

This was sent to all Duluth residences on Oct. 21

## November 8 Operating (

This was changed from 37% in the original. It is still wrong as. Even their source, Minnesota2020 states 12.8% in the last decade.

# Funding for Educational Programs

An important vote takes place November 8 which will have a significant impact on our teachers, students and schools. Voters will consider three operating or "learning" levy questions.

There is no budget yet. The district has always projected deficits, yet their expenditures have never decreased over the years.

View all operating or "learning" levies necessary?

State funding for schools has not kept up with inflation – in fact, since 2003 it's estimated to be 18.3% behind inflation. Delayed state payments have increased interest expenses.

budgets have become extremely tight, and most districts have experienced budget deficits over a decade.

- Per pupil spending in Minnesota is below the national average.
- The Duluth school district is projecting a \$4 million - \$5 million deficit for the 2012-13 school year which will result in more cuts, and possibly larger class sizes.

This is advocacy and not based on the facts.

### Do other districts have local levies? How does Duluth compare?

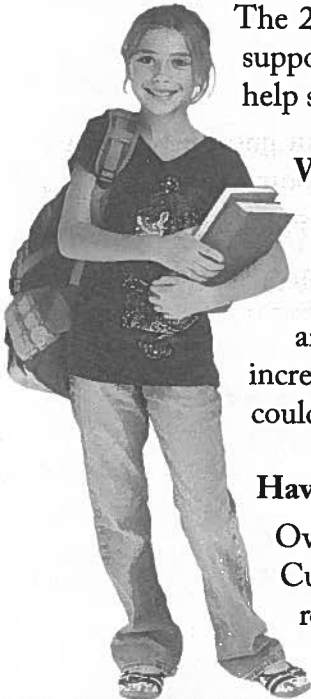
- According to the Minnesota Department of Education, about 90% of Minnesota school districts currently have a voter-approved learning levy and on average is about \$936 per pupil. ("Per pupil" refers to funds generated per pupil, not individual tax impact).
- Duluth's voter-approved levy is less than half that, about \$365.60 per pupil.
- Duluth's total school property tax support in 2011 is less than it was in 1997.
- Among the 35 largest non-metro communities, Duluth ranks 21st in total general fund school property tax revenue.

The state avg. for non-metro schools is \$774, non-metro is \$560.

Duluth ranks 9th in non-metro spending and 1st in non voter approved levies.

### What would Duluth's 2011 operating levy support?

The 2011 levy would provide new learning revenue which could help manage class sizes, support improvements to science and math education, and provide new textbooks. It could help support the Duluth schools' new vision for student achievement.



### What happens if the 2011 levy doesn't pass?

If Question 1 fails, money will be taken away from Duluth's schools. The projected 2013 deficit remains at about \$4 million to \$5 million and Duluth schools would lose another \$470,000 in existing revenue, which increases the deficit. Question 1 includes an existing \$39.32 per pupil state levy which is set to expire in 2012. This loss would increase the projected deficit and result in more potential cuts in the classroom, which could include larger class sizes.

False, there has been no reductions in expenditures in the last five years.

### Have the Duluth schools cut expenses?

Over the past five years the district has implemented budget cuts of over \$24 million. Cuts include administration, transportation and maintenance, among other non-classroom expenses. It has become extremely difficult to reduce expenses without impacting the classroom.

## How does the ballot work?

- **Question 1 must pass by a simple majority or the entire levy fails**
- **To pass Question 2: Both Questions 1 and 2 must each pass by a simple majority**
- **To pass Question 3: Questions 1, 2 and 3 must each pass by a simple majority**

In other words:

**To Pass Question 1 and oppose Questions 2 and 3:** Vote "yes" for Question 1 and "No" for Questions 2 and 3.

**To Pass Question 2 and oppose Question 3:** Vote "yes" for Questions 1 and 2, "No" for Question 3.

**To Pass Question 3:** Vote "yes" for Questions 1, 2 and 3.

**To Vote Against the Levy:** Vote "no" for Questions 1, 2 and 3.

False, you can not vote against the levy, voting no will not remove the current levy, you can only vote for increases.

## How is the 2011 levy question related to the existing 2008 levy?

The 2011 question cancels the 2008 voter-approved levy and replaces it with the 2011 levy.

## How much would the new 2011 operating levy add to what individual taxpayers already pay to support the 2008 operating levy?

"Per Pupil" refers to total generated by the levy, NOT individual tax impact.

**Question 1:** Cancel current voter-approved \$365.60 per pupil, replace with **\$650.37 total per pupil. Generates \$2.93 million new learning revenue.** No loss of existing revenue. Individual tax impact:

<i>Value of Home</i>	<i>New Per Year</i>	<i>Per Month</i>
\$100,000	\$47.96	\$4.00
\$125,100	\$60.00	\$5.00
\$150,000	\$71.94	\$6.00
\$200,000	\$95.92	\$7.99

**Question 2:** Add \$122.70 to \$650.37 to equal **\$773.07 total per pupil. Generates \$4.39 million new learning revenue.** No loss of existing revenue. Individual tax impact:

<i>Value of Home</i>	<i>New Per Year</i>	<i>Per Month</i>
\$100,000	\$71.94	\$6.00
\$125,100	\$90.00	\$7.50
\$150,000	\$107.91	\$8.99
\$200,000	\$143.88	\$11.99

