District Office Conference Room, Room 164
Austin High School
401 3rd Ave. NW
Austin, MN 55912

School Board Special Meeting

Monday, September 21, 2026 5:00 PM Central

1. Call to order/roll call
2. Approval of agenda (Action)
3. Request certification of 2026 payable 2027 proposed property tax levy (Action)
4. Referendum update
5. Adjournment (Action)

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DATE: September 21, 2026

TITLE: Certification of Property Tax Levy 2026 Payable 2027

TYPE: Action

PRESENTER: Todd Lechtenberg, Executive Director of Finance & Operations

Background:
By September 30, 2026, the School Board must certify the proposed levy for property taxes payable in 2027. The levy limit is determined by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and is based on Minnesota Statutes as well as information supplied by each district relating to referendum authority, enrollment, and intent to participate in various programs. The levy limit indicated in the recommendation is based on information provided by MDE.

Rationale:
The 2026 Pay 2027 Proposed Property Tax levy reflects an increase of 9.72% as of Thursday September 17, 2026. The specific dollar amount of the Levy will be approved by the School Board at the December 14, 2026 meeting.

The Truth in Taxation hearing will be held at 6:01 pm on December 14, 2026 in the Austin High School Annex Recital Hall. This hearing includes a presentation walking through the levy and changes that resulted in the final levy to be certified. The School Board will approve the final levy through official action following the hearing.

Recommendation:
It is recommended that the School Board certify the 2026 Pay 2027 Proposed Property Tax Levy at the "Maximum."



2026 Pay 2027 Proposed Levy

Todd Lechtenberg

September 21, 2026

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OUR MISSION

(Our core purpose)

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OUR VISION

(What we intend to create)

Preparing all learners to make a difference in the world.

CORE VALUES

(Drivers of our words and actions)

Responsible: Demonstrates accountability to self and others

Resilient: Develops perseverance and self-confidence

Learner: Challenges self to think critically

Communicator: Listens actively and shares learning and experiences

Contributor: Engages as a productive member of the community and global society

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

(Drivers of our continuous improvement)

1. Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment
2. Packer Profile for all learners
3. District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners
4. Excellence in resource management

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The **Desired Daily Experience** sets the foundation of descriptions of the student, family, and staff experiences *if* the strategic plan is successfully implemented in APS.

STUDENTS
DESIRED DAILY EXPERIENCE
STAFF FAMILIES

- I am **supported** and **challenged** in my learning and believe I will be successful
- I feel that school is **safe** and that school is **challenging** and **fun**
- I am an **engaged** learner at school and in our community

STUDENTS
DESIRED DAILY EXPERIENCE
STAFF FAMILIES

- I am part of my child's education and feel **welcomed**, **valued**, and **respected** as a family
- My child enjoys coming to school and is **safe**, **included** and **respected** so they are learning every day
- I am **engaged** in a **partnership** with my child's school so I know what to do to help my child continue to grow and learn

STUDENTS
DESIRED DAILY EXPERIENCE
STAFF FAMILIES

- I am **seen**, **valued**, and **respected** for who I am and the work I do
- I receive the support and resources to do my job well so I am able to create a **healthy** and **safe** learning environment
- I work in a district that is willing to **adapt** and **change** when necessary to best meet the needs of all students

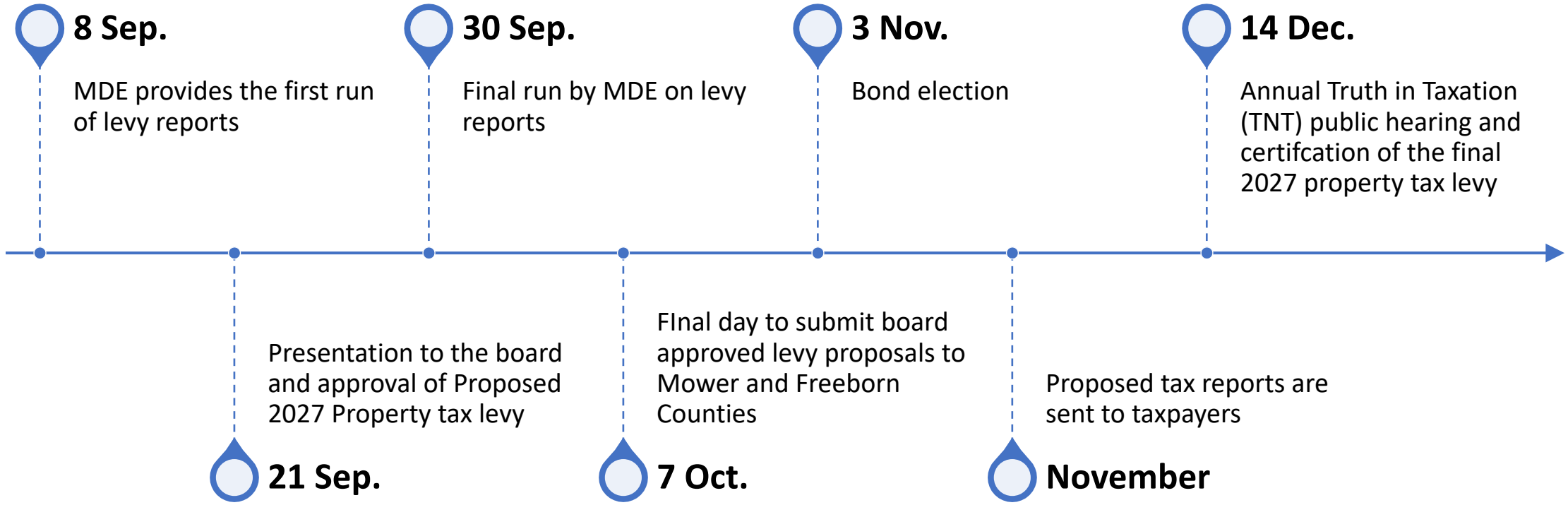
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What is the property tax levy

- The property tax levy provides revenue for the:



Levy Certification Timeline



Proposed Property Tax Levy Amount

FUND	2025 PAY 2026 LIMITATION	2026 PAY 2027 LIMITATION	INCREASE (DECREASE)	PERCENT CHANGE
GENERAL	7,944,601.85	8,677,907.16	733,305.31	9.23
COMMUNITY SERVICE	298,637.13	317,424.50	18,787.37	6.29
GENERAL DEBT SERVICE	3,302,973.30	3,673,514.00	370,540.70	11.22
OPEB DEBT SERVICE				
TOTAL	11,546,212.28	12,668,845.66	1,122,633.38	9.72

*Preliminary Data as of September 17, 2026

*Does not include the potential approval of the bonds being voted on November 3rd

Levy Report Adjustments



General Fund $733,305 or 9.23%

Long Term Facilities Maintenance shifted $585,848

Tax abatement adjustments of $235,776

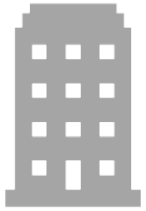
Lease levy adjustment of $150,998

Enrollment adjustments offset these increases



Community Education $18,787 or 6.29%

Community population increased



Debt Service $370,541 or 11.22%

Approval of the IAQ projects

- There is a shift between State Aids and Levy between Debt Service and General Fund. State is paying for more of the IAQ project so they shifted LTFM more towards Levy. There is no change in LTFM aid.



Questions

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