

BOARD REPORT

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Dave Bernhardson, Superintendent

DATE: Monday, August 17, 2026



TOPIC/PURPOSE OF REPORT: November 3, 2026 Election Update

REFERENCE TO POLICY/STRATEGIC PLAN: Policy 104 - School District Mission Statement

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION: Information Item

DATE FOR BOARD ACTION: For Board Knowledge

REPORT

Superintendent Dave Bernhardson will provide an update on the upcoming November 3, 2026, election.

On November 3, residents of Inver Grove Heights Schools (ISD 199) will vote on three ISD 199 School Board seats. The seats are currently held by Shana Dukes, Carrie Lounsberry, and Sarah Larson. Board Chair Carrie Lounsberry will not seek re-election.

The following candidates filed affidavits of candidacy:

- Shana Dukes (*incumbent*)
- Sarah Larsen (*incumbent*)
- Amy Reynertson
- Michael Wakefield

After conducting a professional survey of the community and receiving very positive feedback (80% support), our school board approved a renewal question to be placed on the November 3 ballot. We are asking for your support to continue providing and maintaining learning tools for students without an increase to your taxes. Our theme, Renew 199, is all about continuing support for our students with the resources we have now. Our goal is to continue existing funding to prepare our students for tomorrow with no new taxes for our neighbors today.

Renewal Goal #1: Continue to provide updated learning tools for our students (Purchase and maintain curriculum, classroom technology, learning software, career and technical tools, large musical instruments, and classroom furnishings)

Renewal Goal #2: No new taxes for our neighbors (Renew at no tax increase, avoid a \$1.1 million deficit and budget cuts)

Renewal would allow the district to maintain and, when necessary, update its current learning tools without a tax increase.

Renewing ISD 199's Capital Projects Levy would result in no tax increase. The renewal would simply continue the district's current Capital Projects Levy, which was originally approved in 2017 and has been helping students succeed since then.

If approved, the renewal would provide crucial learning tools for students without putting class sizes at risk. The Capital Projects Levy allows the district to purchase and maintain necessary learning tools without using the general funds we need to maintain staffing and class sizes.