

# ISD 726 - Becker Public Schools

Exploration of Operating  
Referendum Information for  
School Board Meeting held  
on July 7, 2025

**BAIRD**



Information prepared by Baird MN Education Team  
Michael Hoheisel – Managing Director  
Matt Rantapaa - Director  
Riley Fischer – Financial Analyst



**WHY ARE WE  
CONTEMPLATING ASKING  
FOR NEW REVENUE FROM  
OUR TAXPAYERS NOW?**

## WHY NOW? – COMPENSATORY FUNDING

### Compensatory (Free & Reduced-Price Lunch)

Revenue is based on student eligibility for free/reduced-price meals and provides funds for schools to support underprepared students. In 2023, the state moved to universal free meals, which reduces form submissions—and thus eligibility data—potentially lowering compensatory revenue. The legislature appropriated \$55 million in FY26 only and established a legislative task force to make recommendations on future program changes.

For Becker, loss of compensatory revenue means fewer resources for interventions like extra instruction, early literacy, and math support forcing potential difficult choices about staffing and programming.

## WHY NOW? – SEASONAL UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Minnesota passed a law in 2023 extending unemployment insurance to non-instructional school workers during the summer. A \$135 million trust fund was appropriated to cover costs until June 2027 or until depleted

After Fiscal Year 2027, districts may/must absorb costs—either via local levies (from FY 2028 onward) or general fund budgets

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## **WHY NOW? – PAID FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE ACT**

**Paid Family Medical  
Leave Act (PFMLA)  
modifications commence  
January 1, 2026**

**Financial strain from  
these leave requirements  
may lead to reduced  
staff, increased  
operational costs, or  
potential cuts in services**

## WHY NOW? – OTHER ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION



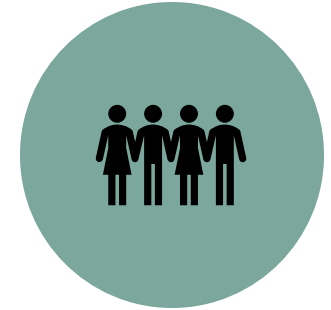
INCREASE COSTS DUE TO  
ADDITIONAL READ ACT  
REQUIREMENTS



REDUCTION IN SPECIAL  
EDUCATION  
TRANSPORTATION REVENUE



REDUCED STATE FUNDING  
FOR SCHOOL MEALS



REDUCED STUDENT  
SUPPORT PERSONNEL AID

Resolution calling for the Operating Levy Referendum is being considered at this July 7, 2025, School Board meeting. The District Board must act by August 12, 2025, to hold a November 4, 2025, Operating Levy Referendum.

Notice to County Auditor and last day to Adopt Resolution Calling for Election	Tuesday, August 12, 2025
Notice to Commissioner	Friday, August 22, 2025
Vote Absentee	Friday, September 19, 2025
Election Day	Tuesday, November 4, 2025

# ELECTION DATES OF IMPORTANCE



# **NOVEMBER 4, 2025, BALLOT QUESTION OPTIONS**



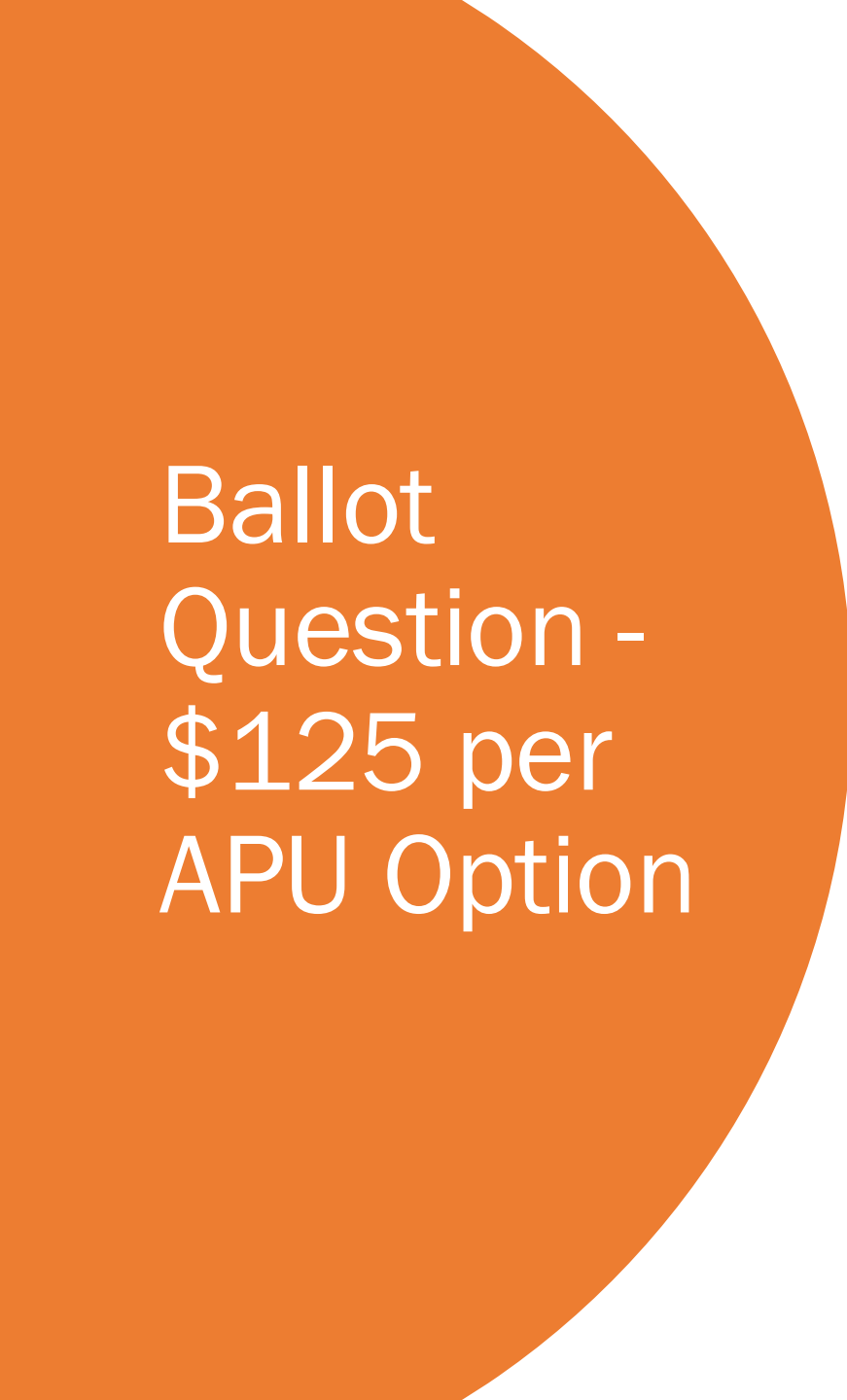


***BALLOT  
LANGUAGE  
DISCLAIMER***

**PLEASE NOTE – THE BALLOT QUESTION  
EXAMPLES INCLUDED IN THIS SLIDE  
SHOW ARE FOR ILLUSTRATION ONLY AND  
STILL NEED TO BE REVIEWED AND VETTED  
BY JUSTIN REPPE AT KUTAK ROCK  
(DISTRICT LEGAL / BOND COUNSEL) AS  
OF JUNE 24, 2025**



# **SINGLE BALLOT QUESTION OPTION - \$125 PER APU OPERATING LEVY REFERENDUM**

A large orange circle is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially cut off by the edge.

# Ballot Question - \$125 per APU Option

## SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION 1 APPROVAL OF SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION

The School Board of Independent School District No. 726 (Becker Public Schools), Minnesota has proposed to increase its general education revenue by \$125 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be first levied in 2025 for taxes payable in 2026 and would be applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced by law. Shall the increase in general education revenue proposed by the school board of Independent School District No. 726 (Becker Public Schools), Minnesota be approved?


**BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE  
VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.**

A series of four yellow brushstroke-like lines are located in the bottom right corner of the slide, arranged in a curved pattern.

Ballot Question - \$125 per APU requests voters to approve an increase in its voter approved operating levy referendum revenue by \$422K annually and will be used to fund operational needs district wide.

# BALLOT QUESTION - \$125 PER APU OPTION

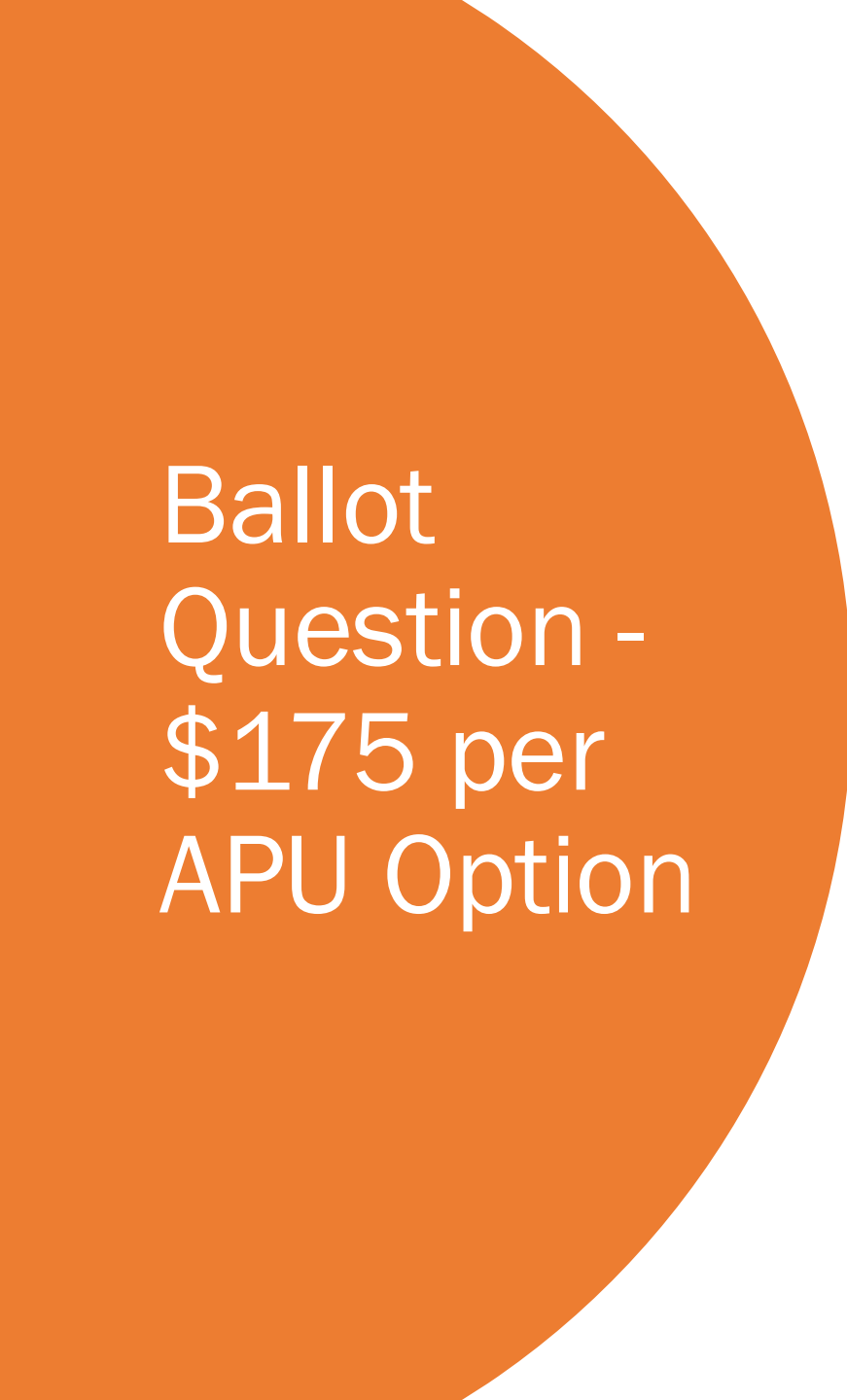
<i>Titles below reflect Current Year Info</i>		Current	New	Difference
<b>BAIRD</b>	Taxes Payable	2025	2026	
	Fiscal Year	2026	2027	
	ADJ PU 2025-2026	3,074.20	3,074.20	0.00
Current Voter-Approved Authority		1,059.97	1,085.73	25.76
Enter New Requested Authority			125.00	125.00
Allowance (Voter- approved Authority)		1,059.97	1,210.73	150.76
Voter Approved Revenue		3,258,560	3,722,018	463,458
Equity Revenue Change			(40,579)	(40,579)
New Revenue Generated		3,258,560	3,681,438	422,879
Share paid by State (Total Aid)		0	0	0
Share paid by State %		0.00%	0.00%	
Local Levy Share		3,258,560	3,722,018	463,458
Local Levy Rate		0.13513%	0.15435%	0.01922%

Property Type	Estimated Market Value	New Op. Levy Authority - \$125.00 per Pupil Unit	
		422,879	
		0.01922%	
		Annual Tax Impact Commencing with Taxes Payable 2026	Total Est. Monthly Tax Impact Commencing with Taxes Payable 2026
Homestead Residential Property	200,000	38.44	3.20
	400,000	76.88	6.41
	600,000	115.32	9.61
Commercial / Industrial	200,000	38.44	3.20
	400,000	76.88	6.41
	600,000	115.32	9.61
Apartments	200,000	38.44	3.20
	400,000	76.88	6.41
	600,000	115.32	9.61
Seasonal Rec	200,000	0.00	0.00
	400,000	0.00	0.00
	600,000	0.00	0.00
Ag Dwelling Value of HSTD Only (house, garage and 1 acre)	200,000	38.44	3.20
	400,000	76.88	6.41
	600,000	115.32	9.61
Remainder of Ag HSTD assessed value per acre	7,500	0.00	0.00
	10,000	0.00	0.00
	12,500	0.00	0.00
Remainder of Ag Non-HSTD assessed value per acre	7,500	0.00	0.00
	10,000	0.00	0.00
	12,500	0.00	0.00
<i>Note - Seasonal rec property and agricultural land beyond dwelling value (home, garage and one acre) are exempt from RMV tax (voter approved operating referendum)</i>			

TAXPAYER NOTICE  
INFORMATION  
FOR \$125 PER  
APU OPERATING  
LEVY  
REFERENDUM  
BALLOT QUESTION



# **SINGLE BALLOT QUESTION OPTION - \$175 PER APU OPERATING LEVY REFERENDUM**

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# Ballot Question - \$175 per APU Option

## SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION 1 APPROVAL OF SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION

The School Board of Independent School District No. 726 (Becker Public Schools), Minnesota has proposed to increase its general education revenue by \$175 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be first levied in 2025 for taxes payable in 2026 and would be applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced by law. Shall the increase in general education revenue proposed by the school board of Independent School District No. 726 (Becker Public Schools), Minnesota be approved?

**BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE  
VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.**


A series of four yellow brushstroke-like lines are located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

Ballot Question - \$175 per APU requests voters to approve an increase in its voter approved operating levy referendum revenue by \$569K annually and will be used to fund operational needs district wide.

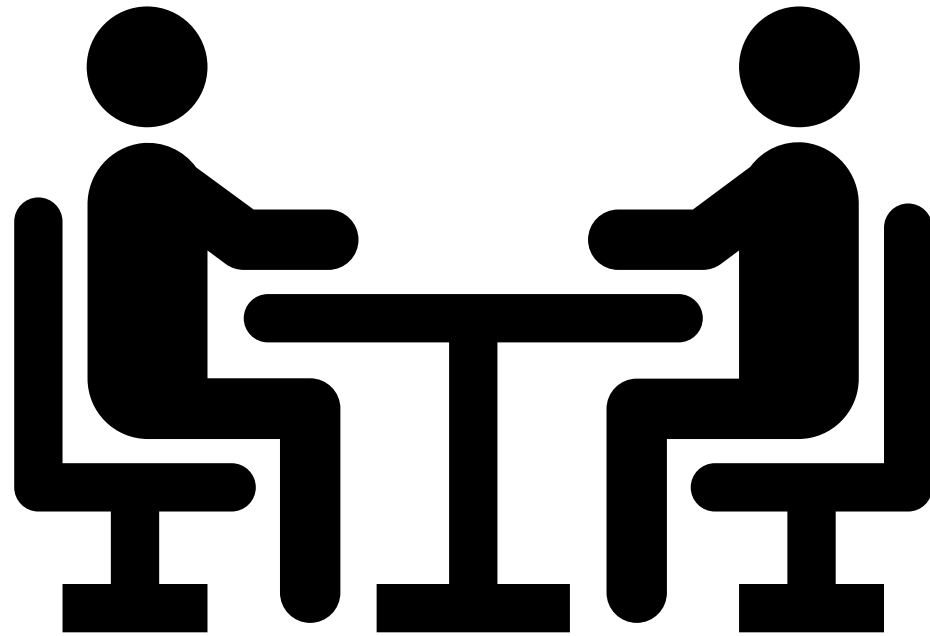
# BALLOT QUESTION - \$175 PER APU OPTION

<i>Titles below reflect Current Year Info</i>		Current	New	Difference
Taxes Payable		2025	2026	
Fiscal Year		2026	2027	
BAIRD	ADJ PU 2025-2026	3,074.20	3,074.20	0.00
Current Voter-Approved Authority		1,059.97	1,085.73	25.76
Enter New Requested Authority			175.00	175.00
Allowance (Voter- approved Authority)		1,059.97	1,260.73	200.76
Voter Approved Revenue		3,258,560	3,875,728	617,168
Equity Revenue Change			(47,343)	(47,343)
New Revenue Generated		3,258,560	3,828,385	569,825
Share paid by State (Total Aid)		0	0	0
Share paid by State %		0.00%	0.00%	
Local Levy Share		3,258,560	3,875,728	617,168
Local Levy Rate		0.13513%	0.16073%	0.02560%



Property Type	Estimated Market Value	New Op. Levy Authority - \$175.00 per Pupil Unit	
		569,825	
		0.02560%	
		Annual Tax Impact Commencing with Taxes Payable 2026	Total Est. Monthly Tax Impact Commencing with Taxes Payable 2026
Homestead Residential Property	200,000	51.20	4.27
	400,000	102.40	8.53
	600,000	153.60	12.80
Commercial / Industrial	200,000	51.20	4.27
	400,000	102.40	8.53
	600,000	153.60	12.80
Apartments	200,000	51.20	4.27
	400,000	102.40	8.53
	600,000	153.60	12.80
Seasonal Rec	200,000	0.00	0.00
	400,000	0.00	0.00
	600,000	0.00	0.00
Ag Dwelling Value of HSTD Only (house, garage and 1 acre)	200,000	51.20	4.27
	400,000	102.40	8.53
	600,000	153.60	12.80
Remainder of Ag HSTD assessed value per acre	7,500	0.00	0.00
	10,000	0.00	0.00
	12,500	0.00	0.00
Remainder of Ag Non-HSTD assessed value per acre	7,500	0.00	0.00
	10,000	0.00	0.00
	12,500	0.00	0.00
<i>Note - Seasonal rec property and agricultural land beyond dwelling value (home, garage and one acre) are exempt from RMV tax (voter approved operating referendum)</i>			

# TAXPAYER NOTICE INFORMATION FOR \$175 PER APU OPERATING LEVY REFERENDUM BALLOT QUESTION



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**QUESTIONS,  
COMMENTS,  
AND FURTHER  
DISCUSSION**