

Strong Schools. Strong Communities.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 197 10 Levy Facts



Big Picture Overview

Why a Levy is Needed

This fall, voters will decide whether to approve a School District 197 levy to help maintain our schools, programs, and services. After more than \$3.2 million in budget reductions over the past two years, the district has reached a point where additional cuts will reach deeper into the classroom.

Why does School District 197 have a \$2 million annual funding gap?

Because of inflation and decades of underfunding, the cost to educate students grows by about 3% each year, while the funding we receive from the state grows by only 1%. **Every year, this creates a \$2 million funding gap.**

The Funding Gap

\$2 MILLION

Inflation and decades of underfunding have created an ongoing \$2 million annual funding gap.



What has the district already done to address the budget gap?

School District 197 made more than \$3.2 million in budget cuts over the last two years. For the 2026-27 school year alone, the district reduced spending by \$2.55 million, including \$1.73 million in position reductions. The district has also kept administrative costs low.

Steps Already Taken

**\$3.2
MILLION**

Cuts from the district budget over the past two years.



How much would the proposed levy provide?

If approved, the levy would provide \$4.6 million each year for 10 years, beginning in the 2027-28 school year. The funding would help address the district's \$2 million annual funding gap and help rebuild the district's fund balance toward the School Board-approved 8% target.

The Proposed Levy

**\$4.6
MILLION**

Annually for 10 years,
beginning in the
2027-28 school year.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 197
What We Teach • What We Measure Matters • What We Expect

**Strong Schools.
Strong Communities.**

VOTE NOV. 3



What would the levy fund?

The levy would fund existing eligible expenses, including textbooks and teaching materials, safety and security, building maintenance and utilities, and transportation. The levy would **not** fund new schools, major construction, or new or expanded programs.

What it Would Fund

Existing Expenses

Textbooks , safety, building maintenance, utilities, transportation



How much would it cost residents if the levy passed?

If approved, the estimated tax impact would be about \$14 per month for the owner of a \$400,000 home. The tax impact will vary based on each home's estimated market value. Because the levy is funded through property taxes, there would be no direct tax impact on renters.

The Tax Impact

\$14 per **MONTH**

For the owner of a \$400,000 home.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 197
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The infographic features a red background with a yellow border. At the bottom, there is a yellow wavy line. A circular logo for School District 197 is in the bottom right corner, containing the text 'Strong Schools. Strong Communities.' and 'VOTE NOV. 3' above a small illustration of a school and trees.

How do School District 197 property taxes compare with other school districts?

School District 197 has some of the lowest total school property taxes in the metro area. We rank 40th out of 47 metro school districts, making it the seventh lowest. Closer to home, School District 197 has the lowest total school property taxes among our neighboring school districts.

School Property Taxes

Lowest Tax Rate

School District 197 has the lowest total school property taxes than all neighboring districts.



What happens if the levy fails to pass?

The district will make another \$2-\$4 million in budget cuts for the 2027-28 school year. Those cuts will include staff reductions, larger class sizes, higher caseloads, reduced student programming, and reduced transportation services.

If Levy is Not Approved

**\$2-\$4
MILLION**

In additional budget cuts next year, including staff reductions, larger class sizes, and more.



When and where can voters cast their ballots?

Voters in School District 197 will be asked to go to the polls on Tuesday, November 3, to elect three school board members and vote on a capital project levy. Absentee and early voting are now available.

Election Day



Nov. 3

Find your polling location
and learn more at
isd197.org/vote2026.



What is the Permanent School Fund question on the November ballot?

Voters will see a Permanent School Fund constitutional amendment in November. If approved, it would provide School District 197 approximately \$150,000 more annually without raising taxes, but would not close the district's \$2 million funding gap. A blank vote counts as a "No" vote.

Permanent School Fund

+0.2%

Equivalent to nearly \$150,000 more annually if approved—but not enough to close the district's funding gap.



How does School District 197's administrative spending compare to other districts?

School District 197 spends 2.7% of its budget on administrative pay—nearly half the statewide average of 5%.

Those figures are from before nearly \$2 million in staff reductions this year, which will further reduce administrative spending.

Administrative Spending

2.7%

of School District 197's budget is spent on administrative pay—compared to 5% statewide.



A Few More Things to Remember

- The Permanent School Fund question will be on the front of the ballot.
- The levy question will be on the back of the ballot.
- Our budget, including budget cuts, reaches beyond our classrooms.