



MPS *STRONG* 2018 Referendum

May 8, 2018

MPS Strong is building a foundation for the future

- Increasing MPS student academic achievement requires schools and programming intentionally designed for equity, consistency, and sustainability
- Current MPS funding does not support this goal

Current funding falls short

- **State and federal government underfund** vital Special Education and English Learner services
- **Inadequate funding challenges MPS efforts** to provide well-resourced, consistent, equitable programming across the district
- **Rising costs** add to already limited funding, many of which are outside our control
- A firm financial foundation is required to:
 - allow investment in priority areas (literacy, equity, social and emotional learning, and student supports)
 - maintain a fund balance that provides stability in crises
 - ensure district growth and sustainability into the future

2018 MPS Strong Referendum

- **Two school funding questions** will bring \$30 million annually to MPS
- **On same ballot** as general election
- **Both authorized for 7 years** and aligned to authority renewed in 2016
- **In tandem with reducing costs** through streamlining programs and services via development of Comprehensive District Plan over next three years

Proposed ballot package - \$30 million annually

Operating referendum – \$18 million

- Increases current “operating referendum,” which voters renewed in 2016
- Every Minnesota district has operating referenda revenue
- Provides operating funding authorized on per student amount

Capital project levy (tech levy) -- \$12 million

- NOT proposing new technology initiative
- New funding for existing technology expenses currently covered by general fund
- Authorized as percentage of property tax base
- 22 metro districts already have tech levies



Proposed ballot question language

School district question 1

Approval of school district referendum revenue authorization

The Board of Special School District No. 1 (Minneapolis Public Schools) has proposed to increase its general education revenue by \$485.00 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation and be applicable for seven years beginning with taxes payable in 2019, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

Shall the increase in the revenue proposed by the board of Special School District No.1 be approved?

Yes

No

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

Proposed ballot question language

School district question 2

Approval of school district capital project levy authorization

The Board of Special School District No. 1 (Minneapolis Public Schools) has proposed a capital project levy authorization in the amount of 2.249% times the net tax capacity of the school district to provide funds for the purchase, installation, and maintenance of software applications and technology equipment, and for training and directly related personnel costs. The proposed capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$12,000,000 for taxes payable in 2019, the first year it is to be levied, and would be authorized for seven years. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$84,000,000.

Shall the increase in the revenue proposed by the board of Special School District No.1 be approved?

- Yes
- No

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

Estimated Tax Impact (both questions)

	Market Value	Combined ANNUAL tax increase	Combined MONTHLY tax increase
<i>Residential Homestead</i>	\$150,000	\$81.00	\$6.75
	\$200,000	\$112.00	\$9.33
	\$250,000	\$141.00	\$11.75
	\$300,000	\$171.00	\$14.25
	\$400,000	\$231.00	\$19.25
	\$500,000	\$288.00	\$24.00
	\$800,000	\$479.00	\$39.92
	<i>Commercial/Industrial</i>	\$250,000	\$153.00
\$1,000,000		\$649.00	\$54.08
\$2,000,000		\$1,309.00	\$109.08
\$5,000,000		\$3,290.00	\$274.17

When would MPS receive referendum funds?



Benefits of adequate funding to MPS students, schools, and programming

- **Ability to support programmatic and staffing investments** needed to improve student academic outcomes
- **Consistent level of staffing, services, and programming** at any Minneapolis Public School
- **Help alleviating the effects of underfunding** by state and federal governments
- **Sound financial foundation** for future MPS students by achieving structural fiscal balance now

Moving forward without adequate funding

- **Minimal and/or erratic investments** in student achievement and core priorities
- **Inequitable and inconsistent staffing, services and programming** across district
- **Increased angst** about government underfunding
- **Unstable district financial future**

District and External Campaign Roles

District informational efforts

- Inform, inform, inform
- Provide factual information on ballot questions, where to vote, district financial situation, encourage voting, what it will cost voters
- No advocacy using public funds (including staff time or equipment)
- Meet legal communication requirements

External advocacy campaign

- Separate from the district
- Volunteer-led
- Advocates for 'Yes' votes
- Accountable to campaign finance laws and rules

Timeline/next steps

	Board of Education	District
April	Resolution to Finance Committee (April 26)	Form district advisory committee (Communication/Finance/Legal)
		Develop communications materials and tools
May	Resolution first reading with full board (May 8)	Develop communications materials and tools
	Discuss proposed referendum with stakeholders	Discuss proposed referendum with stakeholders
June	Pass resolution (June 12)	Press release
	Ballot language submitted to MDE, City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County	Website launch
		Launch communications plan

Questions?

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