



# Referendum Considerations #4

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School Board Work Session  
April 8, 2021

# Purpose of Tonight's Discussion

Provide information to the board to help with future decision-making:

- Update on Bond timeline
- Overview of expiring levy impact
- Review ongoing funding needs
- Consider options/timelines to increase revenue

## Future decision points:

By this summer, the board will need to determine:

- What is included in referendum
- Number of ballot questions
- Total amount of referendum request
- How new funding will be invested

# Addressing Our Facility Needs

	Spring 2021 Lease Levy	February 2022 Bond OR August 2022 Bond	August 2022 Bond
Projects	Brookview addition only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lake Elmo Elementary</li><li>• Other projects TBD</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lake Elmo Elementary</li><li>• Other projects TBD</li></ul>
Timeline	Open Mid-Year 2021-2022 or Fall 2022	Open Fall 2024	Mid-Year 2024-2025
Considerations		Review and Comment would be due in November 2021	Review and Comment would be due in May 2022

# Board Discussion

Would board members prefer a February 2022  
or August 2022 Bond?



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# Investing in Excellence

Levy 2013 proposal provides funding to:

Support current programs and minimize budget cuts by **providing financial stability**

**82% of request**

Invest in our students' needs for the 21st century by **supporting our community-driven Bridge to Excellence plan**

**15% of request**

Increase school safety and security by **improving our safe school environments**

**3% of request**



# What The Expiring Levy Pays For?

The expiring levy has helped to stabilize funding for the past 8 years:

- Support current programs
- Address annual budget shortfalls
  - Inflation
  - Rising costs
  - State funding shortfall
  - Unfunded mandates
- Minimize budget cuts

## Examples of Levy Initiatives:

- Elementary art teachers
- Dual Language Spanish Immersion program
- Pathways & Possibilities career exploration at high school
- BARR (Building Assets Reducing Risks) program for grades 9 and 10
- Controlled access into schools
- Behavior interventions

# What the 2013 Levy Looks Like Today

Levy generates \$1,288.73/pupil  
estimated authority for FY 2020-21

= Approximately **\$11.4 million**

We've cut our budget 3 times  
(totaling \$7 million) since levy was  
approved in fall 2013

**\$11.4 million** in 2013 is  
equivalent in purchasing power  
to about **\$12.87 million** today

- The dollar had an average inflation rate of 1.53% per year = cumulative price increase of 12.90%
- Today's prices are 1.13 times higher than average prices in 2013
- A dollar today only buys 88.57% of what it could buy back then

*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics consumer price index*

# Addressing Our Funding Needs

<i>Renewing isn't enough:</i> <b>REPLACE expiring levy</b>	<b>Support current programs and initiatives</b>
<b>\$13 million</b>	<b>\$1.9 million</b>
Address ongoing budget shortfall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Inflation</li><li>● Rising costs</li><li>● State funding shortfall</li><li>● Unfunded mandates</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Career Pathways = \$250,000</li><li>● Language Immersion to middle school = \$500,000</li><li>● Curriculum and instruction = \$1 million</li><li>● School supports = \$150,000</li></ul>



# Options to Expand Opportunities

- High school schedule/Career Pathways = \$2 million
- 1:1 technology program = \$1.9 million
- Academic support and intervention = \$1.3 million
- Mental Health support = \$550,000



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# Options To Increase Levy Revenue

## Increased Operating Levy

- Up to an additional \$530 per student based on current cap amount
- Would result in additional \$4.7 to \$5 million of revenue

## Technology/Capital Projects Levy

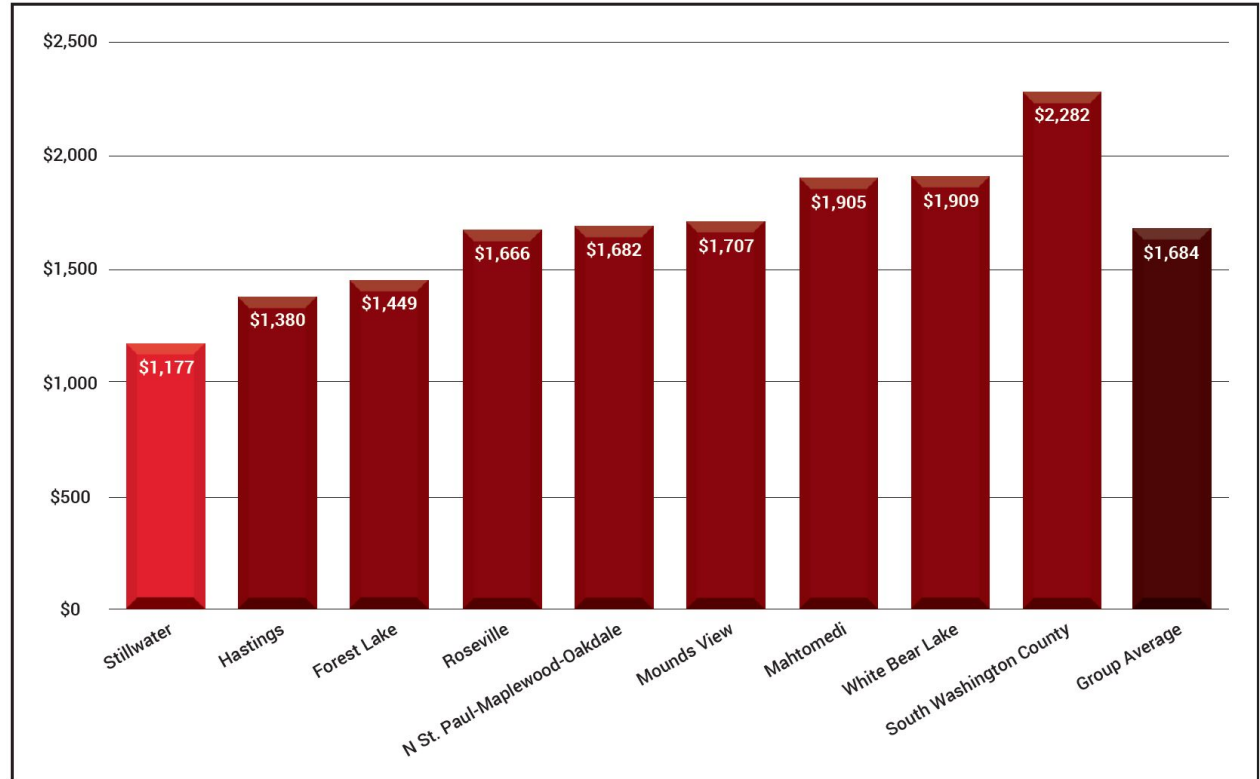
- No cap for technology levy
- Must be spent on specific technology needs identified in statute
- Could free up about \$2.8 million in general fund dollars and provide new funds to support a 1:1 technology program



# How We Compare

## Stillwater Area Public Schools, ISD 834

Estimated Total School Property Taxes, Payable 2021, on a Home with an Estimated Market Value of \$350,000



Tax Base Source: Final values from Washington, Dakota and Ramsey Counties.

Levy Source: Taxes Payable 2021 Levy Certification Reports

3/23/2021

# Board Discussion

What are board members thinking in terms of November referendum?

- Number of questions
- Total amount of referendum request
- How new funding will be invested
- What additional information is needed to help in decision-making?



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