2025 Operating Levy Referendum

Wadena-Deer Creek Public Schools

What is the School District Asking For?

- The question on the ballot asks voters to revoke the current operating levy of $563.29 per pupil unit and replace it with a new operating levy of $938.29 for a period of five years.

How Much New Revenue will the Operating Levy Provide if it Passes?

- The $375 per Pupil Unit Increase will raise an Additional $430,000 for the School District per Year.

Special Election Ballot
School District Ballot
Independent School District No. 2155
(Wadena-Deer Creek), Minnesota

November 4, 2025

Instructions to Voters

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this:

To vote for a question, fill in the oval next to the word "Yes" for that question.To

vote against a question, fill in the oval next to the word "No" for that question.

School District Question

Revoking Existing Referendum Revenue Authorization; Approving New Authorization

The board of Independent School District No. 2155 (Wadena-Deer Creek), Minnesota has proposed to revoke the School District's existing voter approved referendum revenue authorization of $563.29 per pupil and to replace that authorization with a new authorization of $938.29 per pupil, increasing the School District's general education revenue by $375 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be first levied in 2025 for taxes payable in 2026 and applicable for five (5) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

YES
NO

Shall the existing referendum revenue authorization be revoked and the new authorization proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 2155 (Wadena-Deer Creek), Minnesota be approved?

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

What Does Revenue from an Operating Levy support?

- Revenue from an operating levy supports the day-to- day operations such as staff, transportation, instructional supplies, extra-curricular activities, etc.

How Can We Afford to Resurface the Gym Floor When we are Short on Money to Pay for Staff?

- Funding for facilities such as resurfacing the tennis courts or the gym floor comes from separate sources, such as the Long Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) fund. LTFM funds cannot be used for salaries or day-to-day operations.

Why is the School Board Asking Voters to Approve an Operating Levy?

- In order to maintain current staffing and programming beyond the 2025-2026 school year, additional revenue is needed.

Reliance on Referendums

Since 2002-03, state General Education Revenue formula has not kept pace with inflation

If allowance increased with inflation each year, it would be $1,420 higher, or $8,901 for Fiscal Year 2025-26

The Fiscal Year 2025-26 allowance increased by $200/pupil based on statutory calculation. This is the first year inflation is used to calculate formula allowance.

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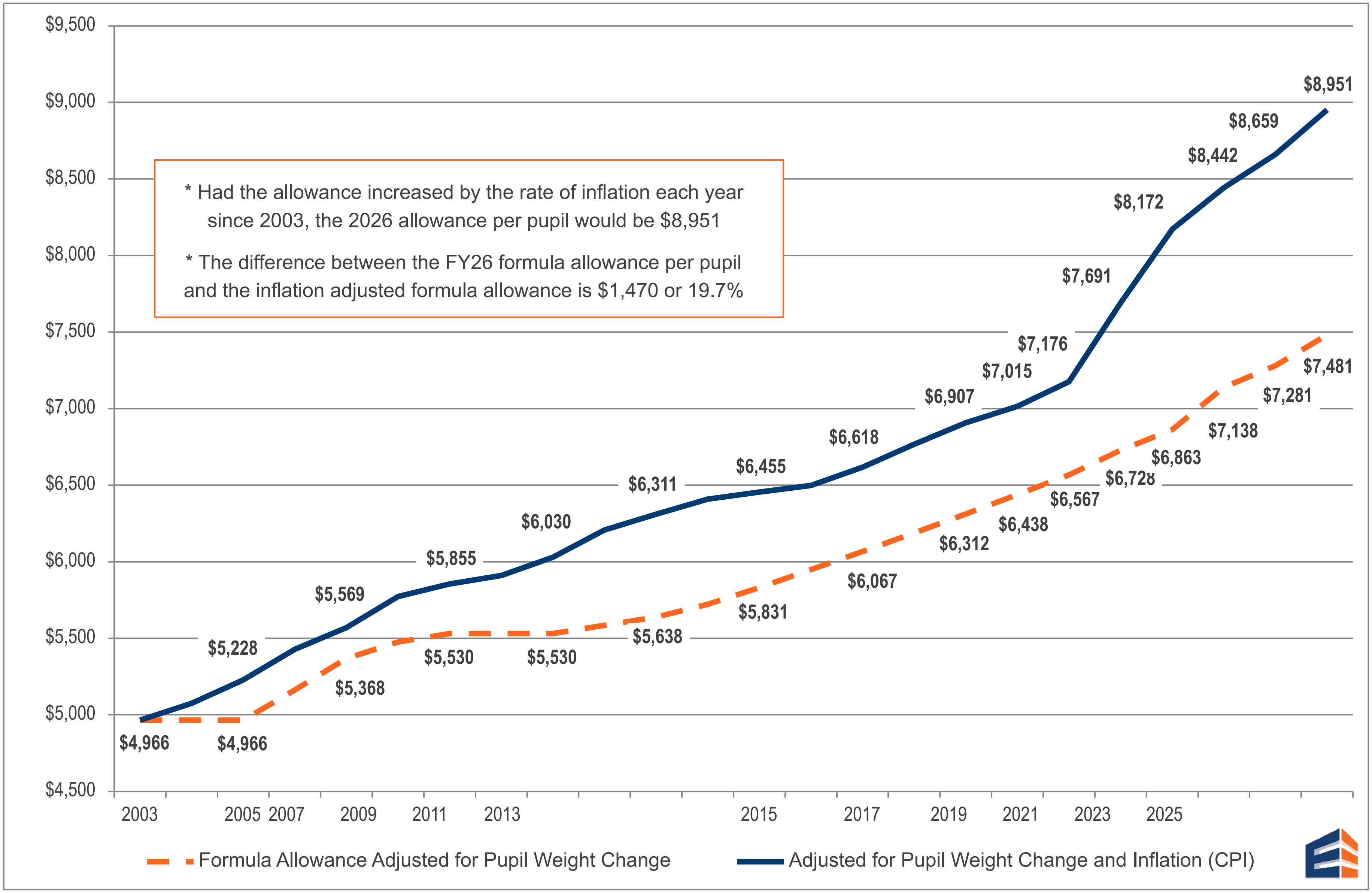
General Education Formula Allowance, 2003-2026

Adjusted for Pupil Weight Change and Inflation (CPI)



Source: MDE December 2024 CPI Inflation Estimates and Minnesota Laws 2023

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Budget Reductions 2023-2025

MS/HS Dean of Students (.5 FTE)
School Resource Officer
Two Custodial Positions (1.5 FTE)
Media Specialist (Librarian)
Superintendent's Administrative Assistant
Communications Coordinator (.5 FTE)
Physical Education Teaching Position
Five Elementary Teaching Positions
Elementary Behavior Interventionist
Business Ed Teaching Position (.5 FTE)
Reach Teaching Position (.5 FTE)
Grades 7 & 8 Academic Interventionist
Greenhouse Coordinator (.5 FTE)
Mental Health Therapist/Social Worker
Two Bus Routes
Noon Preschool Bus Route
Reduced Preschool Sections

What if the Referendum doesn’t Pass?

- Elementary Teaching Positions will be Reduced
- High School Elective Teaching Positions will be Reduced
- Extra-Curricular Activities will be Considered for Reduction

Elementary Class Sizes

Grade	Current Students	Current # Sections	Current Students per Section (avg.)	If Divided into 3 Sections(avg.)
K	79	4	19.75	26.33
1st	82	4	20.5	27.33
2nd	81	4	20.25	27
3rd	81	4	20.25	27
4th	88	4	22	29.33

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION - FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

<u>Wadena-Deer Creek Public Schools, ISD #2155</u> Analysis of Tax Impact for Potential Referendum Levy April 14, 2025

Year Taxes are Payable	2026	2026	
	Revoked Authority	Proposed Authority	NET CHANGE
Estimated Adjusted Pupil Units (APU)	**1,201.60**	**1,201.60**	
Additional Revenue Per Pupil Unit	**-$563.29**	**$938.29**	**$375.00**
Estimated Increase in Referendum Revenue	**-$676,849**	**$1,127,449**	**$450,600**
Estimated Net Increase in Total Revenue (*Including Est. Reduction in Equity Revenue*)			**$429,752**

Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	Estimated Taxes for Referendum Levy Only*		
Residential Homesteads, Apartments, and Commercial-Industrial Property	$50,000	-$42	$75	$33
	75,000	-64	112	48
	100,000	-85	150	65
	125,000	-106	187	81
	150,000	-127	225	98
	175,000	-148	262	114
	200,000	-169	300	131
	225,000	-191	337	146
	250,000	-212	375	163
	275,000	-233	412	179
	300,000	-254	449	195
	325,000	-275	487	212
	350,000	-296	524	228
	375,000	-318	562	244
	400,000	-339	599	260
	450,000	-381	674	293
	500,000	-424	749	325
	550,000	-466	824	358
	600,000	-508	899	391
	700,000	-593	1,049	456

* The amounts in the table are based on school district taxes for the operating referendum levy only, and do not include tax levies for other purposes. Tax increases shown above are gross increases, not including the impact of the Minnesota Homestead Credit Refund ("Circuit Breaker") program. Owners of homestead property may qualify for a refund, based on their income and total property taxes. This may decrease the net effect of the referendum levy for those property owners.

NOTE: Agricultural property will pay taxes for the proposed referendum based only on the value of the house, garage and one acre. Seasonal recreational residential property (i.e., cabins) will pay no taxes for the proposed referendum.

Ag Land and Seasonal Recreational Property

- No Tax on Ag Land for an Operating Levy (House, One Acre and Garage)

- No Tax on Seasonal Recreational Property

State Property Tax Refunds & Deferral

Homestead Credit Refund

- Available for all homestead property, both residential & agricultural - house, garage & one acre (HGA) only.
- Refund is sliding scale, based on total property taxes & income (maximum refund is $3,310 for homeowners).

Special Property Tax Refund

- Available for all homestead property, both residential & agricultural (HGA only) with a gross tax increase of at least 12% & $100 over prior year.
- Refund is 60% of tax increase that exceeds greater of 12% or $100 (max $1,000)

Senior Citizen Property Tax Deferral

- Allows people 65 years of age or older with household income of $96,000 or less to defer a portion of property taxes on their home.
- Deferred property taxes plus accrued interest must be paid when home is sold or homeowner(s) dies.

Income Taxes

- If you itemize deductions for federal income taxes, you may deduct a portion of your property taxes paid. Starting with your 2024 taxes, renters can claim the Renter's refundable credit on a Minnesota income tax return. Renters will no longer file a Renter's Property Tax Refund.

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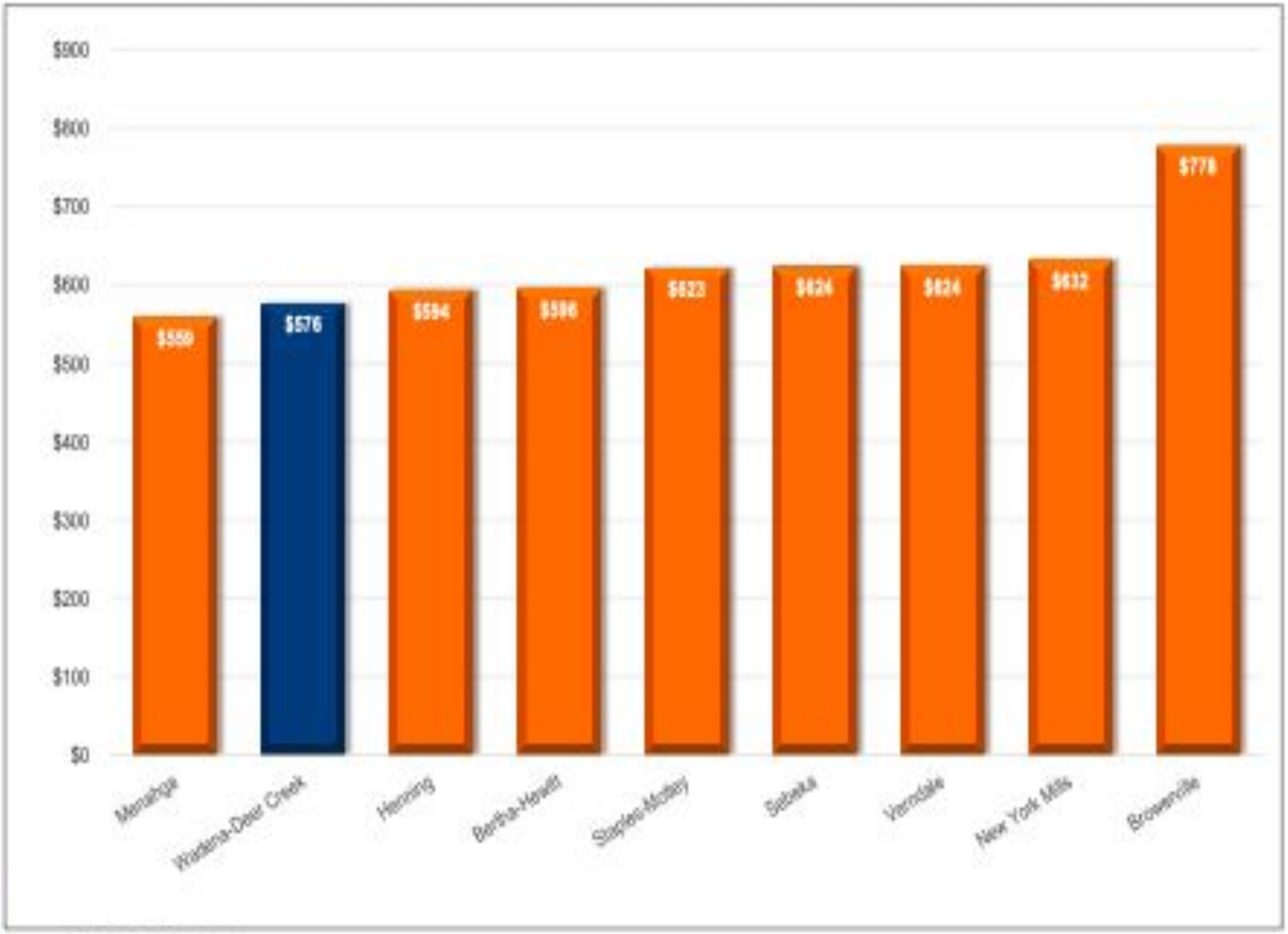
Total School Tax Comparison

Total School Property Taxes, Payable 2025, on a Home with an Estimated Market Value of $200,000



Source: Pay 25 School Tax Report.

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Where to Find More Information?

School District Website
[wdc2155.k12.mn.us](wdc2155.k12.mn.us)

Questions?