



“NO” New Levy

Mounds View School District 621

November 5, 2019

Arden Hills

Mounds View

New Brighton

North Oaks

Roseville

Shoreview

Vadnais Heights

**Portions of - Spring Lake Park
and White Bear Lake**

Information

The levy from 2003 was renewed in 2010 and expires in 2019. The levy from 2006 was renewed in 2013. The proposal to combine the two levies plus increasing them \$12 million raises the per pupil rate by \$900.

“The proposed new referendum revenue authorization of **\$1,735.41** would increase each year by the rate of inflation and be applicable for ten years beginning with taxes payable in 2020.” *

This is the **third time** the District has come to the taxpayers for both levies and the total timeline extension and/or increase is 26/23 years, respectively.

The School Board claims that it has been 13 years since the District has requested a levy increase. This statement does not reflect home values rising and has resulted in the School Board receiving an additional \$3.3 million on these two levies since 2015.

Thought - *If you pay the last payment for your home and the mortgage company said they want to “extend” your loan, would you not think this a household budget increase? It absolutely is!*

Spending

There was a \$4.4 million expenditure increase from 2018 due to inflation and employer defined pension benefits.

Although revenue increased higher than expected in 2018, general fund expenses were \$3.5 million over budget.

With all this money they are levying, why are they overspending by \$1.4 million and having to borrow from reserves when there were only 92 more students from the year prior FY19.*

The FYJune 2018 audit report states “**\$23,135,058** constitutes unassigned fund balance, which is available for spending at the District’s discretion.”



WHAT DID THEY SPEND THIS ON?

What is the bottom-line number a school district needs before they stop taxing you every year?

Why Vote No

- ▶ Operational levies add up to \$19 million plus the inflation rate each year which will compound for 10 years. The District may not come to you for an increase every year, but why would they have to when you will see large increases on this \$19 million levy for those 10 years.
 - ▶ In 2019-2020 there are 910* less elementary students than the previous year. How does that warrant \$19 million more over the next 10 years when enrollment projections have proved to be inaccurate?
 - ▶ Since 2017 the budget has increased \$10.2 million with a proposed \$1.27 more in fiscal year 2019-20.
- ▶ Even with an increase in levies the proposed projected fund balance (reserves) will decrease by \$6.6 million by fiscal year 2021-2022* because of out-of-control spending
 - ▶ The School Board does not practice fiduciary responsibility. They overspend and replace the deficit with reserves knowing that they can come back and once again ask for more levy funds. Once they spend the money, the only way to make it up is to tax us.
 - ▶ The School Board states: “The increase will represent a monthly tax increase of \$28 for owners of a median-valued home in the District.” This amount does not consider the different city tax rates or the median-valued home in each city throughout the District.

*Sources: FY18 Audit and 2019-2020 Budget Proposal

<https://www.moundsviewschools.org/cms/lib/MN01909629/Centricity/domain/50/financial%20statements/2018.0621.01.MoundsView.FinStm.District.pdf>

Questions / Concerns

- General purpose funds, (i.e. special ed, nutrition service funds, etc.) are being reduced is not the case. They are increasing per the proposed budget.
- State Funding increased 2% or \$124/pupil
- Federal Funding (4%) did not decrease
- Corporations pay property taxes – not to be confused with income taxes
- Classroom sizes have not increased
- Programs will not be cut
- District is not running on a shoestring. \$156,000,000/per year spending/budget

Fast Facts:

- Teacher to student ratio is 17:1
- Mounds View School District is the third highest employer in the District
- 7 out of 10 resident households have no school-aged children
- Average daily membership totals:
 - ▶ 2015 10,762
 - ▶ 2016 11,146
 - ▶ 2017 11,297
 - ▶ 2018 11,389
 - ▶ 2019-2020* 11,504

- The average expenditure per student is*:
 - ▶ 2015 \$15,435
 - ▶ 2016 \$15,237
 - ▶ 2017 \$15,639
 - ▶ 2018 \$15,997
- School District spent \$16,000 per student in 2019
- Standardized testing scores in reading and math have stagnated since 2015 and in some cases such as grade 10 have performed poorly



TAXES ARE NOT “DONE FOR A DECADE”

They are increasing and compounding each year for 10 years.

