operating levy, which funds school operations by paying for educational programming, teachers and other staff, classroom materials, utilities and transportation costs.

#WEareONE10



LEARN MORE

On the web: isd110.org

Email: referendum2018@isd110.org

Call: (952) 442-0611



VOTING INFORMATION

Tuesday, November 6 • 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Early voting / absentee ballots available
in late September

Voting Questions

www.mnvotes.org • (952) 856-4514