



Frequently Asked Questions Capital Projects Levy October 2020

Here is a short list of questions and answers regarding the Capital Projects Levy that is on the ballot for November 3, 2020. If you have any questions that are not addressed here, please contact Dan Stifter by email (would be best) dstifter@isd1.org or by phone at 218-927-7100.

What is the plan for the technology levy?

- A. Unlike most Minnesota schools, Aitkin is one of 9 schools that does not have some form of voter approved financing. On November 3, 2020, the school district is asking district residents to approve a \$500,000 a year for 10 years Capital Projects Levy. The funds that can be generated with this Levy will be used to fund our one to one technology programs, technology infrastructure which will provide greater connectivity such as servers, wi-fi access points, cabling, computers and equipment to provide us with additional funding to provide needed transportation vehicles such as a bus for example.

Is a Levy increase the only way of managing a tight budget?

- A. No, in fact, the school has cut over \$500,000 from its operating budgets over the past 3 years.
- We continue to manage our spending and constantly evaluate budget items
 - Attract and retain local students
 - Our district loses dollars when students and their families choose to leave our district through open enrollment. We will continue to focus on ways to keep our district families and attract new families to our school community.

Why is there a need at this point in time?

- A. The Aitkin Public School District has been able to provide technology updates without voter approved financing in the past. This is no longer sustainable. With only limited budget increases from the state, which do not keep up with inflation

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and the fact that we are facing declining enrollment, we are in need of additional funding to maintain our programming.

What is the educational impact on the Aitkin Public School District?

- A. The impact will be felt by students, families and the community as we use the added funds to stabilize our budgets. This will allow the district to adjust to the new realities of education and continue to serve our families with support systems, school related services, educational necessities and our co-curricular programming.

What will this cost taxpayers?

- A. The proposed plan is based on the market value of your residence and/or business property you own within the Aitkin Public School District. For agricultural land the tax is accrued based on the market value of the house, garage and one acre of homesteaded property.
- Example - city of Aitkin the median property value of a home is approximately \$111,000 so the monthly tax increase will be approximately \$2.00
 - Example - Aitkin County median property value is \$180,000, the monthly increase will be approximately \$3.00

What happens if it does not pass?

- A. The School District will continue to make substantial budget reductions. Although no final decisions have been made, if this does not pass, it could lead to fewer class options, larger class sizes and few co-curricular options for our students.

Does the school receive funds specifically designated to transportation and vehicles?

- A. Our transportation funding is part of the School Districts General Education funds. We are to allocate 4.85% plus some sparsity aid for transportation, which we do every year. Our transportation expenses are exceeding that amount at this point in time.

