

# SHAKOPEE

our schools.  
our community.  
our future.

**VOTE NOV 3 2020**

On November 3, 2020, Shakopee residents will be voting on a funding request for an operating levy to help the school district:

- Maintain quality programming and learning opportunities
- Attract, retain, and fairly compensate high-quality teachers
- Build a path to long-term financial stability

## WHAT IS A LEVY?

Teachers, classroom supplies, custodians, food service staff, instructional materials, teaching assistants, bus drivers – these are the people and things needed to educate our 8,000 students. Operating levies provide funding for these critical school costs.



## WHY NOW?

The School Board's unanimous decision to put the operating levy on the ballot was based on several months of discussions, community input and review of various options.

**93% of our residents agree: Strong public schools are directly linked to the quality of life and viability of our community.**

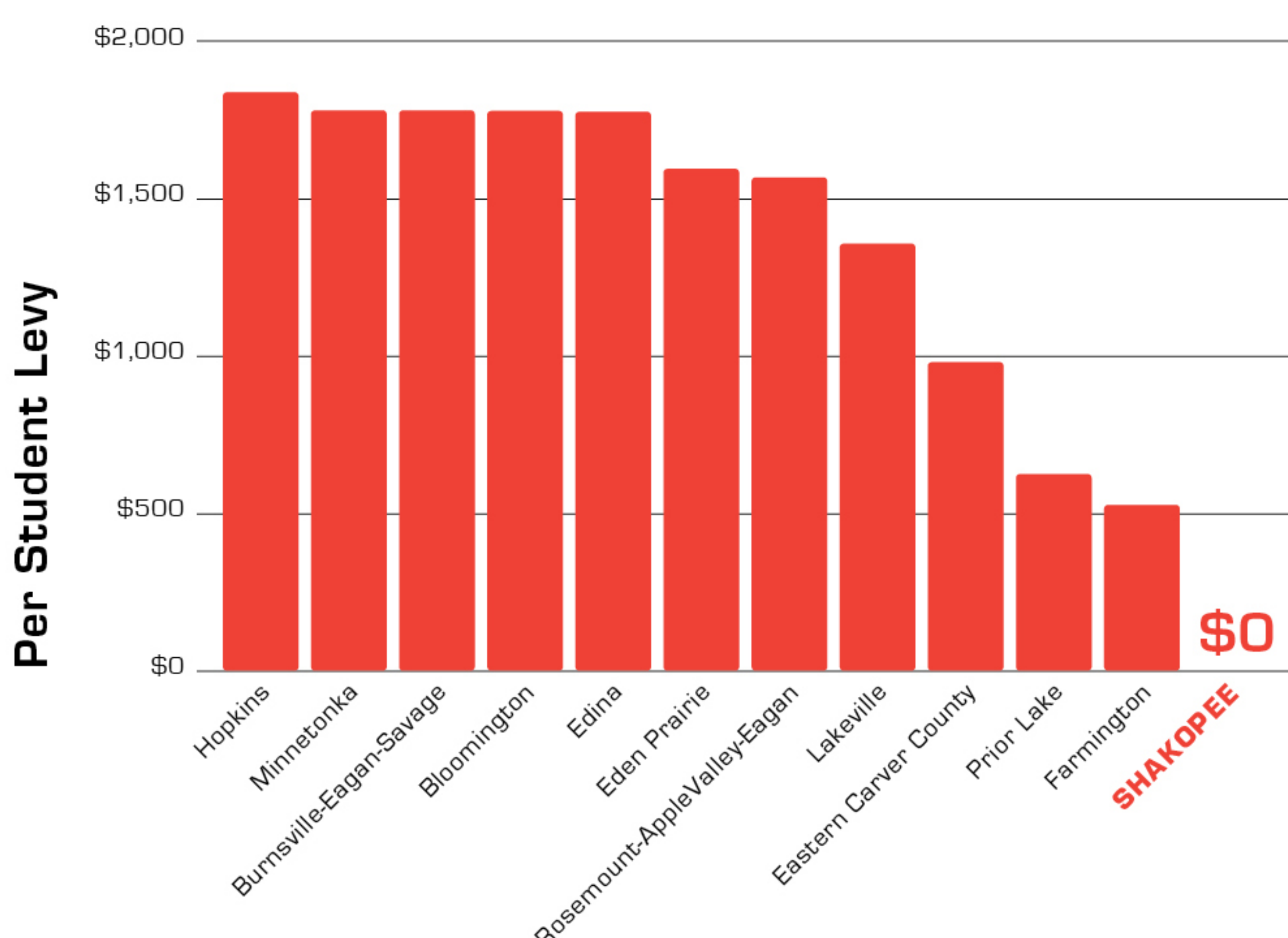
The levy request is in response to a number of financial pressures that will result in expenses exceeding revenue starting in the 2020-21 school year – **challenging the District's ability to maintain the quality education students deserve and the community expects.**

These pressures include state funding that has not kept pace with inflation, unfunded mandates and the lack of a voter-approved operating levy for additional local support.

## HOW IS SHAKOPEE DIFFERENT?

Shakopee is the only one of comparable districts in our area without a voter-approved operating levy – which means we don't have the additional financial support that many communities provide to help operate their schools.

## VOTER-APPROVED OPERATING LEVY (2020-21)



Shakopee Public Schools has no voter-approved operating levy, putting us about \$1,250 below the metro average. The last time voters approved an operating levy was more than a decade ago.

## A SHARED PARTNERSHIP

To limit the levy request amount, the School Board also approved making a series of budget cuts, reinforcing the shared partnership between schools and communities.

**The levy request to the community is combined with \$2 million in budget cuts** that have already been approved by the School Board, creating a fiscally responsible, conservative and balanced approach to addressing financial pressures.

## WHAT IF IT FAILS?

If voters do not approve the levy request, the school board has already approved an additional **\$5.4 million in budget cuts that would be necessary in 2021-22.**

These cuts would include:

- ✗ Classroom teachers
- ✗ Class size increases
- ✗ Staff at all levels
- ✗ Academic support positions
- ✗ 5th grade band
- ✗ Middle school athletics

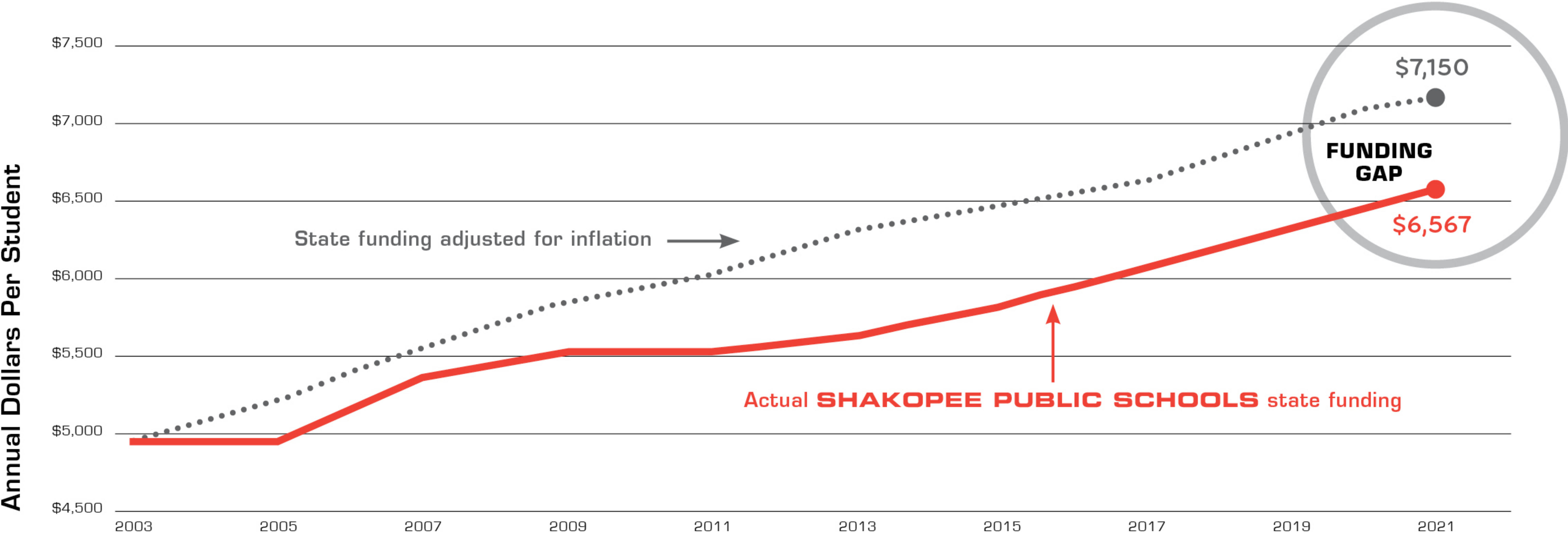
**This would bring the total budget cuts in the district to \$7.4 million over the next two years.**



STATE BASIC GENERAL EDUCATION FUNDING PER STUDENT

Continued pressure on the budget a result of inadequate funding

If state funding had kept pace with inflation since 2003, Shakopee Public Schools would have received an additional \$5 million in state aid in the 2019-20 school year alone.



SOURCE: MDE FEBRUARY 2020 INFLATION ESTIMATES

FAST FACTS

- Shakopee ranks 11th out of 12 comparable school districts in beginning teacher salaries, and Shakopee ranks in the bottom quarter of these districts in terms of teacher salaries across a teacher's career.
- We pay nearly \$9 million annually for unfunded education mandates that are not being reimbursed from the State or Federal government as promised.
- Our school district has a lower tax rate than many neighboring districts due to the amount of commercial property in Shakopee – which means we get more bang for our taxpayer buck.
- We have been working hard to live within our means and have made a number of budget reductions over the past four years.

Did you know?  
Shakopee Public Schools received the International Designation for Excellence in Financial Reporting the past four years.

PHASED-IN LEVY

If approved by voters, the per-student operating levy would be phased-in over four years: \$400 per student in 2021, \$300 in 2022, \$200 in 2023 and \$100 in 2024.

Due to building debt that is being paid off, there would be no net school tax increase until 2022. Because the levy would be phased-in, the tax increases would be phased-in as well. Even once the levy is fully phased in, Shakopee will still receive less than the current metro average of voter-approved levy funding from its community.

ESTIMATED MONTHLY TAX IMPACT

If Voters Approve the Levy\*

2021	-\$6.25
2022	\$11.58
2023	\$7.50
2024	\$3.67
2025-30	\$0.00

\* School tax impact estimates are for this referendum only and are based on the \$280,000 average home value in the district. Debt being paid off is factored into the 2021 tax impact calculation.



VOTING INFORMATION Polls will be open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on November 3, 2020. Absentee/early voting begins September 18 and can be done in-person at various locations or by mail. Learn more about your voting location and options at [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org).

LEARN MORE [ShakopeeLevy2020.org](http://ShakopeeLevy2020.org) 952-697-8710 referendum@shakopee.k12.mn.us